



**Clackmannanshire  
Council**



**UK Government**

### **Communities and Place Challenge Fund Guidance**

This grant scheme is funded by the UK Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund. For this year of the scheme, we have a budget of £160,000 for capital projects and £40,000 for revenue projects. The fund is open to applications for capital or revenue costs with a separate application for each. Capital costs can cover a fixed asset such as buildings, vehicles, equipment pathways, land purchase, landscaping or improvements to buildings but not repairs or replacements. Applications for revenue costs will be open to costs for non-fixed assets such as feasibility studies, events, salaries etc.

The funding outcomes required to be delivered by successful applications have been selected from the set outcomes from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and are considered the most appropriate for Clackmannanshire. There are separate sets of outcomes for capital and revenue projects as outlined below.

The process of securing funding from the Communities and Place Challenge Fund is to contact Neil Ramsay at [nramsay@clacks.gov.uk](mailto:nramsay@clacks.gov.uk) with your project idea and Neil will then supply the application form. Neil will administer the fund and is able to advise applicants and undertake site visits if requested. Applications submitted before the deadline will be assessed by the UK Shared Prosperity Programme Board, which has representation from Clackmannanshire Council, the Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce, Forth Valley College and Clackmannanshire Third Sector Interface.

There is no appeal process but unsuccessful applicants will be given feedback on their application.

The eligibility criteria for the fund is below:

#### **Eligibility Criteria for Capital Projects**

- Projects must contribute towards at least one of the following interventions:
  - o Place based investments for regeneration and town centre improvements, which could include better accessibility for disabled people.
  - o Support and improvement of community assets and infrastructure projects, including those that increase communities' resilience to natural hazards, and support for decarbonisation of facilities, and installation of energy efficiency and renewable measures in community buildings.
  - o Improvements to the natural environment and green and open space which could include community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.
  - o Support for sport, arts, cultural, heritage facilities and institutions.
  - o Funding for active travel enhancements and other small scale strategic transport projects.

## Eligibility Criteria for Revenue Projects

- Projects must contribute towards at least one of the following interventions:
  - o Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to explore and visit the area.
  - o Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
  - o Investment in capacity building and resilience (including climate change resilience) for local civil society and community groups.
  - o Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.
  - o Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.
  - o Support for linking communities together and with employment opportunities with a focus on decarbonisation.
  
- Projects must be able to demonstrate at least one change in the following outputs and outcomes:

### Outputs for Capital Projects

- o Number of commercial buildings developed or improved (number of buildings)
- o Amount of commercial buildings developed or improved (m2)
- o Number of rehabilitated premises (numerical value)
- o Amount of rehabilitated land (m2)
- o Amount of public realm created or improved (m2)
- o Number of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed (numerical value)
- o Amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed (m2)
- o Number of decarbonisation plans developed as a result of support (numerical value)
- o Amount of land made wheelchair accessible/step free (m2)
- o Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken (number of improvements)
- o Number of amenities/facilities supported/created (number of amenities/facilities)
- o Amount of green or blue space created or improved (m2)
- o Number of new or improved cycleways or footpaths (number of footpaths/cycleways)
- o Total length of new or improved cycleways or footpaths (m2)
- o Number of trees planted (number of trees)
- o Number of Tourism, culture or heritage assets created or improved (number of assets)
- o Number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion (number of properties)

### Outcomes for Capital Projects

- o Increased footfall (number of people)
- o Increased visitor numbers (number of people)
- o Estimated Carbon dioxide equivalent reductions as a result of support (Tonnes of CO2e)
- o Improved perceived/experienced accessibility (number of people)
- o Improved perception of facilities/amenities (number of people)
- o Increased users of facilities/amenities (number of people)
- o Increased use of cycleways or footpaths (Number of cyclists or pedestrians)
- o Improved engagement numbers (number of people)

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### **Outputs for Revenue Projects**

