

PROGRAMMES OFFICE FUNDING BULLETIN

February 2025

funding@halton.gov.uk



Meet the Team

Part of Halton's Programmes Office, our Funding & Development Team consists of the following:

Melanie Dodd
Senior Funding Development Officer

Mary O'Neill
Funding Development Officer

Robbie Arrowsmith
Funding Support Assistant

February Funding

We hope you enjoy the February 2025 issue of Halton Borough Council's Programmes Office Funding Bulletin, created and provided by the Programmes Office.

If you have any funding enquiries or require assistance with formulating a bid or applying for funding, please contact us at funding@halton.gov.uk



Training Coming Soon!

Halton Borough Council's Programmes Office offered our first Basic Bid Writing training of the year in January. If you're interested in training Bid Writing, Fundraising Strategy, or Monitoring & Evaluation, further sessions are available throughout 2025 at no cost for the benefit of the Borough of Halton. Please enquire at funding@halton.gov.uk for further details.

Funding for Developing Neighbourhood Plans

Deadline

Depending on demand.

How to apply

<https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/about/grant-funding/>

Funding Details

Local communities in England can apply for grants and technical support to help them develop neighbourhood plans.

A neighbourhood plan is a community-driven initiative that allows residents to shape the future development of their area, including housing.

The Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme, administered by Locality on behalf of the UK government, helps town and parish councils, neighbourhood forums and prospective neighbourhood forums to cover the costs associated with preparing a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order, such as:

- housing surveys
- venue hire
- website development
- specialist studies
- costs associated with planning, public engagement and consulting

The following support is available:

- Basic Grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 for groups writing a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order
- Additional Grants of up to £8,000 for groups facing more complex issues (giving a maximum total amount of £18,000)
- Specific packages of technical support where needed

Funding for Pet Rescue

Deadline

21st February 2025

How to apply

<https://naturewatch.org/campaigns/companion-animals/what-were-doing/pet-rescue-grant/>

Funding Details

Naturewatch Foundation has announced the opening of applications for its 2025 Pet Rescue Grant, aimed at supporting frontline animal welfare projects in the UK. The grant focuses on helping dogs, cats, and rabbits affected by the illegal pet trade. For 2025, the foundation is offering a main grant of up to £10,000 for registered UK charities and Community Interest Companies (CICs) with annual incomes up to £5 million. Additionally, a new mini-grant of up to £1,000 is available for unincorporated non-profits, including unregistered charities and community groups. The grant can be used for various purposes, including veterinary care, behavioural support, specialist facilities or equipment, and personnel training. However, it cannot be used for investigative or campaigning purposes.

Funding for Armed Forces Members

Deadline

To be confirmed

How to apply

<https://www.veteransfoundation.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

Funding Details

Armed Forces charities and other not-for-profit organisations can apply for grants of up to 200,000 to support serving armed forces personnel, veterans, operationally qualified seafarers and their immediate families. The funding is made available through the Veterans Foundation. The types of grants awarded include small grants of up to £5,000 to support primarily small, grassroots groups within the Armed Forces Community and to deliver community-based activities - this grant must be spent within 12 months. It also includes projects grants of up to £30,000, which could be spread over up to three years. Finally, the programme incorporates salary grants of up to £75,000 for up to three years (max £25,000 per year).

The funding stream for major grants of up to £200,000 aimed at charities and organisations supporting those in need, including serving armed forces personnel, veterans, operationally qualified seafarers, and their immediate families, will re-open in the first quarter of 2025.

COMMUNITY

Grant Holder Support Programme – NLCF

Deadline

5th February 2025

How to apply

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/grant-holder-support>

Funding Details

The National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) has launched a new initiative as part of a proposed £150 million funding package aimed at addressing common challenges faced by communities in England. The initiative includes £2.1 million in funding through a Grant Holder Support programme. The NLCF seeks a partner to lead the development stage, working with 8 to 10 NLCF grant holders to design and deliver support packages that meet community needs. The development phase will run from spring 2025 to spring 2026. Of the £2.1 million total, £200,000 will be allocated to the lead partner, with the remaining £1.9 million designated for civil society organisations involved in partnership and development work.

Grants for Outdoor Community Spaces

Deadline

11th February

How to apply

<https://asdafoundation.org/our-grants/outdoor-community-spaces-fund/>

Funding Details

The Asda Foundation has launched its new Outdoor Community Spaces Fund, offering grants ranging from £500 to £3,000 for UK-based charities and not-for-profit organisations. With a total funding pot of up to £500,000, this initiative aims to improve or transform outdoor community spaces where people can gather and foster local pride.

