

Annex 10 - Community Contribution Fund

Title: Bath & North East Somerset Community Contribution Fund

About the fund: The Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Community Contribution Fund will enable residents who are able to contribute their own funds to support local initiatives and projects. The fund is a pilot scheme, which will be administered by the council. After the first year, the council will review the scheme.

Objectives: To reduce inequalities in the area by investing in local projects that improve people's lives, focusing on those who are most disadvantaged. Inequalities relates to all protected characteristics as well as those people who are disadvantaged by financial circumstances, locality, health and wellbeing.

What will the money be used for? Any charity, voluntary or community organisation that supports residents of Bath and North East Somerset will be able to apply for funds. These organisations play a key role in the delivery of local projects and services. Many have provided vital support during the current COVID-19 pandemic while facing a new or increased demand in services, at the same time their traditional means of fundraising have been severely curtailed. The fund will help support local organisations to continue to deliver these vital projects and services.

Will the Council be able to use the funds to support services? No. Whilst the funds will be administered by the council at no addition cost, the funds will not be used to supplement council services. Every penny donated will be used to fund local projects.

How can people donate to the fund? From the 1st April 2021, local residents will be able to make a voluntary financial contribution. Businesses and visitors can also contribute to the fund. They can do this through:

Online: <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/pay-for-it>

This contribution is separate to local residents Council tax contributions. Residents can donate more than once. The minimum contribution is £5, however there is no maximum contribution.

All donors will receive an acknowledgement of their contribution and personal records will be kept of donors and the amount they contributed, if this is consented, anonymous contributions will also be accepted.

Can residents request a particular project or area where their money is spent? No, applications will be encouraged from any charity, voluntary and community organisation across Bath and North East Somerset. Priority will be given to projects that benefit the whole B&NES area.

When will the fund open for local voluntary and community groups to apply? We will continue to assess the status of the fund. It is hoped that we will open the fund for bids after six months from the 1st April, this will allow time for contributions to be made. A monthly update on funds will be available here: (website link tbc)

How can organisations apply for funds: A simple on-line application form will be made available for organisations to apply for grants. Applicants will need to demonstrate how they will

improve the lives of those most disadvantaged across Bath and North East Somerset. The on-line application form will be available here: (website link tbc)

What is the criteria for the Fund: All applications must:

- support residents across Bath and North East Somerset. Priority will be given to projects that cover the whole B&NES area.
- evidence the need and demonstrate how they will address inequalities in their area.
- evidence that there is community support and or community consultation has been carried out.
- be a charity, voluntary or community organisation that operates for the benefit of the local community and is not for profit.
- have a constitution and valid bank account or a lead organisation, with a constitution and valid bank account.
- If consents, such as planning or licencing are required, details must be provided with the application.

Exclusions include:

- Individuals
- Medical research
- Political groups, or activities promoting political beliefs
- Projects which have already been completed
- Promotion of any religion, faith or belief

How much funding can organisations apply for: This will be defined in due course.

Who will make the decision on how the funding is spent? All applications will be scored against the fund's criteria. This will be undertaken by Council officers with advice from partner organisations where appropriate. Recommendations will be presented to a panel of 10 elected members who will decide on the use of the funds.

Can an organisation apply more than one?: No, as this is a pilot scheme organisations will only be able to apply once.

Will the fund be available after 1st April 2022? The council will seek feedback from local residents and organisations to gauge the level of interest in the scheme continuing in the future.