- Number of decarbonisation plans developed (numerical number)
- Number of organisations receiving non-financial support (numerical value)
- Number of facilities supported/created (numerical value)
- Number of local events supported (numerical value)
- Number of events/participatory programmes (numerical value)
- Number of volunteering opportunities supported (numerical value)
- Number of projects (numerical value)
- Number of people reached (numerical value)
- Number of tournaments/leagues/teams supported (numerical value)
- Levels of participation in sports and recreational activities at facilities that have benefitted from funding (based on registered players/teams) (% increase)
- Number of people attending training sessions (numerical value)
- Number of feasibility studies supported (numerical value)

### **Outcomes for Revenue Projects**

- Jobs created (numerical value)
- Jobs safeguarded (numerical value)
- Increased footfall (numerical value)
- Increased number of visitors (% increase)
- Improved perception of facilities/amenities (% increase)
- Increased users of facilities/amenities (% increase)
- Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project (% increase)
- Increased use of cycleways/paths (% increase)
- Increased affordability of events/entry (% increase)
- Improved perception of safety (% increase)
- Reduction in neighbourhood crime (% decrease)
- Improved engagement numbers (% increase)
- Numbers of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support (numerical value)
- Improved perception of events (% increase)
- Increased number of web searches for a place (% increase)
- Volunteering numbers as a result of support (numerical value)
- Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies (% increase)
- Increased take-up of energy efficiency measures (% increase)

- Applicants must be constituted or have another founding document such as a Memorandum and Articles and have access to their own bank account. Sole Traders or Partnerships must show evidence of their Unique Tax Reference. Potential applicants can be community groups, social enterprises, businesses or business groupings.
- Projects must not require ongoing maintenance by the Council.

- Projects must be able to be completed within the financial year 2024/25. Applicants must evidence, in the application, to what extent their project is ready to start and likely to complete on time.
- For capital projects, applicants must be able to evidence that they have control of the asset to be invested in for a minimum of 5 years from award date by either a lease or title deeds or other documentation. Leases for shorter timescales might be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- Repairs or replacements are not eligible costs and all capital grants must be for improvements or new work.
- Revenue grants will only be considered for new activities and not for ongoing activities.
- Projects must evidence that Clackmannanshire communities will benefit from the project.
- Successful applicants will be expected to sign a grant offer letter within 20 days of receiving the grant offer letter. Failing to meet this deadline may result in the funding going to another project.
- Applicants looking for capital and revenue costs will have to submit separate applications for each and each application will be separately assessed.
- For capital projects we are looking for grant requests of between £5,000 and £25,000, which can be up to 100% of project costs. Grants of between £25,000 and £50,000 will be considered but must have a minimum of 25% match funding.
- Volunteer time can be used as an eligible match fund. Volunteer time can be valued using the following system:
  - o Professional volunteer (e.g. accountancy or teaching) - £50 per hour
  - o Skilled volunteer (e.g. admin, carpentry or leading a guided walk) - £20 per hour
  - o Volunteer (e.g. site clearance) - £12 per hour
- For revenue projects we are looking for grant requests of between £1,000 and £5,000.
- The deadline for submitting applications for funding is **5pm on Friday August 9<sup>th</sup> 2024.**

Applications will be assessed by the Programme Board on the following criteria:

- Project benefit to one or more Clackmannanshire communities.
- Impact of the project against the fund interventions listed above.
- Evidence of need or demand for the project.
- How robustly the project has been planned and how likely it is to complete on time.

All applications will be scored against the criteria above with the highest scoring projects receiving the funding. Funding criteria will have an equal weight so each will constitute 25% of the score for the grant award.

All application documentation will be sent to Programme Board members in advance of a decision meeting. At the decision meeting, each application will be discussed with every member of the Programme Board submitting scores for each project. All scores will be averaged with the highest average scored projects receiving the funding until the money is exhausted. In the event that a project scores highly enough to be awarded grant but there is only enough money to part fund the project then the Council team will contact the applicant to ascertain if the project can be partly delivered with what is left. If this is not possible then the Council team will undertake the same process with the next highest scoring project until all the money is allocated.