Eligible projects include:

- Transform an outdoor area, creating greener and more engaging community spaces.
- Create or enhance community growing projects.
- Enable community clean ups (Grants for community clear ups only will be capped at £500).

The fund is designed to create greener and more engaging community spaces, with a focus on increasing access for marginalised or vulnerable groups. Applicants are encouraged to propose projects that bring local communities together and make a lasting difference to outdoor spaces.

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Funding for Charities Supporting Vulnerable and Disadvantaged People Reopens

Deadline

First come first served.

How to apply

<https://leathersellers.co.uk/grant/small-grants-programme/>

Funding Details

The Leathersellers' Company has announced that its next application round for the Small Grants Programme will reopen for applications on the 3rd February 2025.

This funding is available to small charities and Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) that provide essential services for vulnerable people in deprived communities across the UK. The Small Grants Programme awards grants of up to £5,000 to organisations with an annual income of less than £200,000. Partnerships between organisations are encouraged.

The number of applications will be capped, and submissions will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis; specifically, the first 45 applications received after each round opens will be considered.

YOUTH, SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

Funding for School Projects in Science

Deadline

31st March 2025

How to apply

<https://www.armourershall.co.uk/index.php/funding-grants/support-science-schools>

Funding Details

Primary and secondary schools in the UK can apply for funding to purchase equipment so that students can enjoy practical science, run science enrichment projects in schools, or enable students to participate in science events and competitions. The standard grant in support of primary school science is £600, with the standard grant in support of secondary school science being £1,000. The funding is being made available through the Armourers and Brasiers' Gauntlet Trust, one of the leading charities in the UK that supports metallurgy and materials science education from primary school to postgraduate levels.

Funding for Aiding the Access of Quality Education for Disadvantaged Young People

Deadline

Rolling deadline

How to apply

<https://educationalopportunity.org.uk/home/grants/main-fund/>

Funding Details

Charitable organisations dedicated to enhancing access to or the quality of education for children and young people under 25, both within the UK and internationally, can apply for grants through the Educational Opportunity Foundation is offering its Main Fund.

The grant is designed to support UK projects focusing on care-experienced young people, improving their educational outcomes and life chances.

Grants of £30,000 to £90,000 per project (maximum £30,000 per year for multi-year projects) are available. Internationally, the grant targets initiatives that enhance the quality, sustainability, and access to education in marginalised and vulnerable communities. Grants of £10,000 to £60,000 per project (maximum £30,000 per year) are available.

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YOUTH, SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

Funding for Children Facing Food Insecurity

Deadline

No deadline given

How to apply

<https://cashforkids.org.uk/grants>

Funding Details

Cash for Kids, a grant-giving charity supporting disadvantaged children across the UK, is accepting applications for their Holiday Hunger Grant Fund. This initiative aims to provide support for children and young people up to 18 years old who face food insecurity and lack access to activities during school holidays. The charity is offering grants typically ranging from £1,000 to £3,000, though applications for smaller or larger amounts will be considered. Eligible applicants include registered charities, schools' community groups, and organisations that support children affected by poverty, abuse, neglect, or those with additional needs.

Grants to Address Local Skill Shortages

Deadline

Rolling deadline

How to apply

<https://cityandguildsfoundation.org/what-we-offer/funding/local-community-skills-fund/>

Funding Details

Not for profit organisations such as registered charities, colleges, FE providers, and other City & Guilds clients can apply for grants of up to £10,000 for community led projects that address local skills shortages in local areas and within communities where access to training and development opportunities are limited. The funding is being made available through the City & Guilds Foundation Local Community Skills Fund which aims to fund innovative projects that may not be eligible for traditional funding sources.

The Local Community Skills Fund supports projects that are:

- Seeking funding for projects or activities that will be delivered in the UK
- Supporting people 16+ who are facing barriers
- Supporting the development of skills required to move towards or into employment

Eligible projects include setting up community gardens, running digital skills workshops, and providing training programmes that help disadvantaged individuals develop the skills needed to secure employment.

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YOUTH, SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

Funding to Buy Books for School Libraries

Deadline

Applications can be submitted at any time

How to apply

<https://www.lovereadingleading4kids.co.uk/the-lovereadingleading4kids-funding-for-schools-scheme>

Funding Details

UK schools and early years' settings can apply for grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to buy books for their libraries and encourage more children to read for pleasure. The LoveReading4Kids Funding for Schools Scheme will help schools to provide children with a range of non-curriculum books to improve their reading standards, particularly amongst children experiencing disadvantage or underrepresentation.

Please note that any grant awarded will be awarded as credit to be spent on www.lovereadingleading4kids.co.uk or www.lovereadingleading4kids.co.uk and should be spent within six months of being awarded.

