

# Pride in Place Impact Fund Community Grants

## Introduction & Background

In September 2025 the UK Government announced that West Dunbartonshire Council would receive £1.5M from the Pride in Place Impact Fund. The Council has since allocated £600,000 of the Impact Fund towards the creation of a new Community Capital Grants fund, aimed at supporting local not-for-profit organisations deliver their capital projects.

Any group that has a constitution, a bank account, is not-for-profit and aims to bring benefits to the residents of West Dunbartonshire can apply for a grant of between £10,000 and £100,000.

Grants will be awarded through a competitive process, rewarding capital projects which meet aims and objectives of the Pride in Place Impact Fund. All applications will be assessed against the funding criteria, fully outlined below, including a requirement for the funding to be spent, or at least legally committed, by the end of March 2027.

## Community Capital Grants Fund – Guidance

The Pride in Place Impact Fund has been designed to boost local pride and community spirit in areas that are most in need. The Fund can provide immediate support to local organisations that deliver key services to their communities. The Fund has three core objectives:

- Community spaces: creating, extending, improving or refurbishing existing community facilities and enabling community organisations to take control or ownership of underused but valued local assets.
- Public spaces: enhancing the physical environment in public spaces - examples of initiatives include new or improved green spaces or public squares, improved outdoor play, sports and leisure spaces, installing street furniture, public art or wayfinding.
- High street and town centre revitalisation: making these areas more attractive and welcoming places where people congregate and which encourage economic activity. Examples of initiatives that could be funded are shop frontage improvements, adaptations that bring premises back into use, streetscape improvements, public art, trails and wayfinding, and creating or improving the infrastructure for regular markets.

West Dunbartonshire Council's Community Capital Grants will be awarded for projects which deliver one or more of the above objectives.

Funding can only be given to 'Capital Projects' – this means a larger, long-term investment into an asset or place, like a building or a garden. The funding cannot be used for operational costs such as the day-to-day running costs or energy bills, and it cannot also be used for project development costs, or feasibility studies.

UK Government requires that all the funding is spent or contractually committed by the end of March 2027. Applicants must demonstrate that their projects will comply with this requirement.

### **Application Process**

Applicants will have to complete the Pride in Place Community Grant application form, which can be found on the [Council's website](#). Applicants will be asked to provide supporting information as part of their application including:

- Your group's constitution or other similar document
- Your group's most recent bank statement
- A cost estimate or three verifiable quotes for works that you are seeking funding for. Quotes must be from non-connected persons / organisations.
- Technical drawings for any construction work that you are seeking funding for (if relevant)
- Proof of ownership or signed copy of a lease held by your group, if this grant is to be used to fund improvements to land or buildings that you own or lease
- Any other documents relevant to the application

The Council will be entitled to request further information in respect of the above matters or any other aspect of the grant.

The deadline for submitting the application is 5.00pm on **23 March 2026**

Groups can request support from the Council during the application process by contacting [Regeneration@west-dunbartonshire.gov.uk](mailto:Regeneration@west-dunbartonshire.gov.uk)

## Grant Allocation

An Evaluation Panel made of Council Officers from across different departments will review all applications and put forward a shortlist of projects for award. All grants will be assessed on the following criteria;

- Pride in Place Impact Fund guidance
- Strategic fit with Council's priorities
- Project Viability & Deliverability (including previous experience of project delivery for higher value projects)
- Community Impact
- Value for money

Depending on the nature of the project, the funding may be released upfront or in stages as the project progresses.

## Timescales

All applications including the supporting information must be submitted by **23 March 2026**. Applications will be reviewed as quickly as possible, and successful applicants will be informed in early April.

## Monitoring

West Dunbartonshire Council is required to provide regular updates to the UK Government on how the Impact Fund is being spent. Successful projects must commit to regular updates and provide the required information at set deadlines in April 2026, September 2026 and May 2027. Monitoring requirements will be provided to successful candidates as part of their grant agreement form.

