



## RISE Strategic Grants R2 2025/26

### Application Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in the RISE Strategic Grant Fund.

This fund is aimed at organisations that are already achieving good outcomes for the local community and want to take their work to the next level.

The grants programme is one of the ways in which we aim to work in collaboration with the voluntary and community sector to meet its objectives.

**Deadline for applications Tuesday, 7 October 2025.**

We receive many applications, and unfortunately, we cannot support all of them. However, we want to recognise that even if your application is unsuccessful, it does not diminish the value and impact it can have on the community.

**Please remember you can ask for pre-application advice by contacting [externaldevelopment@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:externaldevelopment@canterbury.gov.uk).**

We are committed to providing feedback to all unsuccessful applicants.

We look forward to receiving your application!

### Application Timetable 2025/26

Application Opens	Tuesday 26 August 2025
Deadline for Submissions	Midnight Tuesday 7 October 2025
Deadline Decision	W/C Monday 20 October 2025
Project End	Monday 16 March 2026
Monitoring Form to be returned	Monday 23 March 2026

## The Application Process

<b>Read this guide</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– This guide will help you to understand if we can fund your organisation, how we assess your application and what will happen if you are successful.</li> <li>– Get in touch with us if you have questions or if you're experiencing difficulties with the form: <a href="mailto:externaldevelopment@canterbury.gov.uk">externaldevelopment@canterbury.gov.uk</a></li> </ul>
<b>Who can apply?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– You can apply for this grant stream if you are a not-for-profit organisation working in the community, cultural and sports sectors in the <a href="#">Canterbury District</a>.</li> <li>– If you are an individual or sole trader, a profit-making organisation or an organisation not established in the UK, then we are unable to fund you.</li> </ul>
<b>How much can you apply for?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Grants will be awarded up to £5,000</li> </ul>
<b>What will we pay for?</b>	<p><b>Project delivery funding up to 5k:</b> Your project must meet one or more of the priorities with a maximum of 5% core cost *(including back office expenditure that would normally be paid e.g. day to day management, utilities, office support etc).</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Core funding costs up to 4k:</b> If your organisation's core objectives meet one of the Strategic Grants priorities, you may apply for service delivery funding rather than project support. Core costs mean financial support for non-project-based activity such as, back-office expenditure that would be paid for e.g. day to day management, utilities, office support, regular staffing etc).</p>
<b>Priorities</b>	<p>Projects that contribute to the corporate plan returning pride to our district.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Greener:</b> Improve education and awareness raising in the community on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.</li> <li>– <b>Fairer:</b> Improve access to food and health services to support healthy lifestyles.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Better:</b> Alleviate poverty and deprivation by offering support for education and training to develop skills to support employment.</li> <li>– <b>Stronger:</b> Promote inclusion and challenge discrimination by encouraging participation in cultural and leisure activities that celebrate diversity and strengthen community bonds.</li> </ul>
<b>Check your eligibility</b>	<b>Section A</b> of the application form details the specific eligibility criteria. You must read this to check that you are eligible to apply for this grant.
<b>What you will need to complete your application (full list of questions that we ask)</b>	<p><b>Section B</b></p> <p><b>About your organisation and financial position</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Your organisation's contact details.</li> <li>– What type of organisation are you?</li> <li>– Charity number or company number (if applicable)</li> <li>– Which sector does your organisation mainly represent?</li> <li>– What are you applying for (service delivery costs up to 4k or project delivery up to 5k)?</li> <li>– Describe your organisation's financial position for the current financial year (Last year's accounts).</li> <li>– What level of reserves does your organisation have?</li> <li>– Has your organisation shown a deficit in your last annual accounts?</li> </ul> <p><b>Section C</b></p> <p><b>Project, Outputs, Income and Expenditure and Declaration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Your application for a Strategic Grant should demonstrate how your work contributes to the priorities (tick as appropriate).</li> <li>– Which Sustainable Development Goals does it contribute to?</li> <li>– Service users - how many people will benefit from your project/service?</li> <li>– Which ward areas within the Canterbury district does your work cover? View <a href="#">boundary maps</a></li> </ul> <p>Does your project contribute to any of the EU Sustainable Development Goals? Please tick which goals it contributes to. For more information on the SDG, click <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

For more information on the SDG, click [here](#).

#### Goals

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| 1. No Poverty                              |
| 2. Zero Hunger                             |
| 3. Good Health and well-being              |
| 4. Quality Education                       |
| 5. Gender Equality                         |
| 6. Clean Water and Sanitation              |
| 7. Affordable and Clean Energy             |
| 8. Decent work and economic growth         |
| 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure |
| 10. Reduced inequalities                   |
| 11. Sustainable cities and communities     |
| 12. Consumption and production             |
| 13. Climate Change                         |
| 14. Life below water                       |
| 15. Life on Land                           |
| 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions |
| 17. Partnership for the Goals              |

#### About your project/organisation

Tell us what you would like to do with this funding?

- Briefly describe what your project/ service is?
- What difference is your project going to make to the people you are working with?
- How does your project meet the Strategic Grant Priorities?

#### Describe the people you aim to work with and how they link to our priorities

(Please relate these to the priorities applicable to your funding stream)

- Describe the people you aim to work with and how they link to our priorities.

- Tell us about the needs of your clients/participants and what issues they face. (This can include statistics, surveys, specific feedback, and quotes from service users.)
- Explain how this funding will increase the number of people you reach and improve the way you work?
- Describe how your users have informed your project/service?
- Describe where you will be delivering your project/service in the Canterbury District and the reason these areas were chosen.
- How will this project link to areas shown in the district linked to the index of deprivation (you can find this information on the [ONS website](#)?)

