



Main Grants 2026-29 Application Guidance

July 2025

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Overview

Lewisham Council is reletting its Main Grants Programme, which will provide three years of funding from April 2026 to March 2029. The Main Grants Programme is funded by Lewisham Council as part of its long-standing support for the borough's voluntary and community sector (VCS).

What is Lewisham Council's Main Grants Programme?

Lewisham's Main Grants Programme is a long-standing funding initiative run by Lewisham Council to support voluntary and community organisations (VCS) across the borough. It operates in three-year cycles and is designed to help local groups deliver services and projects that benefit residents—particularly those who are vulnerable or face disadvantage.

What It Does

The programme provides financial support to organisations working in areas such as:

- Digital inclusion
- Equalities and inclusion (support for LGBTQ+ residents, adults with learning disabilities, and sanctuary seekers - refugees, asylum seekers, vulnerable migrants)
- Arts and sports capacity building
- Community voice and representation
- Local neighbourhood-based services and infrastructure

Where the Funding Comes From

The funding comes directly from Lewisham Council's budget plus a contribution from the Better Care Fund. For the 2026–2029 cycle, the total programme value is £2,112,308, made up of approx. £1.6m from Council funds and £0.5m from the Better Care Fund. This represents a reduction from previous years due to wider council budget pressures, including a £30 million shortfall in the 2025/26 budget.

Broader Context

While the Main Grants Programme is a key part of the Council's support for the VCS, it is not the only source of funding. In 2024/25, Lewisham Council and its health and care partners invested over £15 million in the voluntary sector through other services, such as adult social care and mental health support.

What's new?

The 2026–2029 Main Grants Programme from Lewisham Council introduces several important changes aimed at strengthening the voluntary and community sector (VCS) while adapting to reduced funding levels. The changes have been agreed following consultation with the VCS and the wider public and reflect the majority view on how Main Grants should adapt to the changing funding landscape. Here's what's new:



Capacity Building and Infrastructure

The programme is focussed on investing in:

- **Neighbourhood-focused infrastructure:** £900,000 across four neighbourhoods to support local coordination, signposting, capacity-building and working with Integrated Neighbourhood Teams to support vulnerable residents.
- **Borough-wide infrastructure:** Funding for initiatives that support Black-led organisations, digital inclusion, equalities groups (e.g. LGBTQ+, adults with learning disabilities, sanctuary seekers), and arts and sports organisations.
- **Transition grants:** A small number of transition grants will be made available for current Main Grant-funded organisations to adapt to the new model over the three-year period



Advice Services: Commissioned Separately

Advice services—previously funded through the Main Grants—will now be **commissioned directly** by the Council. This change is intended to ensure:

- Better integration with other Council services
- Clearer service specifications
- Continued support for residents facing financial hardship

We will return to Mayor and Cabinet as soon as practicable with detailed recommendations for this service. The value of funding allocated to Advice is approximately £600,000.



Neighbourhood Model

A new place-based approach will fund capacity-building services in each of four designated neighbourhoods which:

- Help residents find the services they need
- Support the development of local services
- Offer fundraising and organisational development support to local organisations
- Support organisations through distribution of small grants including sourcing funds and acting as the conduit for dispersing funds at local level
- Provide one-to-one support to vulnerable residents, working alongside Integrated Neighbourhood Teams



Arts and Culture: Integrated into the Main Programme

Arts and culture organisations will no longer have a separate funding stream. Instead, they will be funded under the same infrastructure priorities as other VCS groups, with a focus on:

- Capacity building
- Alignment with Lewisham's Cultural Strategy
- Representation and sector-wide support

How much funding is available?

The total funding available for Lewisham's Main Grants Programme for the 2026–2029 cycle is £2,112,308. From this total, £600,000 has been set aside for the commissioning of advice services, leaving £1,512,308 for the remainder of the programme.



Neighbourhood-Focused Services

A total of £900,000 per annum will be available across the four neighbourhoods over the three-year period. These grants aim to build local infrastructure and ensure services are responsive to community needs.



