

Chorley Council Community Capacity Building and Infrastructure Support Fund

Chorley Council recognises the valuable role that the voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise sector plays in enhancing the life of people in Chorley and is evident through our community commissioning programme and annual Community Grant Fund which provides an avenue of funding to support these organisations along with continued partnership working across the borough to help develop community initiatives.

We are excited to launch our latest Community Capacity Building and Infrastructure Support Grant scheme in which we are inviting partners and organisations from the VCFSE sector to apply. The funding is provided by the UK Government as part of the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

This is a one-off community grant fund programme which builds on our core delivery and will enable Chorley's Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise sector to further enhance and sustain their delivery, react to the current challenges our communities are experiencing and help in providing services that support our most vulnerable.

In total, £200,000 is available from which we will award grants of between £15,000 and £30,000.

Please read the criteria below which is required to ensure your organisation and project meets expectations for you to receive this funding:

What is the funding for?

Funding is available to support initiatives under the following UKSPF intervention – E11 'Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups and it therefore sets out to build capacity, deliver social action projects and improve community infrastructure that will help create more vibrant, engaged, and resilient communities. In this way, funding is designed to support and enhance existing services.

The grant scheme will be an open competitive process and projects should support the work the council has undertaken and provide delivery that reacts to the pressures our communities are experiencing. They should be innovative and creative, addressing local needs and clearly demonstrating the difference the project will make to local people and communities. Bids may address gaps in services or complement and enhance any existing offer. We want to capitalise on known successes so will consider supporting activity that has proved to add value.

Value for money will be a leading assessment criterion for all submissions. Additionality is key and funding will not be used simply to displace existing or committed funding. It's about helping organisations to grow, deliver more and /or expand its reach into different areas of the borough. Applicants will need to show they can deliver lasting legacy for our residents and communities, enhancing the life of people in Chorley and supporting better outcomes.

Applicants must also be compliant with the UK Subsidy Control regime and all public sector support received over the past three years will be considered. Organisations already exceeding public subsidy thresholds will be ineligible for funding.

Alongside the overarching goals of the UKSPF programme, applicants must demonstrate how their application enhances the life of people in Chorley and supports better outcomes by meeting one or more of the local priorities below.

- Enable better access to local services provided in a community setting.
- Enhance local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities offer.
- Improve digital and address gaps in provision.
- Provide support for those experiencing hardship due to Cost of Living
- Provide opportunities to enhance life skills.
- Provide opportunities to address social isolation.
- Supports reduction in crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Provide opportunities that improves the wellbeing of residents.
- Provide opportunities that promote pathways into employment.
- Supports better early years outcomes.

What will your project deliver?

Each project must demonstrate how it meets the aims of the funding programme and contributes to the key outputs and outcomes of UKSPF. These may vary between projects but should include one or more of the outputs defined below, alongside one or more outcomes.

Output	Definition
Number of people reached / supported	<p>Number of people directly impacted by the UKSPF intervention. The definition of direct impact will vary across interventions e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy efficiency improvements - those living or working within the treated premise. - Engagement schemes - those directly engaging (e.g. reading, viewing, attending). - Direct impact should only be recorded where it can be done so robustly
Number of facilities supported/created.	<p>The number of new amenities/facilities created or improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amenity/facility means any service contained within a physical structure, including, but not limited to, magistrates courts, police stations, town halls, sports facilities, hospitals and public toilets. - Created means the amenity/facility did not previously exist. - 'Improved' means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating better public space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities.
Number of local events, activities, participatory programmes delivered.	<p>Number of events and/or participatory programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Events include but are not limited to: international enterprise events and conferences supporting the local growth sector by promoting networking, collaboration, innovation, growth as well as expertise, innovation and resources sharing. - Participatory programmes mean the delivery of outreach and engagement events for local assets and sites such as cultural, historic and heritage institutions that makes up the local cultural heritage offer.
Number of volunteering opportunities supported	<p>Number of organised volunteering roles supported as a direct result of the intervention. This includes opportunities for people to volunteer on a regular basis, and opportunities for one-off volunteering.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formal volunteering refers to those who have given unpaid help via a group, club, or organisation: for example, leading a group, administrative support or befriending or mentoring people.

Outcomes	Definition
Increased users of facilities/amenities	The increase in number of users of facilities/amenities. Users are the people using facilities/amenities. Amenity/facility means any service contained within a physical structure, including, but not limited to, magistrates courts, police stations, town halls, cultural institutions, hospitals and public toilets. Reporting will also facilitate the option to report a decrease metric.
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	The number of individuals who report their perception of facilities/amenities as good or very good. As this is aiming to measure change, it will only be relevant where the user could experience it previously (i.e. the perception of facilities/amenities existed previously and isn't new). Measurement should directly relate to the perception change through the UKSPF project (e.g., the facilities/amenities impacted). Amenity/facility means any service contained within a physical structure, including, but not limited to, magistrates courts, police stations, town halls, cultural institutions, hospitals and public toilets. Reporting will also facilitate the option to report a decrease metric.
Improved engagement numbers	The increase in number of individuals engaged in the local area / activity during the last 12 months. Engagement can include physical and digital engagements. What is classed as the 'local area' where events are recorded should remain consistent throughout the collection e.g. should not include/ exclude events in neighbouring locations which were excluded/included in previous returns. Reporting will also facilitate the option to report a decrease metric.
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	Number of programmes started because of support provided by UKSPF interventions. This indicator focuses on programmes that are led by the community groups (self-governing and not for profit group or organisation which works for the public benefit) and focuses on the topics of arts, culture, heritage.
Number of volunteering opportunities created	The number of organised volunteering roles created as a direct result of the intervention. This includes opportunities for people to volunteer on a regular basis, and opportunities for one-off volunteering. - Formal volunteering refers to those who have given unpaid help via a group, club, or organisation: for example, leading a group, administrative support or befriending or mentoring people.

