

Designated Fund	NEW SECTION FUND
Purpose	<p>To support the growth of Scouting in Berkshire through opening new sections, whether as part of an existing Scout Group or as part of a new Scout Group.</p> <p>The Fund is to recognise that making a generous amount of funding available for new sections can be encouraging to local teams who will need to support a new section.</p>
CEC Approval/Update	March 2018, updated January 2020, updated February 2023
History	<p>Scout HQ used to give £100 to each new section opened, which the County matched with a further £100, and many Districts also contributed £100 towards. HQ replaced this with a £1,000 grant for sections opened in deprived communities and continued with £100 for non-deprived communities, and the County continued with £100 for all sections. HQ now only award funding for new sections in deprived areas, and no funding is provided to new sections in non-deprived areas.</p> <p>The new Fund recognises, through experience of supporting over 10 years of growth across Berkshire, that in many cases additional funding is extremely helpful to open a new section – whether as a new Scout Group, or as part of an existing Scout Group.</p>
Funding	<p>An initial £15,000 was set aside for the fund, with the intention to top back up to this amount at the end of each financial year.</p> <p>Any additional funds could be allocated at the discretion of the CEC on an ad hoc basis.</p>
Managers of Fund	Berkshire Local Development Officers, Ian May, County Treasurer (any two to agree funding)
Details	<p>The choice about what to spend money on is best made locally – in some cases activity equipment is needed, in other places it is best put towards venue hire, and elsewhere to support uniform for new adults and young people.</p> <p>Experiences in a number of other parts of England have demonstrated that sometimes providing funding to support temporary staff support to enable the new section to operate for an initial period of 20 weeks, or alternatively a shorter period of 10 weeks.</p>
Funding Criteria	<p>The County will provide a £1,000 grant to support every new Squirrel, Beaver and Cub section opening, and £1,500 for each Scouts and Explorer sections opening.</p> <p>The grant of £1,000 of £1,500 can be given in one of the following ways:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank transfer to a Scout Group account, or Scout District account if a Scout Group account does not yet exist. This transfer would normally be after the new section is registered with HQ, but can be made earlier by agreement. • Funding a self-employed Project Supporter, at £50 for 4-5 hours per week over 20 weeks (pro-rata for the £1,500 grant). This would be paid from the County to the individual on production of an invoice after agreement of the role description. • Bank transfer of £500 as above, and funding a Project Support for 10 weeks, as above (pro rata for the £1,500 grant).
Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of how the New Section Grant will be spent will need to be sent to the LDO. These costs will not need to be exact, and receipts are not required, but indicative costs will provide reassurance that thought has been given to how the grant will be used to support the growth of Scouting. • This fund is to open new Sections, so any previous Sections must have been closed for at least 12 months before being considered.
Funding decision	At the discretion of the Fund Managers, based on the criteria above
Application process	To apply for the New Section Grant, the Local Development Officer (LDO) will need to be engaged with the project, and the grant will then be agreed by the LDO. This can be by the LDO supporting it directly, or if the Scout Group or District can support, then the LDO will have been engaged in a discussion about the new section opening to provide advice and guidance.
Other information	For a new Scout Group, the grant will be sent by the District Chair or the District Commissioner. For an existing Scout Group, it will be sent to the Group Chair or the Group Scout Leader.