

Here for Hart Community Grants 2026-27

Eligibility and Criteria

The criteria have been chosen to align with both our Corporate Plan and Health and Wellbeing Plan. In our Corporate Plan, our strategic priority is to promote health, well-being and inclusion, ensuring that all residents have access to the skills, support and opportunities they need to thrive. The Health and Wellbeing Plan focuses on the themes of active lives, preventing poor health and access to support and information.

Eligibility

This funding is open to genuine not-for-profit, community-led and voluntary organisations only. We are unable to take applications from:

- individuals
- sole traders
- organisations which aim to distribute a profit to owners, shareholders or members
- organisations that operate a charity or not-for-profit arm that directly supports or subsidises a linked for-profit business
- applications where the funding would benefit a commercial business or be used to generate private income or profit
- organisations without an established governing committee, board or equivalent arrangements in place
- organisations based outside of UK
- groups promoting a particular religious or political belief or activity. However, we may be able to fund faith-based organisations if the project benefits the wider community and the focus is not religious content

We are unable to fund the following:

- VAT you can reclaim
- maintenance or decoration of community spaces. However, we can fund upgrades to buildings such as those which enhance facilities, accessibility, sustainability or enable more people to use the space
- payments for works or activities which the lead local authority, project deliverer, end beneficiary or any member of their partnership has a statutory duty to undertake, or that are fully funded by other sources
- projects which have already secured full funding and/or the project has already commenced

Each project will be scored against the following criteria. Examples are given for each grant fund.

Helping residents stay well

Up to £5,000

Projects should support residents' well-being in a targeted or localised way, for example through small-scale activities, short programmes, or pilot approaches that help people maintain good physical or mental health.

Up to £50,000

Projects should demonstrate a more significant contribution to residents' wellbeing, potentially reaching larger numbers of people, addressing more complex needs, or delivering preventative or early-intervention activities.

Inclusion and community connection

Up to £5,000

Projects should help bring people together, reduce isolation or improve access to community activities. A clear understanding of who the project will benefit and how people will be supported to take part is expected.

Up to £50,000

Projects should show how they will strengthen inclusion and connection across communities, potentially working with multiple groups, partners or locations. Applications should demonstrate intentional approaches to accessibility, engagement, and reaching under-represented residents.

Supporting residents facing challenges

Up to £5,000

Projects should identify the specific challenges faced by their target group and explain how the activities will provide practical or emotional support to help residents cope or improve their situation.

Up to £50,000

Projects should demonstrate a strong understanding of the challenges faced by residents and how the proposed activity will address these in a meaningful, coordinated way. This may include working with people facing multiple or ongoing barriers.

Deliverability

Up to £5,000

Projects should be straightforward, realistic and clearly planned. Applicants should demonstrate they have the experience or support needed to deliver the activity within the proposed timescale.

Up to £50,000

Projects should include detailed delivery plans, clear roles and responsibilities and evidence of organisational capacity or partnerships. Applicants should demonstrate strong governance, risk awareness and the ability to manage larger budgets and more complex delivery.

Increasing organisational capacity

Up to £5,000

Projects should create positive change at a local or community-group level, such as increased participation and stronger networks

Up to £50,000

Projects strengthen the organisation's ability to deliver community benefit, such as developing skills, systems, volunteers or partnerships.

Long-term benefit

Up to £5,000

Applicants should show how the benefits of the project will continue beyond the funding period, such as through skills gained, strengthened relationships or activities that can be repeated or maintained with minimal ongoing costs.

Up to £50,000

Applicants should clearly set out how the project will create lasting change, including plans for sustainability beyond the grant, potential future funding, partnership working or embedding successful approaches into ongoing provision.

Environmental Impact

Up to £5,000

Projects should have a positive change on a local level, or if there is a negative impact, show the positive impacts through participation such as encouraging walking/cycling to the event.

Up to £50,000

As above but any building works should consider sustainability in their design.

Value for money

Up to £5,000

Costs should be reasonable and clearly linked to project activities. Applicants should demonstrate how funding will make a meaningful difference for residents.

Up to £50,000

Applicants should clearly demonstrate how the level of investment will deliver proportionate and significant outcomes. Budgets should be robust, well-explained and show careful consideration of cost effectiveness and impact.