Borough-Wide Infrastructure Grants

We will also fund borough-wide initiatives to support infrastructure, capacity building, voice and representation with grants for a range of priority areas in the region of £20,000 to £80,000:



Transition Grants

We will additionally support a number of current Main Grant-funded organisations in adapting to this new place-based and capacity building approach.

Who can apply?

Any voluntary or community organisation that provides services in the London Borough of Lewisham can apply for Main Grants—provided they meet the programme’s eligibility and funding criteria.

To be eligible to apply, organisations must typically be:

- **Not-for-profit:** To be eligible for a Main Grant from Lewisham Council you must be a not for profit organisation. The following types of organisation are eligible to apply for a grant:
 - Registered Charity
 - Company Limited by Guarantee
 - CIC (Community Interest Company)
 - Cooperative
 - Other – constituted (including CIO’s and Social Enterprises)
- **Serving Lewisham residents:** Your organisation should be delivering services that benefit people living in the borough.
- **Properly constituted:** You should have a governing document (e.g. constitution or articles of association), a bank account in the organisation’s name, and appropriate governance structures.
- Funding can only be given to **established organisations or groups** (no less than 12 months old) and not to individuals.
- You may apply for up to 50% of your organisation’s annual turnover, provided this amount is below the recommended threshold for funding applications.
- **For neighbourhood funding, working in partnership:** Collaborative or partnership applications are encouraged, though one organisation will need to agree to hold the funds for the partnership.
- To be eligible for a **Transition Grant** you must be **currently funded by Lewisham Main Grants for the period up to 31 March 2026**

Fund criteria

Main Grants Criteria

Neighbourhood Infrastructure and Capacity Building

In each of the four neighbourhoods, we seek to fund one organisation or a formal partnership with one lead applicant, delivering on a package of Neighbourhood-focused services offering:

- A service front-door to help residents find the services they need in the community
- Identifying unmet needs in your local area and working directly with communities and local organisations to develop services that meet need
- Offering fundraising support including direct bid writing for priority services in your neighbourhood
- Capacity building for local organisations, groups and residents in order to:
 - Increase the level of provision in the neighbourhoods
 - Improve the ability of local groups e.g. friends of parks groups, Tenant and Resident Associations, to engage more vulnerable residents
 - Increase ability of local residents to start up new initiatives
 - Develop a mutual support network between all those involved in community activism in the neighbourhood
- Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT) Keyworker to support linking in health to the wider VCS
- Developing a mechanism for dispersing funds within the neighbourhood to support the capacity of local organisations and the provision of services. This might include:
 - Ring-fencing a proportion of the Main Grants allocation for the Neighbourhood
 - Raising funds externally through grant applications or other methods
 - Distributing funding identified by the council and health partners

The four designated neighbourhoods include the following wards:

- **North:** Brockley, Deptford, Evelyn, New Cross Gate, Telegraph Hill
- **East:** Blackheath, Crofton Park, Ladywell, Lee Green, Lewisham Central, Rushey Green
- **South:** Bellingham, Catford South, Downham, Grove Park, Hither Green
- **West:** Forest Hill, Perry Vale, Sydenham

A total of £900,000 per annum is available across four neighbourhoods. However, we expect that some neighbourhoods will have greater needs in some areas and some may be awarded higher levels of funding than others. The four neighbourhood areas (North, South, East, and West) consist of different numbers of wards and currently have varying levels of support, capacity, and infrastructure. Therefore, the model of support proposed in each neighbourhood may differ because each area has unique needs that require different levels of infrastructure support. We expect the North and South neighbourhoods to have a higher level of need and as such expect that the model will require more capacity building, networking and development in these neighbourhoods.

Lead organisations could work in partnership with a number of other organisations to deliver the range of capacity building activities, signposting and keywork support as outlined but in all cases must show how they will bring local knowledge and expertise to the model, ideally working with neighbourhood-based organisation/s.

