



RISE Strategic Grants R2 2026/27

Application Guidelines

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

This fund is for organisations that are already delivering positive outcomes for the local community and want to develop or expand their work.

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: 9am Monday 19th October 2026.

We receive many applications and, unfortunately, cannot fund them all. If your application is unsuccessful, this does not diminish its value or potential community impact. **Please remember you can ask for pre application advice by contacting externaldevelopment@canterbury.gov.uk.** We are committed to providing feedback to all unsuccessful applicants and look forward to receiving your application!

Application Timetable 2026-27

Application Opens	Thursday 10 th September 2026
Deadline for Submissions	9am Monday 19 th October 2026
Deadline Decision	W/C Monday 2 nd November 2026
Project End	Tuesday 23 March 2027
Monitoring Form to be returned	Monitoring must be submitted within one month of the project end date or no later than Tuesday 30 March 2027

The Application Process

Read this guide	– This guide explains eligibility, how applications are assessed, and what happens if you are successful. – Contact us if you have questions or if you are experiencing difficulties with the form: externaldevelopment@canterbury.gov.uk
Who can apply?	You can apply if your organisation: – Is not-for-profit. – Works within the community, cultural, or leisure sectors – Operates in the Canterbury District We cannot fund: – Individuals or sole traders – Profitmaking organisations. – Organisations not established in the UK
How much can you apply for?	– Project delivery grants: up to £4,000 – Core cost funding: up to £4,000
What will we pay for?	Project Delivery Funding (up to £4,000) – Must meet one or more Strategic Grant priorities. – A maximum of 5% can be used for core costs (e.g. management, utilities, office support) Core Cost Funding (up to £4,000) – Available where your core objectives meet a Strategic Grant priority. – Covers non-project costs such as management, utilities, office support, and regular staffing
Priorities	Projects that contribute to the Corporate Plan 2024-28 returning pride to our district. – Greener: Improve education and awareness raising in the community on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning. – Fairer: Improve access to food and health services to support healthy lifestyles. – Better: Alleviate poverty and deprivation by offering support for education and training to develop skills to support employment. – Stronger: Promote inclusion and challenge discrimination by encouraging participation in cultural

	and leisure activities that celebrate diversity and strengthen community bonds.
Check your eligibility	Section A: Eligibility & Governing Documents – You must complete this section to confirm that your organisation is eligible.
What you will need to complete your application (full list of questions that we ask)	Section B: About your organisation and finances – Organisation's contact details. – Organisation type – Charity or company number (if applicable) – Which sector does your organisation represent? – Funding type requested (core costs up to £4,000 or project delivery up to £4,000) – Financial position for the current financial year (latest accounts) – Whether a deficit was shown in your last accounts – Whether you have previously received funding from the Council Section C: Project Detail Your application should explain how your work contributes to the Strategic Grant priorities and identify any relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For more information on the SDG click here. You will be asked about: – Description of your project/service – Number of service users who will benefit. – Wards covered within the Canterbury District. View boundary maps – Project description and intended use of funding. – Expected difference and impact. – How the project meets Strategic Grant priorities Partnerships, Collaboration and Sustainability – How do you work and share information with other organisations and local Councillors to achieve your objectives.

[our list of councillors by ward, political party, and their contact details.](#)

Understanding Need

- Who you work with and why the project is needed.
- Evidence of need (statistics, feedback, surveys, quotes)

Delivery and Location

- How this funding will enable you to engage more people and how the project has been informed by users.
- Where the project will be delivered and why
- Links to areas of deprivation

Your project legacy

- How will this funding help your organisation make a lasting difference.

Climate Change Action (*optional*)

- Explain how your project contributes to the Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

When will your project run?

- Start and finish date.

Projects must not start before 19 October 2026 and must finish by 23 March 2027

Section D: Evaluation of Funding

- What you aim to achieve and how progress will be monitored
- Volunteer numbers and total annual volunteer hours.
- Beneficiary demographics and issues addressed.
- Geographic coverage

Outputs and Outcomes

You may submit up to three outputs. Each output must include a corresponding outcome and measurement.

Example:

- *Output:* 10-week junior citizen programme for Year 6 pupils
- *Outcome:* Improved confidence and readiness for secondary school

	Section E: Financial Breakdown and Declaration You will be asked to provide: – Amount requested from the Strategic Grants Fund – Full income and expenditure breakdown – Details of other funding sources For project delivery grants, no more than 5% may be allocated to core costs.
How we assess your application	Applications may be unsuccessful if required monitoring was not submitted for previous grants. Applications are assessed competitively, based on: - Strength and clarity of the proposal - Evidence of need and impact - Ability to deliver. - Value for money We also assess delivery confidence, financial risk, and dependency on external factors. Some sections (e.g. governing documents, financial position, service users, geography) are not scored directly but provide vital context.
How we tell you of our decision	We aim to notify applicants within two weeks of the submission deadline. If successful: – References may be requested. – A conditional offer letter and grant agreement will be issued. There is no appeals process. Unsuccessful applicants may request feedback.
Your payment schedule	– Payments will be made via BACS. – Processed within 28 days of receiving a signed agreement. – There will be two instalments: Initial payment on signing agreement. – Final payment of £250 after satisfactory monitoring (due by 30 March 2027)

	– You must keep records of all project income and expenditure, including invoices and bank records, which we may request at any time during the grant period.
Project delivery and publicity	Project Delivery and Publicity Please allow time for approvals and agreements before starting. You must notify us of any significant changes — failure to do so may result in withdrawal of the grant. We encourage all grantees to publicise funded projects and acknowledge Canterbury City Council once agreements are signed. Social media: X @canterburycc Facebook @CanterburyCityCouncil Instagram @canterburycitycouncil Tiktok @canterburycitycouncil LinkedIn Canterbury City Council
Finishing your project	– Projects must be completed by Tuesday 23 March 2027 – Monitoring must be submitted within one month of the project end date or no later than Tuesday 30 March 2027 – If monitoring is not received by this date, the final £250 may not be paid.

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