Funding for Innovative Geography Teaching

Deadline

15th February 2025

How to apply

<https://www.rgs.org/in-the-field/in-the-field-grants/teacher-grants/innovative-teaching-geography-grants>

Funding Details

Two grants of £1,000 each are available to fund innovative geography teaching at secondary level. The Royal Geographical Society's Innovative Geography Teaching Grants will provide funding for the development of imaginative and creative teaching materials.

The grants will be awarded to teacher-higher education partnerships. Ideally, these partnerships will comprise one school teacher and one lecturer/researcher from a UK higher education institution.

Every year, the Society identifies an area of research based on a timely issue or approach. The aim is to serve geography pupils and the wider teaching community by creating teaching materials on this particular issue. The materials produced will be published on the Society's website.

FAITH & PLACES OF WORSHIP

Listed Place of Worship Grant Scheme Extended

Deadline

Support now available until March 2026

How to apply

<https://listed-places-of-worship-grant.dcms.gov.uk/>

Funding Details

The UK government has extended the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme for the 2025/26 financial year, providing £23 million to support the restoration of thousands of listed places of worship, including churches, synagogues, mosques and temples.

This scheme offers grants towards VAT paid on repairs and renovations to listed religious buildings, including churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples. The scheme will help fund works such as repairs to foundations, masonry, and monuments integral to these historical buildings. The scheme recognises the importance of listed places of worship as part of UK heritage and their role in bringing communities together.

Key points of the extended scheme include:

- A cap of £25,000 that an organisation can claim during the year, which can be spread across multiple claims
- Eligibility for listed places of worship of any size or faith within the UK
- Support available until the end of March 2026

To date, nearly £350 million has been awarded under this scheme, supporting various listed religious buildings throughout the UK.

HEALTH & SPORT

Funding to Support Independence of Older People

Deadline

Applications can be submitted at any time

How to apply

<http://www.charleshaywardfoundation.org.uk/older-people/>

Funding Details

Grants of up to £7,000 are available to charities in the U.K to support preventative and early community based intervention programmes that focus on helping older people stay in their own homes and maintain their independence.

The funding is being made available through the Charles Hayward Foundation Small Grants programme and is looking to support projects that:

- address isolation and depression in older people through activities like informal daycare or social and recreational programmes;
- provide support and assistance for older individuals living in their own homes;
- cater to the emotional and practical needs of older caregivers,
- and meet the specific requirements of people with dementia.

Bursaries for Hospice Staff Professional Development

Deadline

Subject to funding availability

How to apply

<https://www.hospiceuk.org/national-garden-scheme-professional-development-grants>

Funding Details

Bursaries are available to hospice staff in the UK to improve the quality of care given to hospice and palliative care patients and their families and carers. The National Garden Scheme Professional Development Grants programme aims to increase the expertise of nurses, healthcare assistants, allied health professionals and social workers by supporting their professional development. Bursaries can cover fees for university accredited palliative care courses including degree, masters, and PhD level programmes.

Example courses could include:

- Dementia Care • Advanced Communication Skills • Social and Therapeutic Horticulture • Understanding Loss and Bereavement • Spiritual Care at the End of Life • Palliative Care Congress • European Association for Palliative Care Conference

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ARTS, CULTURE & HERITAGE

Funding for Student Opportunities in Museums

Deadline

9th May 2025

How to apply

<https://www.artfund.org/professional/get-funding/programmes/student-opportunities>

Funding Details

Funding is available to help public museums, galleries, historic houses, libraries, and visual arts organisations in the UK to provide meaningful paid work experience opportunities for full-time university students that enable them to explore further their interest in the arts and related future career options before they graduate. Through Art Fund's Student Opportunities programme, organisations can apply for up to £10,000 towards the costs associated with paying students for their time to help deliver projects. Art Fund will consider 100% funding towards the costs. Applicants should allow at least eight weeks between submitting applications and when they need a decision.

Grants for Musicians and Bands

Deadline

3rd February 2025

How to apply

<https://prsfoundation.com/funding-support/funding-music-creators/next-steps/ppl-momentum-music-fund/>

Funding Details

Artists or bands are able to apply for a grant of £5,000-£15,000 to significantly develop their careers over the next two years. Applications can be submitted by the artists themselves or those who are working on their behalf, for example, a manager, an independent label or a publisher. Priority will be given to those who have not been funded by PRS for Music Foundation in the previous 12 months.

The PRS Momentum Music Fund is open to Artists/Bands that are at a crucial tipping point in their careers, showing current progression and growth as an artist with the potential to significantly develop their careers over the next two years. Grants of £5,000 - £15,000 are available with the average in the region of £10,000.