We also propose to fund a **Voice and Representation grant of up to £20,000** (only available for one of the Neighbourhood leads) to ensure that work across the borough-wide and neighbourhood infrastructure services are brought together and key issues fed back through the Stronger Communities Partnership Board and other strategic forums. This function should bring together the needs and experience of our VCS through existing and new networks and actively represent them in order to help shape and co-design our policies, strategies and services moving forward.

Neighbourhoods and What We Know

[Read more about the designated neighbourhoods](#)

Borough-wide Infrastructure and Capacity Building

We are seeking applications for up to £50,000 from organisations to deliver infrastructure, capacity building, voice and representation projects for:

- Lewisham's Black-led VCS
- Digital inclusion: we are looking for projects that can deliver capacity building for Lewisham organisations to become more digitally able as well as helping residents access and use digital tools
- Organisations supporting Adults with learning disabilities.*
- Organisations supporting LGBTQ+ residents
- Organisations supporting Sanctuary seekers
- Sports organisations

* we are prioritising adults with learning disabilities as we recognise this has historically been a significant priority of the Main Grants programme, funding a number of organisations over time. As such we want to ensure that the sector is supported through specific capacity building to remain resilient and embedded in our developing place-based approach.

The roles could include elements of the following:

- Delivering programmes that showcase the strengths of organisations delivering within the cultural and/or voluntary and community sector in Lewisham
- Organisational advocacy at a local, London-wide or national level
- Representation of service users and those with lived experience in forums
- Supporting networking across the sector
- Sharing good practice to support capacity building within the sectors in Lewisham
- Representation in forums and in strategy development within Lewisham (including the Stronger Communities Partnership Board)

All funded borough-wide infrastructure projects will work closely with Council and health partners to ensure alignment with corporate and health priorities, to provide voice and representation for the communities they serve and to influence the strategic direction of our work.

The infrastructure organisation supporting adults with learning disabilities will work closely with our policy team to ensure alignment with the outcomes of the Disabled People's Commission; primarily to build social capital and capacity in the disabled community, and to co-produce a new disabled-led organisation.

Additionally grants supporting Lewisham's arts and culture sector will include:

- One grant of up to £80,000 for arts infrastructure and capacity building
- A small number of grants of up to £30,000 each to support Lewisham's Cultural Strategy

For both Neighbourhood and Borough-wide Main grants, you will need to show:

- **Understanding of Local Needs and Strategic Fit:** Demonstrate a clear understanding of the neighbourhood or priority area you're working in — including current issues, gaps in provision, and community needs — and explain how your proposed activities are designed to address these effectively.
- **Collaboration and partnership working:** Outline how you will engage with other organisations to share knowledge, avoid duplication, and strengthen outcomes. Show how your organisation works collaboratively with others to empower the communities you serve. If you are applying as the lead partner in a formal partnership, show us your track record of leading on and working in partnership with delivery organisations, including managing budgets, delivery milestones and monitoring and reporting requirements.
- **Expertise and track record:** Provide examples of your organisation's experience and achievements that demonstrate your ability to deliver similar work successfully.

All Main Grants Applicants will need to show:

- **Capacity to Deliver:** Show that your organisation has the resources, experience, and systems in place to manage the grant and deliver the proposed activities effectively.
- **Impact:** Describe how your work aligns with the programme's goals and provide evidence of the positive outcomes it delivers.
- **Commitment to Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion:** Show how your organisation embeds inclusive practices and actively works to advance equality

— including how you engage diverse communities, remove barriers to participation, and reflect the lived experiences of the people you serve.

Transition Grants

We recognise that the move from funding frontline service delivery to Neighbourhood and Boroughwide infrastructure is significant and that the impact of the move will place pressures on our long-standing frontline organisations. We want to ensure that the transition period during this programme can both work to create the strong foundations for infrastructure moving forward while ensuring that our front-line services are offered support to become resilient in the long-term.

