



Dover District Council
**Cost of Living
Community Impact Fund**
2025/2026
Information Pack

Before completing your application, please read these notes in full to check whether...

1. Your group is eligible to apply.
2. Your project costs are eligible.
3. You have all the information and documents you need to be able to start and finish the online application form.
4. Ensure that all the questions in the application form are completed clearly and fully.

If you have any questions about the Cost-of-Living Community Impact Fund, please contact the Community Development Officer below:

Contact Officer:

Name: Rebecca Dunroe (Community Development Officer)

Email: CommunityGrants@dover.gov.uk



Community Impact Fund Information Pack

What is the Community Impact Fund for?

The Dover District Council Cost of Living Community Impact Fund is committed to identifying the impact of cost of living on our communities and supporting projects to help bridge the cost-of-living gap.

What affect is cost of living having on our community?

Due to varying factors (such as the rise in energy prices), inflation has dramatically increased, and the UK has been experiencing an expanding cost of living impact on our local community. While the cost of living will impact most households, the impact will be greatest on those already living in poverty, and those on low incomes. While many households will be significantly impacted by the general rise in the cost of living, it is the poorest who will be most unfairly impacted.

Who can apply?

Applications are welcomed from community organisations and groups who are based within the Dover District, this includes:

- Registered Charities
- Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO)
- Community Interest Companies (CIC)
- Social Enterprises
- Constituted Voluntary/Community groups
- Constituted Sports Clubs/groups
- Constituted Youth Clubs/groups
- Constituted Church/Faith groups
- Constituted School related groups e.g. PTFA's (only extra-curricular activities outside of normal school hours will be accepted).

The following types of organisations are **not** eligible to apply:

- Registered or for-profit business organisations
- Individuals (for example, for personal sponsorship)
- Political Parties or Political Groups
- District, County, Town or Parish Councillors
- Groups seeking donations towards general appeals
- Organisations in receipt of a Public Precept, such as Town and Parish Councils

Applications will not be accepted by applicants with outstanding monitoring from any of the previous Community Grant Scheme rounds.



Community Impact Fund Information Pack

How much can we ask for?

You can apply for a grant of between £100 and £5000.

What kinds of activities will be funded?

The Community Impact Fund will accept applications that clearly demonstrate the impact projects will have on bridging the Cost-of-Living gap for the benefit of the local community or residents within the Dover District.

The grant must be used to pay for future clearly defined costs associated with projects that can demonstrate a clear impact on cost of living.

Applicants are expected to provide accurate costs (to the penny) within the costs section. DDC reserves the right to request evidence to support the accuracy of the project costs outlined in your application to ensure the project meets the eligibility criteria.

Do not include any non-specific items in your project costs, such as “expenses”, “contingency costs” or “miscellaneous”.

What is an eligible cost?

Cost	Description	Will DDC fund?
Capital Costs	These must be one-off costs that allow you to purchase outright an item of equipment with a life span of over 3 years.	Yes
Revenue Costs	These must be one-off costs that allow you to buy in activities or services . This could include room hire, service fees etc.	Yes
Consumable costs	These include items that can be used up , with a life span of under 3 years, such as pens, paper, ink, petrol, food or drink.	Yes
On-going capital costs	This is directly related to ongoing or one-off maintenance of your organisation's offices, buildings or structures. It describes things like one off repairs or scheduled improvements, that should be planned into works of maintenance. For example: Roof repairs or toilet refurbishments.	No
Overhead costs	These are usually costs that result from the core overheads of running your group. For example: staff time, staff costs or utility or rent/mortgage for premises.	No



Community Impact Fund Information Pack

What is our financial reserve?

Reserves	Description
Restricted Reserve	Restricted reserves are funding set aside for a specific purpose. This could include what core operational costs you set aside to run your organisation like staff costs, insurances, website & domain, IT, building maintenance, corporate clothing etc. This can also include any other funding or initiatives you have monies set aside for, separate to your usual services.
Unrestricted Reserve	Unrestricted reserves are money that has no specific purpose, this could include any income, petty cash, or rainy-day funds, that you've saved with no direct purpose.

How does it work?

Stages	Description
Step 1	Upon the closure of the application process, DDC Officers will check that the applications submitted meet the criteria and are eligible to go forward to the next stage. You may be contacted for further supporting information during this time.
Step 2	The Grants Appraisal Panel will meet to score the applications. Formal offer emails will be sent out to successful and unsuccessful applicants.
Step 3	The grant will be paid directly to your group/organisation's bank account by BACS transfer. You will not be paid by cheque. It is your responsibility to ensure your bank can accept the BACS transfer. DDC will aim to pay the grant into your bank account within 28 days. If you have any outstanding monitoring from a previous grant round, that should have been spent, you will not receive your payment until this has been submitted
Step 4	If you receive a grant, you will be required to complete and return a monitoring form. A monitoring form will be sent out to you after you have been paid. The completed form will need to show how you have spent the grant and how it has achieved its purpose. You will need to show evidence of payment (i.e. receipts). Monitoring Forms must be completed within 8 months after receiving your funding.
Step 5	DDC will publicise all successful projects using their website and social media platforms. As a condition of the grant, DDC would expect you to publicise your project and the source of funding. Please let us know of any publicity or events you have planned.