Eligibility Criteria

To be considered for a funding award, applicants must:

- Be based in Chorley.
- Be a registered charity, voluntary, community, faith, or social enterprise sector group/organisation.
- Those trading as commercial business, or private individuals are not eligible.
- Have a bank account registered to their group or organisation.
- Able to commence delivery by April 1st, 2024.
- You must be able to complete your project by March 2025
- Ensure that it addresses one or more of the key priorities of the fund.
- Ensure the project is based on local need.
- Demonstrate the positive impacts which will be made through the project.
- Any works to buildings or property must be less than £5,000 as we cannot provide capital-based funding.
- Funding will not be awarded to any retrospective spending.
- The Council must be satisfied that the applicant has the necessary expertise and resources to see the project through to successful completion.
- Grants are not generally available to fund permanent staff positions, but consideration will be given to maintain some hours-of-service delivery, or exceptionally towards posts on fixed-term contracts. Consideration will be given where salaries are included as part of the organisation's start-up costs.
- Grants are not generally available to fund an organisation's running costs.

Partnership Working

We welcome Partnership working and appreciate that organisations may work across Chorley and South Ribble. If you are also applying to South Ribble Borough Council for funding to help extend or enhance your activity, please state this in your application and be clear about what support you are requesting from each local district. By submitting your application you give us permission to liaise with South Ribble Borough Council and discuss your application with their relevant officers and decision panel.

Funding conditions

Evidence must be provided that all required policies and practices are in place, as set out in the grant approval letter before grant monies are paid.

Grants awarded may be subject to certain conditions which must be satisfied before payment is made. The applicant must indicate acceptance of such conditions when any offer of a grant is made.

In applying, applicants are giving Chorley Council consent to carry out financial checks on their organisation.

A panel will determine all grant awards. All awards will be subject to the submission of necessary supporting documentation as stated in the grant award letter. Following confirmation of grant awards, payment of grants will be made on the following basis:

- First stage payment – following sign off of all grant awards and funding documentation (estimated timescale March – April 2024)
- Second stage payment – following satisfactory progress in delivery and receipt of progress report (estimated timescales October 2024).

Organisations are expected to use the grant received for the purpose outlined in their grant application. All projects must be complete by March 31st, 2025. Applicants will be required to keep a record of all project activity, expenditure and outputs achieved for 7 years following project completion.

Recipients of grants should inform the Council of any problems with completing the project as early as possible. The Council will expect repayment of the grant in full if the project is not completed or necessary monitoring information is not received by a set date. The Council may consider requests to repay in part, or not at all if the project is not completed due to circumstances beyond the applicant's control.

Monitoring and evaluation

All successful applicants will be required to provide monitoring information. The fund will look to be open and flexible as possible on use of the funding and level of monitoring required will be reflected in value of funding granted.

This may include, but is not limited to:

- Project details
- Breakdown of spend including invoices.
- Demonstration of desired outcomes and impact
- User feedback
- Photographs / promotional materials / opening events

To ensure grants awarded are adding value to our communities, recipient organisations will be required to provide progress/end of project report detailing outcomes achieved and provide any necessary monitoring information.

Application Process

Applications must be made online at www.chorley.gov.uk/funding

Key Milestones	Date
Fund Launch	February 2024
Open for applications	February - March
Deadline for applications - encourage earlier submissions	March 2024
Scoring of applications and final decisions made	March 2024
Applicants notified of the outcome and Agreements signed	March 2024
Funding allocated to groups	March 2024
Delivery of projects commence	April 1st, 2024
Ongoing monitoring and End of project returns	Per agreement

Assessment and Scoring

An evaluation team will assess and evaluate the applications against the criteria, and recommendations made. These applications must demonstrate clear alignment with the brief in terms of a well scoped project and defined outcomes in relation to the funding priorities.

When allocating funds and scoring, consideration will be given to any gaps in provision. The overall funding budget would look to allocate funds across the different funding priority aims.

Scoring system utilising categories below will be used for each application.

All applications would be advised of the decision, setting out agreements to those who have been successful and upon the receiving of those agreements, funding will be awarded.

Meets eligibility criteria	Organisation based in Chorley, bank account, project delivery dates etc.
Outputs and outcomes	The project has clear, visible outcomes and it is clear on the impact of project.
Demonstrable need	Evidence of need - clear and fully understand why the project is needed.
Community involvement	It is clearly demonstrated that in the development and or delivery of this project stakeholders have been involved (residents/groups/partners).
Target demographic	The target demographic is clear, and the project outcomes are aligned with the needs of this demographic.
UKSPF and Council priorities	The project contributes to funding aims and wider council priorities.
Clear timeline	There is a clear timeline for project delivery and confident that the project will be completed as described.
Value for money	This will be based on number of beneficiaries, but also take into consideration quality of provision and long-term benefits.
Sustainability	The outcomes from the project will have a long-term impact and consequently lead to further positive outcomes.
Feasibility and Experience of delivery	The group or organisation have the capabilities to deliver the project, including ability to evaluate and monitor delivery and evidence of previous successful delivery.