



Cheshire West and Chester Community Building Grants Scheme

Application Criteria 2023- 2024

Cheshire West and Chester Council were successful in obtaining United Kingdom Social Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) to support communities across Cheshire West and Chester. Part of this funding is focused on communities and place, which in turn has led to the creation of this capital projects fund.

This fund is targeted at community buildings, community groups and parish councils to develop their community buildings and spaces with projects that align with UKSPF priorities.

Cheshire West has an active network of community buildings hosted by Cheshire Community Action (CCA), most of which are charities run by dedicated volunteer trustees. Some are owned by parish councils and all of them work with and host other community groups.

These buildings are important for maintaining the health and wellbeing of our local communities, especially given our ageing population, declining rural services and increasing levels of social isolation. Many community buildings are the only local meeting place within their communities. They also contribute significantly to the economy, by supporting local businesses and on average at least 5 people per building are utilising buildings to earn their living (equates to 250 jobs based on our member halls in Cheshire West alone) - demonstrating the economic importance and value of community buildings.

There will be two tranches of investment: tranche one of the fund will open in Autumn 2023. The second tranche will go live in April 2024.

Further details of the fund, eligibility and how to apply are below.

Scope

This fund is targeted at community buildings, community groups and parish councils to develop their community buildings and spaces with projects that align with UKSPF priorities. The main outcomes of your project should be focused on financial sustainability – either saving or reducing costs or generating income.

Criteria includes:

- Energy efficiency measures
- Renewable heating installations
- Electric car charging points
- Drainage works to mitigate flooding
- Setting up community shops and cafes
- New and improved sports facilities
- Community uses of outside space

Important: The overall outcome of your project should be financial sustainability – reducing overheads or increasing income.

Applications and Timeline

All applications should be for funding should be made on the application attached and returned via email to enquiries@cheshireaction.org.uk.

To make the process accessible to all eligible organisations, applications will be accepted in alternative formats. If you wish to apply using an alternative format please contact Cheshire Community Action (CCA) to discuss it. Funding is capped at £10,000 per application.

- Applications open – 30th October 2023
- Closing date for applications – 8th January 2024
- Awards made – 22nd January 2024
- Project activity completed/committed – 31st March 2024

Voluntary and community sector organisations are invited to apply for funding awards up to a maximum of **£10,000 per application – and a maximum of one application per organisation.**

Eligibility

You can apply if your organisation is a:

- voluntary and community organisation
- constituted group or club
- registered charity
- charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
- not-for-profit company
- community interest company (CIC)

There are other eligibility conditions that need to be met and these will be made clear in the application process.

Award Process

Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by a grant selections panel using a scoring system based on the above criteria. Decisions to make funding offers will be taken by the panel. All funding offers will be subject to a signed agreement that will include a commitment by the recipient organisations to report on outputs and outcomes of the agreed funding purposes.

Given the scale of this programme, we will be required to prioritise bids. Priority will be given to projects that are:

- deliverable within the project timescales;
- are suitably worked up and costed;
- can clearly be shown to improve financial sustainability or increase income generation.

Management of Successful Awards

Once awards have been determined by Cheshire Community Action (CCA) and agreements have been entered into with successful applicants, the subsequent monitoring of those agreements, and the issuing of payments, will be managed by CCA.

You will be required to complete an end of grant report with a focus on evidence, impact and case studies. You may be required to evidence expenditure and provide further evidence of project delivery, this will be agreed with CCA and detailed in the grant agreement.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions. Good luck.

Email: enquiries@cheshireaction.org.uk Tel: 01244 400222