

The making of grants to charitable bodies.

In broad terms, this kind of expenditure has always been described as “expenditure which is not strictly necessary for the Council to carry out its statutory duties”.

The ability of Local Authorities to give money to charitable bodies or worthy causes generally is governed by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, entitled

“Power of Local Authorities to incur expenditure for certain purposes not otherwise authorised.”

Section 137 states *inter alia* –

paragraph 1: *“A local Authority may, subject to the provisions of this section, incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants.....”*

NB, this precludes donations to individual persons. In addition, the Local Government Act 1972 does not override the Act of 1894 which specifically precludes financial assistance to religious bodies.

paragraph 3: *“A Local Authority may, subject to the following provisions of this section, incur expenditure on contributions to any of the following funds, that is to say,*

- a) the funds of any charitable body in furtherance of its work in the United Kingdom; or*
- b) the funds of any body which provides any public service (whether to the public as a whole or to any section of it) in the United Kingdom otherwise for the purposes of gain or*
- c) any fund which is raised in connection with a particular event directly affecting persons resident in the United Kingdom on behalf of whom a public appeal for funds has been made....”*

The amount which can be given in this way in any one financial year is governed by paragraph 4 whereby a sum (notified by the Government each year) per head of population is multiplied by the numbers on the electoral roll. This sum is currently (2021/22) £8.41. The Parish’s electoral roll is some 500 plus which gives a minimum amount which could be spent in this way of at least £4,000.