We have therefore ring-fenced approximately 10-15% of our Main Grants Funding (once the Advice Service allocation is removed), to support some of our existing front-line services through Transition Grants. Eligibility for these grants will be restricted to organisations who have been Main Grants funded throughout the period of the current programme, i.e. April 2022-March 2026. Applicants can bid for funding up to the value of their existing grants, however we encourage applicants to consider requesting less than their current amount to enable us to support more of our grant-funded organisations

Applicants for transition grants will need to:

- Be Lewisham Main Grant-funded between April 2025 and 31 March 2026
- Provide details on the proposed use of the grant and engagement with our borough-wide and Neighbourhood infrastructure
- Be part of the working group of the Stronger Communities Partnership Board and participate the development of the new model and inform the support of front-line organisations to become more resilient

Note that if you are successful in applying for another Main Grants fund – neighbourhood or borough-wide – then you will not be eligible for a transition grant. If you have applied for another grant in this round, you will be asked to indicate whether you also want to be considered for a transition grant if you are unsuccessful. In this case you must have made an application for a transition grant.

What do we mean by capacity building and infrastructure support?

We know that effective capacity building and infrastructure support are crucial for fostering a robust and resilient voluntary and community sector. This includes:

- Strengthening grassroots groups and amplifying marginalised voices which are essential for building sustainable community responses to local needs.
- Fostering innovation and learning which enables organisations to adapt and thrive in a changing and more financially challenging environment.
- Increasing the ability of voluntary and community sector organisations (VCSOs) to engage confidently and meaningfully with public sector partners to address system-wide challenges.

Capacity building refers to the process of developing and strengthening the skills, resources, systems, structures, and strategies that VCSOs need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a changing environment. It aims to enhance an organisation's effectiveness, sustainability, and ability to deliver its mission.

This work is typically focused on people, processes, and performance—helping individuals and organisations gain the knowledge, confidence, tools, and partnerships they need to increase their impact and resilience.

Infrastructure support describes the underlying systems, services, networks, and structures that provide the VCS with the foundations it needs to operate effectively. This includes both physical and digital infrastructure, as well as organisational development, governance, coordination, and strategic support.

Examples of Capacity Building and Infrastructure Support

Below are examples of the many varied types of support or areas of work that fall under the umbrella of capacity building and infrastructure support.

- **Organisational Development** – including governance training and trustee recruitment support, and strategic planning and business planning support
- **Funding and Financial Resilience** – including bid writing and application support and building income diversification strategies (e.g. trading, commissioning)
- **Workforce and Volunteer Development** – including volunteer recruitment and retention strategies, and training for staff and volunteers (e.g. safeguarding, data protection, Diversity, Equality and Inclusion)
- **Policy, Voice, and Representation** – including supporting VCSOs to engage in local policymaking and consultations and amplifying the voice of under-represented groups or communities
- **Collaboration and Networking** – including creating and facilitating networks, forums, and partnerships and coordinating consortia for joint bids or collective impact
- **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning** – including training in outcomes measurement and impact reporting
- **Digital and IT Support** – including training on digital service delivery and social media use and advising on CRM systems, websites, and digital tools
- **Legal and Compliance Support** – including help with charity registration or incorporation and advice on legal structures and constitutional changes
- **Infrastructure and Physical Resources** – including access to community spaces or shared office/hot-desk facilities and coordination of volunteering and DBS checking service

- **Emergency and Crisis Support** – including rapid-response support during crises (e.g. COVID-19, cost of living) and supporting continuity planning and risk assessment

For a full list of capacity building and infrastructure services that could be offered click [here](#)

Capacity Building at Neighbourhood level

In Lewisham, we know that traditional and more formalised ways of capacity building, such as training, mentoring, and peer support work for some organisations and not others. Our expectation at Neighbourhood level is that capacity building is more hands-on, linking the identifying of needs, and gaps in local services, to a proactive approach to building the capacity of services to bridge this gap. This will mean reaching out to organisations and building networks to identify community assets and skills to meet this gap. We also want neighbourhood-based services to be able to access capacity building and fundraising support that is quick to respond, and is able to offer bespoke support that is suited to the needs of the organisation. We understand that this approach is more focused and targeted and as such will take more time and resource. However, we believe this approach is much more suited to delivering the desired outcomes at neighbourhood level.

