

<b>Designated Fund</b>	<b>NEW SECTION FUND</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<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>
<b>CTB Approval/Update</b>	March 2018, updated January 2020, updated February 2023, updated June 2026
<b>History</b>	<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>
<b>Funding</b>	<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 CTB on an ad hoc basis.</p>
<b>Managers of Fund</b>	Berkshire Local Development Officers, LDO Volunteer Manager, County Treasurer (any two to agree funding)
<b>Details</b>	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.
<b>Funding Criteria</b>	<p>The County will provide the following grants for new sections:</p> <p>Squirrels and Beavers - £500</p> <p>Cubs - £750</p> <p>Scouts and Explorers - £1,000</p> <p>The grant is provided via a bank transfer to a Scout Group Account.</p>

	<p>This transfer would normally be after the new section is registered with HQ and can prove satisfaction of the Grant criteria listed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Section/Group has been running for 4+ weeks excluding any pilot project period</li> <li>• The Section/Group has not previously received this funding. (see Restrictions below)</li> <li>• The Section/Group can demonstrate both volunteer and young people support for the long term, including evidence of volunteer training and investitures</li> <li>• The Section/Group is correctly registered with HQ and on Scouts.org.uk</li> <li>• Should a group require earlier access to funding, this would be by agreement only.</li> </ul>
<b>Restrictions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• This fund is to open new Sections, so any previous Sections must have been closed for at least 12 months before being considered.</li> </ul>
<b>Funding decision</b>	At the discretion of the Fund Managers, based on the criteria above
<b>Application process</b>	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.
<b>Other information</b>	For a new Scout Group, the grant application will be sent by the District Chair, Treasurer or the District Lead Volunteer. For an existing Scout Group, it will be sent by the Group Chair, Treasurer or the Group Lead Volunteer.