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CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

Rewilding Innovation Fund Opens for Applications

Deadline

28th February 2025

How to apply

<https://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/how-to-rewild/funding-for-rewilding/rewilding-innovation-fund>

Funding Details

Rewilding Britain, a nature restoration charity, is set to reopen applications to its Rewilding Innovation Fund in January 2025. The fund offers grants of up to £15,000 to support innovative rewilding projects across Britain. The fund accepts applications from a range of organisations, including community groups, private landowners, and public-sector organisations involved in environmental conservation. To be considered, land-based projects must encompass a minimum of 40 hectares of contiguous land, while marine projects can be of any size. Eligible projects can cover a wide range of activities, from community engagement and feasibility studies to technological innovations and strategic planning. The primary goal is to remove barriers to rewilding and encourage creative, impactful approaches to ecological restoration that benefit nature, climate, and local communities.

Funding to Support Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Approaches to Travel

Deadline

27th February 2025

How to apply

<https://naturesave.co.uk/naturesave-trust/>

Funding Details

The Naturesave Trust, a charity funded by premiums from Naturesave Insurance, has announced its latest funding round for environmental projects in the UK. The Trust offers grants of up to £5,000 for small projects run by charities, social enterprises, and grassroots community organisations. For this funding window, the Naturesave Trust is looking to support projects that actively promote sustainable and eco-friendly approaches to travel and transport. This can include:

- Vehicles: clean fuel, batteries, or both. This can include electric vehicles, hybrid power systems, and fuel cells.
- Infrastructure: such as public transportation systems.
- Energy source: Using renewable energy sources instead of fossil fuels like coal.
- Activity: Walking, cycling, or using a scooter instead of driving.

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CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

Funding to Decarbonise Sea Travel

Deadline

16th April 2025

How to apply

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-to-clean-up-sea-travel-and-turbocharge-coastal-economies>

Funding Details

The UK government has announced a £30 million grant aimed at decarbonising sea travel and improving coastal economies, as part of its broader Plan for Change. This funding is part of the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition (CMD6) and is designed to support the development of clean maritime technologies, including electric, hydrogen, ammonia, methanol, and wind power. The initiative seeks to solidify the UK's position as a leader in clean energy, while simultaneously boosting regional economies, creating jobs, and attracting investment in the maritime sector.

Funding Available to Protect Water and Land Environments

Deadline

Applications can be submitted at any time

How to apply

<https://ellerman.org.uk/apply-for-funding/what-we-fund>

Funding Details

UK charities and non-profit organisations working to protect, restore, or sustainably manage the natural world are eligible to apply for grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 per year, for up to three years from the John Ellerman Foundation's People and Planet funding scheme. Launched to promote a healthier environment for both people and nature the Foundation awards funding under two main headings:

- The Ocean – protection, restoration and sustainable use of the ocean.
- Land and fresh waters– building healthier ecosystems in urban or rural environments, through effective and sustainable management including implementing evidence-based interventions conservation and restoration.

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Free Trees Made Available for Schools and Community Groups

Deadline

August 2025, unspecified date.

How to apply

https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwpv2TBhDoARIsALBnVnI4mX3ME2YPKMkKZu_l0kl5ujcVNuuUrw9IhbLoocKo68CjWepkrLXQaAhtJEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds

Funding Details

Hundreds of thousands of trees are being given away to help the UK reach its 2050 carbon net-zero target. Schools, nurseries, colleges, universities, outdoor learning centres, and other groups such as resident associations, sports clubs, parish councils, scouts and guides from across the UK are among the organisations eligible to apply for up to 420 saplings to improve their local environment.

Applications can be made for up to four separate tree packs as long as the total does not exceed 420 trees. The Woodland Trust are currently taking applications for tree packs to be delivered in November 2025.

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CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENT

Funding for Community Organisations to Enhance Their Energy Efficiency

Deadline

March 2025

How to apply

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/funds/energy-efficiency-sharematch>

Funding Details

Community organisations in England can apply for a share of £250,000 of funding to reduce energy usage and carbon footprint. The funding is being made available through the Energy Efficiency Sharematch fund. It can be used to install on-site energy generation measures like solar panels and heat pumps, improve building energy efficiency through insulation and LED lighting, and upgrade operational equipment to more energy-efficient alternatives.

Funded by Access – The Foundation for Social Investment using Dormant Assets Scheme funds, this grant is administered by Crowdfunder in partnership with Co-operatives UK. Most grants will be £10,000-15,000, with the minimum grant being £5,000. The maximum grant is £30,000.

Eligible applicants include Co-operative Societies, Community Benefit Societies, and Charitable Community Benefit Societies based in England.

The application process requires an initial expression of interest, followed by a formal application through the Crowdfunder platform for eligible projects.