What we cannot fund with Lewisham's Main Grants

- × **Lobbying, political activity or the promotion of private interests**
- × **Projects with significant ongoing financial/revenue implications for the council which are not covered by the bid**
- × **Religious activity (although we can fund religious organisations if their project benefits the wider community and doesn't include religious content)**
- × **Applications made for more than 50% of an organisations annual turnover will not be funded, even if this figure is below the recommended threshold for funding applications**

How much can I apply for?

Neighbourhood Infrastructure and Capacity Building

A total of £900,000 per annum is available across four neighbourhoods. However, we expect that some neighbourhoods will have greater needs in some areas and some may be awarded higher levels of funding than others. The four neighbourhood areas (North, South, East, and West) consist of different numbers of wards and currently have varying levels of support, capacity, and infrastructure. Therefore, the model of support proposed in each neighbourhood may differ because each area has unique

needs that require different levels of infrastructure support. We expect the North and South neighbourhoods to have a higher level of need and as such expect that the model will require more capacity building, networking and development in these neighbourhoods.

We will also be awarding an additional up to £20,000 for one of the neighbourhood leads to take on the Voice and Representation role.

As a result we expect grants to be **in the region of £210,000 - £240,000 per neighbourhood per annum**. See Fund criteria on pages 6-7 for further detail.

Borough-wide Infrastructure and Capacity Building

For any of the following priority areas, you may apply for **up to £50,000**:

- Lewisham's Black-led Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)
- Digital inclusion (as well as helping residents access and use digital tools)
- Adults with learning disabilities
- LGBTQ+ residents
- Sanctuary seekers
- Sports

For the arts infrastructure and capacity building priority you may apply for **up to £80,000**.

For grants to support Lewisham's Cultural Strategy you may apply for **up to £30,000**.

Transition Grants

Applicants can bid for funding up to the value of their existing grants, however we encourage applicants to consider requesting less than their current amount to enable us to support more of our grant-funded organisations.

How do I make an application?

Go to <https://communityfunding.lewisham.gov.uk/maingrants> and apply by 5pm on Monday 6 October 2025

There you'll find a list of the application questions as well as a link to the online application forms. There are three separate application forms:

- Main Grants 2026-29 Neighbourhood Application Form
- Main Grants 2026-29 Borough-wide Application Form

- Main Grants 2026-29 Transition Grant Application Form

Application Timeline



Application Timeline

- **Launch: 14 July 2025**
- **Deadline: 5pm on Monday 6 October 2025**
- **Assessments: October–November 2025**
- **Grants awarded: April 2026**

The Application Form – Questions and how to answer them

Important notice: Each of the applications – Neighbourhood, Borough-wide and Transition Grants – contain introductory and eligibility questions which are relatively consistent between the applications. The guidance touches on these sections, then follows on with the specific set of questions for each application form, and finally goes through sections on activities, impact, expenditure, equality and diversity and other questions which are again generic to all three applications. Please read through the entire guidance document before completing your application

Introduction



Please confirm that you have read this page as well as the Application Guidance found on the Community Funding website*(required)



Tick the 'Yes' box to confirm you have read the guidance. This ensures you understand the fund criteria, eligibility, and expectations before applying.



Have you used Generative AI, such as ChatGPT or Genie, to support you when writing your application?



This question is for transparency. Answer honestly; it will not affect your eligibility. While using Generative AI, such as ChatGPT or Genie, to support your application is acceptable, it is important not to use AI to simply cut and paste AI generated answers into your application. Rather it is useful to assist with research, check answers for errors, or help bring your responses under the word count. Please ensure that your use of AI aligns with these acceptable practices.