Community Impact Fund Information Pack

Additional Documentation

When applying to the Community Impact Fund, you will be asked to provide an up-to-date **bank statement** and a valid **constitution**, all in the same name as the applicant.

1. Bank Statement

An up-to-date Bank Statement is required to provide evidence that the group/organisation in question, is eligible to receive funding. Information provided on the Bank Statement will also be used to cross examine questions within the application form (for example financial reserves).

2. Constitution

A valid constitution is required, as it sets out the rules and aims of your group/organisation and provides evidence that the group/organisation is active.

What is a constitution, and why should we have one?

1. Constitutions help people understand what your group/organisation is trying to do and will prevent confusion and/or conflict. It will also help to ensure that your aims and activities have a clear focus (and are therefore more likely to succeed).
2. Constitutions serve as a reference, helping to resolve any problems that may arise regarding which activities group members should be prioritising
3. Constitutions help raise the likelihood of receiving funding from other potential funders, as it proves the group/organisation is both democratic and accountable. Your Constitution should provide everyone with a clear procedure by which decisions are made.

For more information on drafting a constitution...

Please visit: <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Community/Grants-Funding/Community-Grants-Scheme/Your-Constitution.aspx>

To download a draft constitution, please visit: <https://www.dover.gov.uk/Community/Community-Groups/PDF/Constitutionsample.pdf>



Community Impact Fund Information Pack

What are the legal and other requirements?

You can use the below information to understand what DDC will expect of your organisation in terms of meeting the various legal and other requirements.

- If your project is awarded a grant, **you** must make sure that you, your organisation and all your volunteers follow relevant Health and Safety legislation when you/they carry out the work.
- You must consider **national legislation** on equal opportunities, disability, access, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults etc. For example, do you have sufficient policies in place regarding these and/or will you need to arrange DBS Checks?
- **If your project involves land or buildings.** You must own or have secure tenure of any land or property involved in your project. If you are using someone else's land or buildings, you must be able to supply proper written authority from them for you to carry out the project.
- If your project requires **planning permission**, you will be entirely responsible for obtaining this. We expect that you obtain this before making your grant application. If planning permission is not in place (or is subsequently refused) and your project cannot then go ahead your application will become ineligible. You must tell your DDC Community Development Officer as soon as possible.

Please Note

DDC is not responsible for ensuring that your project meets these requirements.

However, we may request that you provide evidence of any such arrangements in support of your application. If you are not able to supply evidence when asked, or it is deemed insufficient, your application is unlikely to progress to the next stage.

If you are unsure about whether your project needs to consider any of the above, please contact your Community Development Officer using the contact details provided on the front page.



Community Impact Fund Information Pack

Terms & Conditions

Our application criteria are designed to make the application process as fair as possible. Please read and follow the criteria below to ensure that your application has the best chance of success.

1. Each organisation may only make one application to any single Cost of Living Community Impact Fund round.
2. Successful applicants must provide any outstanding monitoring, from any previous Community Grant Scheme / Community Impact Fund rounds, before applying to the Cost-of-Living Community Impact Fund.
3. If successful, the grant can only be used for the purposes specified in the application.
4. The applicant/organisation must have an agreed and signed Constitution.
5. The applicant/organisation must provide a recent bank statement.
6. The bank account details must be up to date and current, and the bank must be able to accept a grant paid using a BACS payment.
7. The bank account must have at least 2 signatories who are current members of the organisation and the names must match those given where required in the application form.
8. Applicants may be asked to disclose both their restricted and unrestricted reserves. Applicants will also be asked to provide an approximate 1 year's running costs.
9. The project, its activities and volunteers must comply with all relevant legislation.
10. The applicant must have already secured any permissions required for the project to take place. These must be secured before the application is submitted (for example, any planning permission and/or written consent of landlords or landowners etc.). DDC reserve the right to request evidence of this where necessary.
11. The fund cannot be used to fund projects which have already been completed or any costs you have already incurred (or will incur) before a grant is paid out by DDC.
12. Your organisation/group has not received and will not receive funding from another source for the costs Dover District Council has been asked to fund in the application.
13. The organisation is based (i.e. the address located) within the Dover District. Or the community that the project will benefit is located within the Dover District.
14. Applications must be submitted online, through the Community Impact Fund online application form.
15. All the questions in the application form are completed clearly and fully, including the submission of any required supporting information.
16. The information provided in this application is true and correct.
17. If, for any reason, your project fails or cannot proceed after we have paid you a grant, you must tell your DDC Community Development Officer immediately.



Community Impact Fund Information Pack

18. If there are any major changes to your project, you must notify your DDC Community Development Officer immediately.
19. Applicants agree to comply with any monitoring requirements and/or visits by an authorised representative of Dover District Council to check project progress and/or upon completion of the project.
20. Your organisation/group accepts that DDC may use any photographic or video records of the activities, unless you have sought written agreement with DDC not to do this.
21. The funding awarded for the project detailed in this application must be spent within 8 months of grant allocation.
22. Dover District Council reserves the right at any time to recoup part, or all, of the grant amount if it is not spent as specified, or as agreed otherwise with Dover District Council.
23. Grants will be made in accordance with the eligibility criteria for the Dover District Council Cost of Living Community Impact Fund, and with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy Statement.