## FAQs

### Who can apply?

Community groups and voluntary organisations can apply if you meet the following requirements:

- Your group/organisation provides a service in, or of benefit to, communities in West Dunbartonshire
- You have a constitution or governing document
- You have a bank account in the name of your group (with at least 2 unrelated signatories)
- You are a not-for-profit group/organisation
- You hold public liability insurance should your activities require it.
- You are not undertaking any physical works to buildings / assets without evidencing permission from the owner and/or planning department, if required.

### What if my group doesn't meet all of the requirements?

We are unable to accept applications from groups that do not meet the necessary requirements of the grant. Unfortunately, we cannot offer support to groups that do not yet currently meet the eligibility within the funding timescale.

### What sort of projects can be funded?

This is a list of activities that could be supported by the Pride in Place Impact Fund:

Objective	Indicative Activities
<b>Community spaces</b>  The focus of this objective is buildings and indoor spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- providing funding to a community group to take ownership of a disused asset</li><li>- providing funding to refurbish or improve an asset already in community ownership</li><li>- funding to refurbish or improve assets owned by public bodies for community activity</li><li>- funding to create, improve or refurbish maker spaces</li><li>- funding to create or improve art galleries, theatres, museums, libraries, cultural or heritage sites, sports facilities</li></ul>

- creating or expanding on existing community assets to promote community cohesion

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### **Public spaces**

The focus of this objective is outdoor recreation spaces.

- creating or improving parks or community gardens, particularly in areas with poor quality parks and gardens
- improvements to a canal towpath, riverside walk or other leisure space
- creating or refurbishing play areas and sports pitches/courts, installing outdoor gym equipment
- providing new or replacing street furniture, repainting of public spaces, creating new shaded areas such as new shelters for bus stops, improved lighting and adaptations to reduce crime and the fear of crime
- public art that reflects local culture and history, creating trails and installing new signs to help with wayfinding
- creating and refurbishing footpaths, cycle ways and shared use paths
- creating or refurbishing a pavilion or bandstand to support cultural, heritage, sporting and creative events
- provision of public toilets or improvements to existing facilities, including providing Changing Places toilets

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### **High street and town centre revitalisation**

The focus of this objective is regenerating high streets and local shopping areas.

- improving street surfaces, street furniture, repainting of public spaces, creating new shaded areas such as new shelters for bus stops, improved lighting, measures to reduce the fear of crime, cycleways and shared paths
  - shop front improvement grants
  - grants to bring disused premises back into commercial use
  - provision of public toilets or improvements to existing facilities, including providing Changing Places toilets
  - providing infrastructure that supports street markets
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Other projects that are not included on this list could still be eligible.

## What will help me demonstrate that my project viable and deliverable?

The Evaluation Panel will require applications to demonstrate deliverability of the project. An application that can provide a costed project plan, architects drawings (if relevant), fee quotes for construction contractors and project timeline would demonstrate that the project can be delivered within the Grant timelines.

As well as an overview of the purpose of your project, your application should:

- Demonstrate what stage the project/proposal is at (e.g. is the scheme just an idea, or do you have a costed scope of works/designs?),
- Show an indicative timeline/programme for the delivery of the project,
- Evidence that your organisation has delivered similar capital projects in the past, or has required expertise to do so,

You should also state whether there is any match funding in place where there is any shortfall between grant requested and the costs of the project. A statement of how any unexpected cost overrun will be addressed should be provided. The applicants may consider including a contingency amount in their overall project cost estimate.

The project does not need to demonstrate every one of these characteristics, however projects that do will be more likely to succeed with the application.

## How much can I ask for?

Applicants can request for the grant to cover the entirety of their total project costs, however applicants with match-funding will be prioritised. Your total grant request can be from £10,000 - £100,000, however it must not exceed the total cost of your proposal.

## Are all my costs eligible to be covered?

All capital costs required to deliver the project are eligible. **Some project development or management costs may also be eligible.** Please discuss with us before including them in the application.

