



UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Community Chest Fund Programme – Guidance

Gateshead Council's Community Chest Grant Programme is an open bidding grant fund administered on behalf of the Council by the Community Foundation.

VCS organisations can apply for grants of up to £10,000 to create and deliver new project activity and pilot programmes which meet the needs of their communities and addresses the key objectives of the Council's Thrive agenda and the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

1. Eligibility

Applications can be submitted by voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations, based or working in Gateshead.

Organisations with an annual income of over £250,000 will be required to provide an explanation of why the requested funding cannot be sought, either in whole or in part, from their unrestricted reserves or other alternative sources.

Examples of eligible organisations include:

- Constituted voluntary or community organisations
- Registered charities including charitable companies
- Social enterprises, for example, Community Interest Companies and Co-operatives, subject to the normal restrictions on funding for the costs of continuing services outlined at www.communityfoundation.org.uk/apply.

To be eligible, non-charity social enterprises must provide a plan explaining how the organisation is, or aims to be, financially resilient with trading as a core part of its income.

Exclusions

In addition to the Community Foundation's standard exclusions, the Fund **will not** support:

- Routine building or equipment repairs and maintenance
- Organisations with unrestricted reserves that exceed one year's running costs

2. Funding

Funding of £186,000 is available and grants of up to £10,000 will be awarded for projects and pilot programmes of activity which will test and evaluate community need for a new service. The Fund can consider partnership bids involving more than one organisation, where it demonstrates a clear benefit of partnership working.



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The purchase of small items of equipment, such as office furniture or ICT equipment will be considered where it supports delivery of the Fund's objectives.

Applications must:

- Show how the funded activity addresses the development and delivery of one or more of the Council's five pledges within its strategy '*Making Gateshead a Place Where Everyone Thrives*'. These are:
 - ✓ *Put people and families at the heart of everything we do*
 - ✓ *Tackle inequality so people have a fair chance*
 - ✓ *Support our communities to support themselves and each other*
 - ✓ *Invest in our economy to provide sustainable opportunities for employment, innovation and growth across the borough*
 - ✓ *Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead*

More information can be found at <http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/iplodge/Home.aspx>

Consideration will also be given for applications that meet the following UK Shared Prosperity Fund objectives:

- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

Priority will be given to applications that:

- demonstrate how they are addressing the needs of the most vulnerable communities and residents in Gateshead
- help tackle aspects of poverty and the underlying causes of poverty
- help communities do more for themselves
- support the Council's ambitions to address the Climate Change Emergency – more information can be found at:
<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/14125/Climate-change-in-Gateshead>

3. Funding timeline

The fund will close on 05 May 2025 and we expect to notify successful applicants in June 2025.

4. How to apply

Applications can only be made using the online application form. Paper applications will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Please contact us if you are unable to use the online system.



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5. Monitoring and Evaluation

Applicants will be required to identify outcomes related to the increased capacity or impact of delivery as a result of the funding awarded.

As a condition of accepting a grant, successful applicants will be required to provide an end of grant Monitoring and Evaluation Report evidencing progress against their grant objectives and outcomes.

6. Further information and advice

Applicants are welcome to discuss their application with the Community Foundation prior to submission to establish eligibility. Please contact:

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