



**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 first year of the scheme, we have a budget of £70,000 but expect to have a budget for the following year of around £300,000. This fund is for capital costs only - a fixed asset such as buildings, vehicles, equipment pathways, land purchase, landscaping or improvements to buildings but not repairs or replacements.

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.

The process of securing funding from the Communities and Place Challenge Fund is to contact Neil Ramsay at nramsay@clacks.gov.uk with your project idea and Neil will then supply the application form. 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 and can amend their projects and submit to next year's round of funding.

The eligibility criteria for the fund is below:

Eligibility Criteria

- Projects must contribute towards at least one of the following interventions:
 - Place based investments for regeneration and town centre improvements, which could include better accessibility for disabled people.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Support for sport, arts, cultural, heritage facilities and institutions.
 - Funding for active travel enhancements and other small scale strategic transport projects.

- Projects must be able to demonstrate at least one change in the following outputs and outcomes:

Outputs

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

Outcomes

- Increased footfall (number of people)
 - Increased visitor numbers (number of people)
 - Estimated Carbon dioxide equivalent reductions as a result of support (Tonnes of CO2e)
 - Improved perceived/experienced accessibility (number of people)
 - Improved perception of facilities/amenities (number of people)
 - Increased users of facilities/amenities (number of people)
 - Increased use of cycleways or footpaths (Number of cyclists or pedestrians)
 - Improved engagement numbers (number of people)
-
- Applicants must be constituted or have another founding document such as a Memorandum and Articles and have access to their own bank account.
 - Projects must not require ongoing maintenance by the Council.
 - Projects must be able to be completed within the financial year 2023/24. Applicants must evidence, in the application, to what extent their project is ready to start and likely to complete on time.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- Project costs can only be capital and not for revenue costs such as salaries or peoples' time.
- We are looking for grant requests of between £5,000 and £30,000 but will consider grants of larger amounts for exceptional projects and if funding is available.
- The deadline for submitting applications for funding is **5pm on October 5th 2023.**

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.