

Together we can

Woking Council Community Fund

Purpose

Applying for a community grant will get easier as Woking Borough Council is joining forces with The Community Foundation for Surrey (CFS) to support the voluntary sector and vulnerable people from across the borough.

The new partnership will take effect for grants in 2023/24 where CFS will take overall responsibility in receiving and processing community grant applications on behalf of Woking Borough Council.

This collaborative approach will be more efficient in enabling community groups to apply for funding through one single expression of interest, without the need for multiple applications. It will also enable groups to access wider funds that are not restricted solely to the council's grants scheme.

On top of the partnership with CFS, Woking Borough Council will directly commission some charities that provide an essential service to local people using a Service Level agreement (SLA) arrangement. Those charities will still be able to apply directly to CFS for our other funding but will not be eligible for this fund. As in past years, the Council will consider the level of grant funding available to be set aside in its Budget during the Autumn, which will be agreed formally at the Full Council meeting in February. It is anticipated that the available funding for the 2023/24 financial year will be in the order of between £100k and £200k.

Woking Borough Council will set the annual budget for this Fund and agree the funding criteria to meet its strategic priorities.

Eligibility

- The Community Foundation for Surrey Eligibility criteria apply <https://www.cfsurrey.org.uk/guidance/>
- Organisations benefitting residents of Woking Borough will be eligible to apply.

What we will fund – our strategic priorities

- **Healthier Communities**
 - E.g. projects which support improving health outcomes in our communities in particular addressing health inequalities in our borough (Priorities: Mental Health, Living independently, carers, isolation and loneliness, obesity)
 - E.g. projects that encourage and increase active lifestyles and participation through the provision of varied cultural and sporting opportunities and amenities
 - E.g. projects supporting safer communities
 - E.g. projects to provide early support to improve residents health and wellbeing, or support residents to be more proactive about their health.
 - E.g. Support improved engagement in active lifestyles, in particular by under-represented groups/ages
- **Engaged Communities**
 - E.g. projects which support the ability of communities to develop solutions to local needs and support those most disadvantaged in our communities
 - E.g. projects supporting older, vulnerable and disabled people in our community
 - E.g. projects supporting engagement in areas of the borough highlighted by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, particularly with children, younger people and older people.

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- **Greener Communities**
 - E.g. projects which support access to green space for members of the community who wouldn't normally be able to access.
 - E.g. projects which support the Borough in tackling climate change, noting the Council's target of the Borough becoming carbon neutral by 2050.
- **Prospering Communities**
 - E.g. projects which support our communities to improve skills and raise aspirations
 - E.g. projects which improve signposting of career opportunities to those seeking employment and training

What this fund will not support:

- Large Capital projects such as buildings or purchase of vehicles
- Projects with beneficiaries not resident in Woking (if you work benefits a wider area, please tell us what percentage of your beneficiaries are resident in Woking)

Size of Grants

- The level of funding offered would normally be up to £10k for 1 year in the first instance, although this could vary depending on the grant award currently being received from the Council, the level of service provided in the Borough and any exceptional circumstance.

How to Apply

Start an application via the Community Foundation for Surrey Expression of Interest process. Eligible projects will be invited to make a full application.