

Stratford Town Trust 2018 Funding Guidelines

Stratford Town Trust is a grant-giving charity based in Stratford-upon-Avon dedicated to supporting individuals and communities to bring about positive change locally. We provide funding for activities which improve quality of life for people living within a defined geographical area of the town.

Who we fund:

We primarily fund local non-profit making community groups and organisations which meet our funding priorities. Other non-profit organisations are welcome to apply as long as the project/initiative is focused and based within Stratford-upon-Avon.

If you are an individual who has an idea or is interested in developing a community project which would benefit the local community, please contact us to discuss your idea further. Whilst we don't offer grant-funding to individuals we are happy to provide support and advice about the best way to achieve your idea.

What we fund:

Projects should aim to achieve one or more of our current priorities:-

- Improve Health and Wellbeing
- Create Positive Activities for Young People
- Reduce Loneliness and Social Isolation
- Protect and Support Vulnerable Communities
- Develop Community Capacity and Resilience
- Provide Support During a Time of Crisis

Below are some examples which would be considered under each heading. However, these examples are not prescriptive nor exhaustive. We are keen to receive suggestions from the local community about what would work best to achieve positive outcomes associated with each heading.

PRIORITY	EXAMPLES
Improve Health and Wellbeing	Emotional and social wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, physical activity, prevention and reduction of alcohol and substance misuse, housing and tenancy support, confidence building, specialist support groups. Applications which reach individuals and/or communities who experience the greatest inequalities are strongly encouraged.
Create Positive Activities for Young People	Primarily aimed at ages 11 – 21 (but can include younger children. Inclusive and accessible projects/schemes for all young people which raise aspirations,



	<p>promote citizenship, life skills, leisure and recreational activities, co-produced with young people. Targeted to young people needing specific or additional support.</p>
<p>Reduce Loneliness and Social Isolation</p>	<p>Social groups, befriending groups, peer support, access to universal provision, friendship groups, volunteering opportunities, neighbourhood based initiatives, intergenerational work. Note this priority is not aimed solely at older people; it relates to anyone experiencing loneliness and social isolation It could, for example, include lone-parents, housebound individuals, those experiencing mental health problems, long term unemployed ,or those experiencing challenges and pressures at school or work</p>
<p>Protect and Support Vulnerable Communities</p>	<p>This priority is concerned with improving quality of life for people in communities who could be described as 'vulnerable'. This could include people with additional needs, disabilities, mental health problems, having unpaid caring responsibilities, living in poverty or with domestic violence and abuse, ex-offenders, substance misuse, homelessness, looked after children, care-leavers. Please note this list is not exhaustive.</p>
<p>Develop Community Capacity and Resilience</p>	<p>Projects which have a preventative impact on communities, help to combat poverty & social inequalities, promote social inclusion, develop people's ability to prevent reaching crisis point, self-management of conditions and/or illnesses, developing a support network within the local community, signposting and access to universal provision.</p>
<p>Provide Support During a Time of Crisis</p>	<p>Being able to provide support to individuals during a particular episode within life, which could be; bereavement, major illness or injury, end of life, trauma, victim support, redundancy, relationship-breakdown, recovery relapse, change in living conditions</p>

Types of Grants:

There are three different types of grants available.

- Fast Track Grants – Up to £2000

Applicants can apply for up to £2000 to deliver smaller projects and initiatives, or for one-off equipment and capital costs. A decision is usually given within 10 working days.

- Main Grant Rounds

Our main grants round will run twice a year and applications will be invited during February and September 2018. There is no restriction on the amount which can be applied for (although applicants should note we typically allocate in total around £1million a year). Applications for more than £50k should be discussed with the Head of Community Engagement prior to submission.

- Multi-Year Funding

Multi-Year funding is available for up to three consecutive years for applications which impact on two or more of our funding priorities and seek to respond to the longer-term needs of communities. Applications which are collaborative in nature and work across organisational boundaries will be viewed favourably.