The following costs are not eligible for support:

- Any costs that are considered to be revenue costs in line with standard local authority accounting practice – this includes employee costs, premises costs, supplies and services, maintenance costs and so on.
- Costs associated with activity that took place before September 2025
- Paid for lobbying, entertaining, petitioning or challenging decisions, which means using the Fund to lobby (via an external firm or in-house staff) in order to undertake activities intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, government or political activity including the receipt of funding; or attempting to influence legislative or regulatory action

- Payments for activities of a party political or exclusively religious nature [footnote 2]
- VAT reclaimable from HMRC. Irrecoverable VAT is an eligible cost under the Pride in Place Impact Fund
- Gifts, or payments for gifts or donations
- Statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties
- Payments for works or activities which the lead local authority, project deliverer, end beneficiary, or any member of their partnership has a statutory duty to undertake, or that are fully funded by other sources
- Contingencies and contingent liabilities
- Dividends
- Bad debts, costs resulting from the deferral of payments to creditors, or winding up a company
- Expenses in respect of litigation, unfair dismissal or other compensation
- Costs incurred by individuals in setting up and contributing towards private pension schemes
- Payments to office bearers, or members or connected persons of the applicant organisation

### **Is help available to complete an application?**

Yes. If you aren't sure what type of funding your project or idea needs or you need to speak to someone about your application, help will be available. You can make an appointment to speak with a member of the Regeneration Team by emailing [regeneration@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@west-dunbarton.gov.uk). Members of staff will be available during regular office hours.

### **Can groups previously funded by other Council grant schemes apply?**

Yes. Groups that have had funding from previous rounds of grant funding can apply this time providing that you responded to all previous monitoring and evaluation requests and provided evidence of spend.

However, we would encourage other groups and groups from neighbourhoods which haven't previously received any funding to come forward. Help is available to develop and complete your application.

### **When do we need to deliver the project?**

Successful groups need to be able to spend the funding received for the project, or at least have it contractually committed, by the end of March 2027.

We also want groups who are applying for physical works to assets, play equipment or other equipment for a public space to think about how this will be maintained in the long run.

### **What happens after I submit the application?**

- Applications must be submitted by 5pm on **23 March 2026**
- All accompanying documents must be sent in before the closing date in order for your application to be eligible.
- Applications without the appropriate documents at this stage will not be progressed.
- All eligible applications will be assessed by the Evaluation Panel.
- Successful applications will receive grant offers by **early April 2026**. Overall number of grants will depend on number of applications received, and amount of funding being sought.

Application Forms can be found online at on the [Council's website](#) and must be completed by 23 March 2026 – 5.00pm

Completed forms can be emailed to [Regeneration@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Regeneration@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

### **Useful Contacts**

To discuss your application, please contact Calum McConnachie, Regeneration Officer ([calum.mcconnachie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:calum.mcconnachie@west-dunbarton.gov.uk))

**OR**

Email [Regeneration@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Regeneration@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

**This document is also available in other languages, large print and audio format on request.**

### **Arabic**

هذه الوثيقة متاحة أيضا بلغات أخرى والأحرف الطباعية الكبيرة وبطريقة سمعية عند الطلب.

### **Hindi**

अनुरोध पर यह दस्तावेज़ अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों की छपाई और सुनने वाले माध्यम पर भी उपलब्ध है

### **Punjabi**

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਆਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਹੋਇਆ ਵੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।

### **Urdu**

درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔

### **Chinese (Cantonese)**

本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。

### **Polish**

Dokument ten jest na życzenie udostępniany także w innych wersjach językowych, w dużym druku lub w formie audio.



**British Sign Language**

BSL users can contact us via [contactSCOTLAND-BSL](https://www.scotland.gov.uk/contact/SCOTLAND-BSL), the on-line British Sign Language interpreting service.

( 01389 737527

✉ **West Dunbartonshire Council, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton,  
G82 1QL**

💻 [Regeneration@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:Regeneration@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)