



**Funded by
UK Government**

Staffordshire Moorlands Community Enterprise Grant

Application Deadline: Sunday 30th June 2024

All applications for the next round of Community Enterprise Grant funding need to be submitted before midnight on the advised date.

Applications submitted after this time will not be considered in this round of funding.

Overview and Guidance

Grants for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives, and social enterprises.

The purpose of this grant is to promote the growth of existing community enterprises and the creation of new social enterprises with an emphasis on innovation in the sector through new and improved ways of working that will boost or create turnover, improve productivity and the sustainability and innovation of enterprises.

Example projects may include funding for new equipment, extended provision, volunteer/staff engagement/development, R&D of new products and services etc.

Grants are available between £1,000 - £30,000.

Established organisations (over 12 months) can apply for any amount between £2,000 and £30,000 to further develop their business.

New Social/Community Enterprises (under 12 months) can apply for a maximum of £3,000 to help launch/grow their businesses.

Grants are available at a **maximum of 80% of the total project costs** i.e. to achieve a maximum £30,000 grant, project costs would need to be in excess of £37,500 exclusive of VAT.

All grant funding will be paid in arrears via claim process i.e. grant is claimed on completion of all works and evidence of paid invoices. Staged payments are available on request.

Grants will be funded from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund or the Rural England Prosperity Funding as appropriate.

Who can apply?

Grants are available to Unincorporated and Incorporated legally constituted organisations located in the Staffordshire Moorlands, whose primary focus is on benefiting the community.

Eligible organisations include:

- **Limited Company (by shares)**
- **Company Limited by Guarantee**
- **Registered Charity.**
- **Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).**
- **Co-operative**
- **Community Benefit Society**
- **Community Interest Company (CIC).**
- **Sole trader or business partnership**

If you are not currently an eligible organisation and require support to become one, please email sarah.roberts@supportstaffordshire.org.uk or visit [Support Staffordshire](#) where complimentary support is available.

All eligible organisations need to provide evidence of being financially stable (solvent) and comply with the Minimal Financial Assistance rules of the UK Subsidy Control requirements.

Who cannot apply?

We cannot accept applications from:

- Individuals
- Organisations/projects not operating in Staffordshire Moorlands.
- anyone who is applying for another organisation.
- organisations applying to more than one of SMDC funds for the same project over the same period. This is because you cannot get duplicate funding for something we are already funding you to do.

Project Activity

The purpose of this grant is to promote the growth of existing community enterprises and the creation of new social enterprises (not for profit) with an emphasis on innovation in the sector through new and improved ways of working that will boost or create turnover, be more effective and efficient; and help, and help the enterprise be more viable, have greater longevity and be more innovative.

The funding may be used to fund new equipment, extended services, volunteer/staff engagement/development, R&D of new products and services etc....

It is expected that any Community Enterprise Projects clearly aligns with one or more of the below Aims of the [Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Corporate Plan 2023 - 2027](#)

- **Aim 1 - Help create a safer and healthier environment for our communities to live & work.**
- **Aim 3 - Help create a strong economy by supporting further regeneration of towns and villages.**
- **Aim 4 - Protect and improve the environment.**

All Community Infrastructure Projects need to demonstrate how they can support/contribute to the following UKSPF output/outcomes:

- **Number of new Jobs created as a result of support.**
- **Number of Jobs safeguarded as a result of support.**
- **Number of new social enterprises/businesses created as a result of support.**
- **Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes**
- **Number of businesses with improved productivity**
- **Number of businesses increasing their turnover**

The project must clearly demonstrate how the funded element will provide additional benefit to any previous or ongoing work/activity.

The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed activity would not be possible without this funding.

Minimum grant = £1,000 (project cost at least £1,250)

Maximum grant award per organisation = £30,000 (project cost at least £37,500).

The maximum grant intervention rate is 80% which means that organisations must contribute a minimum of 20% of the total costs to fund the project.

Eligible items:

- Capital items - lasting assets such as a building improvements or equipment – you must spend grants on assets such as a building or equipment which are expected to be used for a period of at least one year. This may include enhancements to existing assets which:
 - Significantly lengthen the life of the asset.
 - Significantly increase the value of the asset.
 - Significantly increase usefulness of the asset.
 - It will not include minor repairs and routine maintenance.
 - Labour costs can only be funded if they are contributing directly to creating the assets e.g. builders, IT developers.
 - Architect's fees.
- Revenue items - such as IT systems, marketing, consultancy

How to Apply

Support Staffordshire are supporting this grant programme.

Support Staffordshire has been appointed to assist Staffordshire Moorland organisations in developing their Social Enterprises and advising on grant applications both to this fund and our Community Infrastructure Programme.

All applicants are required to discuss their proposed projects with Support Staffordshire prior to submitting any application, to ensure the organisation eligibility and project fit.

Any applications submitted without discussions with Support Staffordshire will be ineligible for funding/consideration.

For all enquiries, please email sarah.roberts@supportstaffordshire.org.uk

Following discussions with Support Staffordshire applicants are required to complete/submit the online application form by the advertised dates for each round funding.

All successful project applicants must have completed their project, spent, and claimed all the grant no later than 31st January 2025

Evaluation Criteria

All Applications will be assessed on their own merit, against the key criteria below:

- 1. The impact this funding will have on the lead organisation.**
- 2. The impact this funding/project will have on the community (including the number/range of community users the project will support and any wider impact the project will deliver).**
- 3. The amount/number of UKSPF Outputs/Outcomes the project will provide.**
- 4. How the proposed project supports/links to Staffordshire Moorland District Councils Core Plan 2023-2027.**
- 5. Value for money.**

Additional Information

Applicants should note that if successful in a grant award they will be required to procure any items required in compliance with UKSPF procurement guidelines, which are as follows:

<u>Value of contract</u>	<u>Minimum procedure</u>
£0 - £2,499	Direct award
£2,500 - £24,999	3 written quotes or prices sought from relevant suppliers of goods, works and / or services
Over £25,000	Formal tender process

Any items purchased not meeting these requirements will not be eligible for funding.

The grant award will not cover or include any recoverable VAT incurred by your organisation and you should make your own enquiries of HMRC as to the recoverability of any VAT your organisation incurs.

Applicants will be paid in arrears for the work on completion.

All eligible organisations need to provide evidence of not being insolvent and comply with the Minimal Financial Assistance rules of the UK Subsidy Control requirements.

Farm based enterprises will also need to comply with the [Concordat on the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Agriculture \(Domestic Support\) Regulations 2020](#) which requires the Council to report on aid granted to Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Applicants should consider and identify other sources of funding prior to applying to this fund such as Lottery funding.

Applications should not duplicate funding from other Defra sources.

Applications will be assessed by Council Officers/UKSPF Partners and if supported, recommendations made to the Staffordshire Moorlands UK Shared Prosperity Board for final decision.

The UKSPF Boards decision is final, and applicants have no right to appeal.

Further information including accounts, terms of reference, insurance documents and operating policies will be required if your application is approved, as part of a due diligence check. A Grant Funding Agreement will then be sent, setting out the terms and conditions and required outcomes.

Where work is to be conducted on a building, evidence of ownership or authorisation from the owner will be required.

For further information please contact UKSPF@StaffsMoorlands.gov.uk