Eligibility - Legal Status of your organisation



Please select your company's legal status*(required)

- Registered Charity
- Company Ltd by Guarantee
- Community Interest Company
- Co-operative
- Other - Constituted (includes CIO and Soc Enterprise)



Choose the legal structure that best describes your organisation. If 'Other', provide details of your governance structure. You will then be prompted to provide your registration number, if applicable.



Is your organisation based in Lewisham? *(required)



Answer 'Yes' if your organisation operates from within the borough. This helps assess local relevance.



Will the funding primarily serve Lewisham residents (at least 90%)? *(required)



Ensure your services are focused on Lewisham residents. This is a key eligibility criterion.

Your Organisation



Organisation name*(required)



Please outline your organisation's main mission, aims and objectives (up to 100 words) *(required)



Briefly describe your organisation's purpose and goals. Keep it concise and focused. We will use this text as part of the assessment process for helping assessors to understand the applicant organisation. It will also be used on our website and potentially in other communications with the public should your application be successful.



Give a summary of your organisation and what it does (up to 200 words) *(required)



Provide an overview of your organisation's work, who you support, and your key activities. We will use this text as part of the assessment process for helping assessors to understand the applicant organisation. It will also be used on our website and potentially in other communications with the public should your application be successful.

Neighbourhood Level Applications



Please specify which neighbourhood you are applying to provide capacity building, a resident-facing front door, fundraising, and INT Keyworker support for: *(required)


- North: Brockley, Deptford, Evelyn, New Cross Gate, Telegraph Hill
- South: Bellingham, Downham, Grove Park, Hither Green, Catford South
- East: Blackheath, Crofton Park, Ladywell, Lee Green, Lewisham Central, Rushey Green
- West: Forest Hill, Perry Vale, Sydenham




Select the neighbourhood that your project will serve. Ensure your application aligns with the needs of that area.



Are you applying on behalf of a formal partnership or as a single organisation?

 Indicate whether your application is from a single organisation or a consortium. Partnerships must have a lead partner which will hold the funds and complete monitoring requirements.

 **Please confirm you are the main partner who will be holding the funds and leading on this project.**


 This question appears if you have confirmed you are submitting a partnership application. Only the lead partner should answer 'Yes'. This organisation will be responsible for managing the grant.


 **Please list your FORMAL delivery partners and describe their roles and expertise in terms of project delivery.**

Formal Partner Organisation


Role and expertise in partnership


Add Item


 **Please confirm that all of the formal partners listed here are aware of this application. You will also need to send us a partnership agreement for each formal partnership if your application is successful.**

 This question appears if you have confirmed you are submitting a partnership application. Only the lead partner should answer 'Yes'. This organisation will be responsible for managing the grant.


 **What is your/the partnership's connection to the neighbourhood you are applying to serve? (up to 200 words) *(required)**


 Describe the ties your organisation has to the neighbourhood such as location, time spent working in the area, relationships with specific organisations in the area etc.

 **What is your/the partnership's understanding of the neighbourhood and its key needs? (up to 500 words) *(required)**

 Demonstrate your knowledge of the neighbourhood's demographics, culture, and key issues. Mention any research or firsthand experiences that have informed your understanding. Discuss the strengths and challenges of the neighbourhood, and how you plan to address them.

Your Offer

 **Name of your project *(required)**

 Choose a clear and descriptive name for your project. This will be used in public communications.



Please provide a clear and concise summary of your offer. This will be used to describe your bid on our website if your application is successful. (150-200 words)* (required)



Focus on the key objectives, target audience, and expected outcomes. Highlight the unique aspects of your project, making sure to use clear and straightforward language. Remember, this summary will be used to describe your project on our website if it is successful, so it should be engaging and easy to understand. You will have a chance to expand on your offer further down in the application

Capacity Building

Approach and track record



Please describe your/the partnership's experience in delivering capacity building support. What specific support have you provided, and to whom? (e.g., organisations, residents) (up to 300 words) *(required)



Highlight the types of support you have provided, such as training, mentoring, or resource development. Specify the target groups you have worked with, whether they are organisations, community groups, or individual residents. Use specific examples to illustrate the impact of your support.