All applicants will be expected to consider the long-term sustainability of projects beyond the time period covered by the grant funding and either demonstrate an ability to secure alternative funding arrangements, or, a clear exit strategy/cessation of the project if it is to be time limited.

Multi-year funding applicants will be required to complete and return an Expression of Interest Form which will be assessed and qualifying applicants will then be invited to submit a full application. Note: There is no guarantee that a full application will be successful. Expression of Interest Forms must be returned by **5th September 2018** to be considered in Round 2. Decision on Multi year funding in Round 2 may not be notified until mid-November.

How we decide to award grants:

We assess all applications to ensure that the community group or organisation applying is suitable to deliver the intended project or activity. We will make appropriate checks regarding an organisation; e.g., governance, financial sustainability and key operating policies and procedures. These checks should not deter a potential applicant as we are keen to offer further support to organisations in order to enable a strong application.

All applications are subject to a scoring process which appraises the following key points: -

- Evidence of need within Stratford-upon-Avon
- Evidence of community/user involvement in the planning and delivery of the proposal
- Ability to make a demonstrable difference to quality of life in Stratford-upon-Avon
- Commitment to collaborative and partnership working
- Financial position, viability and sustainability (where applicable)

SCORING

Applicants will be required to answer scored questions based on the themes above (each question is worth a maximum of five points).

Applications must score 15 or more points to be eligible for funding. Therefore, any application scoring less than 15 points will not be eligible for funding.

Scores will be allocated based on the following criteria:

Score	
5	Excellent - The answer and supporting information is clear, concise and adds significant benefits/provides a high-level of clarity and supporting evidence
4	Good - The answer and supporting information is clear, concise and adds some additional benefits/provides a high-level of clarity and supporting evidence
3	Satisfactory - The answer and supporting information is clear and mostly meets the requirements.
2	Below Standard - The answer and supporting information lack clarity and or falls short of meeting the requirements.
1	Significantly below standard - The answer and supporting information lack clarity and/or significantly fails to meet the requirements.

Submitting Your Application

If there is any aspect of your application you would like to discuss before submission, please do contact us, and we would be happy to provide you with guidance. Please allow sufficient time before the deadline because applications received after the deadline, will be deferred to the following grant round.

We are particularly keen to support local community groups and individuals who are committed and able to bring about positive change in the area. If you have an idea for

a project but you are unsure about how best to approach the application process, again, please get in touch as we are happy to provide support.

Please complete the form giving the fullest information to present your case. Whilst you are familiar with your activity and you may have applied to us before, assume you are writing to us for the first time.

It is important to describe how your project works, who is involved in delivering it and who your beneficiaries are. You may use pertinent information explaining the difficulties or problems they face, but do not waste space quoting general deprivation statistics which are well known, nor attach brochures or additional papers, other than those requested on the application form. Be clear and concise in what you are asking us to fund, explaining the difference you intend to make.

We are looking for evidence that the project has been planned; that the challenges facing the communities you support are understood and that the solutions you have developed are sound, realistic and will make a difference. This can be for new innovative work, for a new way of thinking to address entrenched or emerging problems, or for existing activity that you are looking to improve or expand. Our focus is on building flourishing communities that make Stratford-upon-Avon a better place to live, so we are looking to support work that tackles real problems and can bring about positive change.

We are not always able to fund an entire project, so it is important to provide a project budget with details of when funds are needed, other funders involved, or if funds are not yet committed, names of funders you are approaching. Please note that demonstrating ongoing sustainability is important, for both new and existing work.

Ensure you submit in sufficient time for your project start date, since we are not able to fund activities that are already underway. We are also unable to fund activities that are the responsibility of public or statutory sources. If you are unsure, do speak to us before submitting for clarification.

For further information or assistance please contact:

Catherine Kelso on 01789 207114 or email: engagement@stratfordtowntrust.co.uk