

Community Feasibility Fund Guidance Notes for Applicants

The Community Feasibility Fund is funded by the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for Communities and Place. It is a funding support programme specifically for feasibility studies that align with community regeneration projects. The Community Feasibility Fund continues the success of the Reach programme with the aspiration of developing Bridgend's communities into thriving places to live, visit and work.

The UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) supports the government's wider commitment to Level Up all parts of the UK and provides funding for local investment between 2023 and 2024. The primary aim of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Community groups or volunteer organisations
- Charities
- Community / Town Councils
- New or existing networks
- Third sector organisations
- Public sector organisations

If you are unsure of your eligibility, please contact reach@bridgend.gov.uk who will be able to advise.

HOW MUCH YOU CAN APPLY FOR

The Community Feasibility Fund is revenue only and provides 100% of eligible project costs. The minimum available is **£2,000** and the maximum **£35,000** (excluding VAT).

The Community Feasibility Fund will be awarded on a first come first served basis, all forms must be completed and contain the relevant information.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE

The Community Feasibility Fund can support community focussed feasibility studies that can carry out community consultation, research and provide options for local regeneration projects. Examples include:

- Feasibility studies for the development potential of community buildings and outdoor spaces, which could lead onto large scale capital work.
- Options appraisals for large scale green spaces.
- Innovative community-serving project ideas i.e., renewable energy solutions, improving energy efficiency, combating fuel poverty and climate change.

The Feasibility Studies could then be used to demonstrate the viability of a project for further funding opportunities.

WHAT CANNOT BE SUPPORTED

Unfortunately, the Community Feasibility Fund cannot support the following costs and activities:

- Any costs incurred prior to formal approval
- Any capital costs
- VAT or any other taxes
- Bank / finance charges & loan repayments
- Legal costs being carried out as a statutory requirement
- Routine or ongoing running / revenue costs (including rents, rates, insurances, salaries, ongoing rentals).
- Fundraiser's fee
- Vehicles
- Membership of Professional Bodies
- Refinancing of bad debts of any kind, or company liabilities not associated with the project
- Insurance
- Financial support to third parties
- Works carried out on a domestic property, either new build or refurbishment or extensions/garden rooms/log cabins

HOW TO APPLY

- Contact reach@bridgend.gov.uk and request an Expression of Interest form - please complete this short form and send it back to reach@bridgend.gov.uk
- The EOI is screened for eligibility and reviewed for direct project funding or signposting to other relevant funding streams.
- If eligible, you will be invited to submit a full application with support from a Resilient Communities Co-ordinator.
- The full application is submitted to the BCBC Grant Approval Panel for review and approval.
- If approved, the project will be developed in partnership with the Bridgend Resilient Communities team. The team will work with you to commission the project and deal with the contractor arrangements while you steer the project and provide direction.
- No expenditure should be incurred before funding approval, as the fund cannot be awarded retrospectively.

SUBSIDY CONTROL

Under the Subsidy Control Act 2022, a subsidy is where a public authority provides support to an enterprise that gives them an economic advantage, meaning equivalent support could not have been obtained on commercial terms. It can take the form of a grant, a tax break, a loan, guarantee or equity investment on

favourable terms, or the use of facilities below market price, amongst other kinds of support.

The Council will assess grant applications to determine any potential Subsidy Control implications. Each application will be considered on the basis of its specific circumstances. Further information on the Subsidy Control rules can be found under the UK Government guidance available at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/subsidy-control-regime>

Where the Council determines that financial support cannot be compliantly awarded under the UK Subsidy Control Regime the application will be considered ineligible and your application will be rejected.

The Council reserves the right to require repayment of any grant funding which following award is subsequently found to contravene Subsidy Control Rules.



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CONTACT DETAILS

Please email: reach@bridgend.gov.uk

Call: 01656 815080

Website: <http://www.bridgendreach.org.uk>

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich dewis iaith.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh.

Bridgend Council has absolute discretion over the terms, eligibility and decision making of the Community Feasibility Fund and reserves the right to amend the criteria at any time.