Fundraising

Approach and track record



Please detail your/the partnership's experience in providing fundraising support and what successful fundraising initiatives have you led or supported? (up to 300 words) *(required)



Highlight the types of support you have provided, such as training, mentoring, or resource development. Specify the target groups you have worked with, whether they are organisations, community groups, or individual residents. Use specific examples to illustrate the impact of your support.



What is the total amount you've raised through fundraising in the past 2 years. Include the amount raised for both your organisation and/or other community groups. *(required)



Please list successful fundraising bids from the past 2 years

If you prefer to upload a list using MS Excel or Word document please do that here: Upload or drag files here.

Name of organisation benefitting from fundraising.	Name of Funder	Type of Fund (i.e. grant, sponsorship, legacy etc.)	Amount of funding raised	Date
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Total Raised: £0.00

Add more lines


Front Door service


Approach and track record

 **What experience do you/the partnership have in delivering front door services? (up to 300 words) *(required)**

 Highlight the types of support you have provided, such as information dissemination, referrals, or guidance. Specify the target groups you have worked with, whether they are organisations, community groups, or individual residents. Use specific examples to illustrate the impact of your signposting services

 **Will you have a structured referral pathway(s)?**


 Indicate whether you have established structured referral pathways to connect individuals to the appropriate services and resources. A structured referral pathway ensures that individuals receive timely and accurate information and support. If you select "Yes," be prepared to provide details about the referral pathways in the next question.

 **Please describe your referral pathway(s) even if they are not formal or structured. (up to 300 words) *(required)**

Working with the Integrated Neighbourhood Team (INT)

Approach and track record

 **What experience do you/the partnership have supporting vulnerable clients with accessing support services? (up to 300 words) *(required)**

 Highlight the types of support you have provided, such as helping clients navigate services, providing referrals, or offering direct assistance. Specify the target groups you have worked with, whether they are individuals, families, or

specific communities. Use specific examples to illustrate the impact of your support



How will you work with the INT and existing neighbourhood services to support vulnerable clients and ensure comprehensive support for residents? (up to 300 words) *(required)



Please tell us about your overall approach to working with the INT and existing neighbourhood services. There will be an opportunity provide more detail on your delivery, strategy and approach later in the application.

Delivery



Please describe your/the partnership's strategy and approach to delivering the whole package of support for the neighbourhood; capacity building, fundraising, front door service and working with the INT at neighbourhood level. (You will have the opportunity to list your activities and outcomes separately) (up to 500 words) *(required)



A total of £900,000 per annum is available across four neighbourhoods. However we expect that some neighbourhoods will have greater needs in some areas and some may be awarded higher levels of funding than others. The four neighbourhood areas (North, South, East, and West) consist of different numbers of wards and currently have varying levels of support, capacity, and infrastructure. Therefore, the model of support proposed in each neighbourhood may differ because each area has unique needs that require different levels of infrastructure support. We expect the North and South neighbourhoods to have a higher level of need and as such expect that the model will require more capacity building, networking and development in these neighbourhoods.



Key elements, such as fundraising support, should be consistent across all neighbourhoods. However, flexibility is needed to address specific needs unique to each area.



We foresee that each neighbourhood may require a model of delivery that suits the needs of that neighbourhood.


Applicants should consider the varying levels of need and infrastructure in different neighbourhoods and propose models that reflect these differences, encouraging flexibility and thoughtful resource allocation.





Would you also like to apply for the additional Voice and Representation Role?




If you select yes that you would also like to apply for this role, then an additional set of questions will appear below and you may apply for an additional grant of up to £20,000 to be included in your expenditure on this form.


