

Local Support Scheme - Sunderland City Council

Introduction

Sunderland City Council launched the Local Support Scheme on 1 June 2020.

The Fund is aimed at VCSE organisations who are not eligible for the governments Small Business Grant Fund, Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund or Discretionary Grant Fund (which is for registered charities in receipt of mandatory business rates relief and would otherwise have been eligible for Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rates Relief).

It should also be noted that there is a finite financial allocation.

This guidance note sets out how Sunderland City Council will implement the scheme.

Application process

The application process will ensure that grant awards are only made to eligible organisations.

The application process will prompt you for the information required to complete the form. The Council reserves the right to ask for supporting documentation in some instances.

The organisation in completing the application will make a declaration confirming and accepting the following

- This Authority is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided on this form for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share the information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes.
- The applicant organisation will wherever appropriate ensure that publicity generated by the organisation acknowledges the support of Sunderland City Council and agree that Sunderland City Council may use information from this application to publicise the support provided.
- The information supplied in this application is true and correct, and I have the authority to act as a signatory for this application. I understand that more information may be requested, if necessary, before a decision is reached.

The online form can be accessed at:

www.sunderland.gov.uk/localsupportscheme

If you have any queries related to the application process please contact us by emailing community.resilience@sunderland.gov.uk.

Any organisation caught falsifying their records or making false declarations to gain grant money could face prosecution and any funding issued in these circumstances will be subject to claw back, as will any grants paid in error.

Eligibility

There are two funding categories available to VCSE organisations:

1. For a grant award of £1,000

This grant is available for small VCS groups i.e. resident's associations, sports clubs and community groups. Organisations are required to have basic governance in place, for example, a Management Committee, Dual signatory bank/building society account in the organisation's name and a Constitution in place before 11th March 2020.

2. For a grant award of £10,000

This grant is available to organisations that operate from community buildings which have had to close due to the crisis and/or are losing a regular income which would usually cover expenditure costs i.e. staffing costs, premises costs. It is aimed at registered charities, CICs (with 3 or more non-related Directors), or larger community groups established before 11th March 2020.

Organisations are eligible to apply for the grant even if they are currently in receipt of a grant from Area Committee, but only if you have not been successful in securing funding from the Small Business Grant Fund, Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund or Discretionary Grant Fund and do not have adequate reserves to support your organisation in the short term.

Timescale for Applications

Applications will open on Monday 1 June 2020 for 3 weeks, closing at midnight on Sunday 21 June 2020.

Variation to the Fund

The Council reserves the right to vary the terms of the scheme at any time, and without notice, should it be necessary to do so.

If the fund is oversubscribed with the applications received, the Council reserves the right to amend the grant levels on a pro-rata basis.

Appeals

There is no appeal process.