### **Your project legacy**

What is the ongoing legacy of this funding, and what is your exit strategy?

- What are the ongoing benefits to the district after the project has finished, e.g. Could it attract additional funding? Raise skills or employment levels? Be a catalyst for further work to meet the district's needs?
- How will you share your learning and outcomes from this project with other organisations in the district and your local Councillors?

### **How does your organisation mitigate any environmental impacts of your project or service?**

Here are some useful tools to look at: [Zero waste](#) - How to send nothing to a landfill. [Plastic-free](#) - How to make your project, free from disposable, single-use plastics. [Free Carbon Calculators](#) - for Individuals and Small Businesses.

### **When will your project run?**

- Start and finish date.

**Tell us what you are hoping to achieve and how you will monitor your progress within the funding period (October 25 to March 26).**

- How many volunteers will your project/service involve?

- Approximately how many hours in total, will your volunteers give annually?
- Which demographic will benefit because of your activity? Which Issues will your project address
- What area does your work cover within your project/service?

#### **Your project/service outputs**

- Please tell us how you will monitor and evaluate your project?
- What tools will you use, and how will you evidence the difference your project has made?
- You can submit up to 3 outputs. Please keep them simple and number each output followed by the corresponding outcome/measurement.

**Outputs** are the activities and services that you deliver to help you achieve your desired outcomes. **Outcomes** are the actual changes, benefits or other effects that happen as a result of your activities.

#### Examples:

**Output:** *10-week junior citizen programme targeting year six pupils.*

**Outcome:** *Equip them with the skills to cope with the transfer to secondary school and the challenges they face as young adults.*

#### **Your project's financial information**

- How many volunteers are used on your project/service and how many hours volunteered.
- How much are you asking for from the Strategic Grants Fund?
- Please describe your income and expenditure including income from other funding streams and core costs including staffing and utilities. For project delivery grants we will not fund above 5% of core costs.
- Ensure your expenditure is balanced with your income.
- Include expenditure that is appropriate to your project and offers the best value.
- Income can include grants, fees, fundraising, etc.
- Expenditure can include staffing, equipment, building costs, training, etc.

<p><b>How we assess your application</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>After the closing date each application will be scored by a minimum of two council officers. Applications are considered against the following criteria:</b></li> <li>- Strategic fit- How clearly you have expressed your aims against the Strategic Grant Priorities and UN Sustainable Development Goals.</li> <li>- Participants/ Beneficiaries- Who will you work with and how they link to our priorities</li> <li>- Evidence- how have you shaped your project with evidence of need? What are the issues that your community faces and what evidence backs this up? How will the funding expand your service, and will your users have a voice in the development of the project?</li> <li>- Legacy- Officers will consider how strong your idea is and what difference the project will make in the long term. This might include how this funding grows your capacity or is able to continue after the funding has ceased.</li> <li>- How will you evaluate your project?</li> <li>- The levels of volunteers and hours.</li> </ul> <p><b>There will be extra weighting in this round on the following</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Applicant - if you have not been funded in the first round in 25/26 you will receive a positively weighted score to ensure the widest spread of organisations are supported</li> <li>• Delivering in areas of high deprivation in the district.</li> </ul> <p><b>Please be aware that when looking at the top scores, we will also be looking to ensure we have coverage across all priorities and the district.</b></p>
<p><b>How we tell you of our decision</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We aim to have a decision for you within two weeks of the submission deadline.</li> <li>- If your application is successful, we may also ask for references to verify your application.</li> <li>- After this, we will send you a conditional offer letter and our grant agreement (detailing our full terms and conditions) for you to read, sign and return.</li> <li>- If your application is unsuccessful, you can request feedback.</li> <li>- There are no appeals process for this grant scheme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Your payment schedule</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All payments will be made via BACS.</li> <li>- Payments are usually processed within 28 days.</li> <li>- We will pay your grant in two stages. The first amount will be paid to you on receipt of a signed contract. The final amount (£250.00) will be paid once satisfactory</li> </ul>

	<p>grant monitoring has been completed, which is <b>due by 23 March 2026</b>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– You must keep records of all your project income and expenditure, including invoices and bank records. We may ask to look at this information at any time during your grant.</li> </ul>
<b>Starting your project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– When planning your project, please allow enough time for the decision-making process and formal agreements to be completed before your expected start date (NB. This can take up to 6 weeks from the submission deadline).</li> <li>– Please ensure any permissions or leases are in place before you apply.</li> <li>– We will keep in touch with you throughout the project and ask that you let us know as soon as possible if anything changes in your application.</li> <li>– Please be aware that significant changes to your application could lead to the grant offer being withdrawn, so please keep this in mind when planning and implementing your project.</li> </ul>
<b>Publicising your grant</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– We actively encourage all our grantees to publicise their awards. Please acknowledge Canterbury City Council in your publicity, from tagging us on social media channels to adding our logo to your publicity materials. Please only publicise your project once the agreement has been signed and official permission has been given.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Twitter/X @canterburycc</a></p> <p><a href="#">Facebook @CanterburyCityCouncil</a></p> <p><a href="#">Instagram @canterburycitycouncil</a></p> <p><a href="#">Tiktok @canterburycitycouncil</a></p> <p><a href="#">LinkedIn Canterbury City Council</a></p>
<b>Finishing your project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– You must complete your project within the same financial year that you receive the funding before <b>16 March 2026</b>.</li> <li>– You will need to complete your grant monitoring by <b>23 March 2026</b>.</li> </ul>

\*Please remember we offer 1:1 pre-application advice on your grant application.



\*Full details of the support that we offer through the RISE and other programs can be found on our website at [canterbury.gov.uk/rise-grants](https://canterbury.gov.uk/rise-grants)