 **How will you create and/or maintain effective networks among the funded infrastructures? (up to 300 words) *(required)**

 Describe your approach to building and sustaining collaborative relationships.

 **How do you plan to capture and communicate the needs identified by the funded infrastructure services, so that they can effectively represent the views and experience of the VCS? (up to 300 words) *(required)**

 Explain your methods for gathering and sharing the needs of funded infrastructure services.

 **What is your experience in representing the VCS and communities to the statutory sector and funding bodies and in bringing about positive change? (up to 300 words) *(required)**


 Summarise your background in advocating for the VCS and communities, highlighting your successes.

*** Please see below section on [Application questions included in all of the Main Grants application forms – neighbourhood, borough-wide and transition grants](#) (page 31) ***


Borough Wide Application Form Questions

Please remember to review the introductory questions as well as the sections at the bottom of this form around equality and diversity, shared values and organisation details which are generic to each of the Main Grants application forms.

Borough Wide Offer

 **What priority area will you focus on for infrastructure and/or capacity building support in Lewisham? *(required)**

- Black Led voluntary and community sector (VCS)
- Digital inclusion
- Arts organisations and freelance artists
- Lewisham's Cultural Strategy
- Sports
- Adults with learning disabilities
- LGBTQ+
- Sanctuary seekers (refugees, asylum seekers, vulnerable migrants)

 Please see the fund criteria above (page 6) for more information on each priority area. If you would like to apply for more than one priority area you will need to submit a separate application for each.



Please summarise your project, keeping it clear and concise (100-150 words) *(required)



Focus on the key objectives, target audience, and expected outcomes. Highlight the unique aspects of your project, making sure to use clear and straightforward language. Remember, this summary will be used to describe your project on our website if it is successful, so it should be engaging and easy to understand.



Are you applying on behalf of a formal partnership or as a single organisation? *(required)



If you are applying as a formal partnership, then it is the lead partner which should complete the application form. If you are applying to deliver the project without any formal partners, then select single organisation. Remember that the applicant organisation will need to hold the funds and take the lead on reporting.



Please confirm you are the main partner who will be holding the funds and leading on this project.



This question appears if you have confirmed you are submitting a partnership application. Only the lead partner should answer 'Yes'. This organisation will be responsible for managing the grant.



Please list your FORMAL delivery partners and describe their roles and expertise in terms of project delivery.

Formal Partner Organisation

Role and expertise in partnership

Add Item



Please confirm that all of the formal partners listed here are aware of this application. You will also need to send us a partnership agreement for each formal partnership if your application is successful.



This question appears if you have confirmed you are submitting a partnership application. Only the lead partner should answer 'Yes'. This organisation will be responsible for managing the grant.

Support for Black led VCS

Approach and track record



What do you think are the needs of the Black led VCS in Lewisham? Please consider intersectional needs of the communities served, for example those who are also LGBTQ+, disabled, older, or sanctuary seekers. (up to 300 words) *(required)



Identify the key challenges faced by the Black led VCS in Lewisham. Your response should address areas such as funding, capacity building, community engagement, and access to resources.



What is your experience in providing support for the Black led VCS in Lewisham? What successful initiatives have you led on or supported when working with the Black led VCS in the borough? Please give examples including projects and who you have worked with. (up to 400 words) *(required)



Outline your organisations background and experience in supporting the Black led Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Lewisham. Include details about the duration of your involvement, the types of organisations you have worked with, and the nature of the support you have provided.



How will you support the efforts of the Black led VCS across Lewisham? Describe your strategy and the types of support activities you will undertake. You will have the opportunity to list your activities and outcomes below. (up to 400 words) *(required)



Explain your strategy for supporting the Black led VCS in Lewisham. Detail the types of support activities you will undertake, such as capacity building, advocacy, and collaboration. Provide examples of how these activities will benefit the organisations and the community.



How are Black community members involved in the design, delivery or governance of your project? (up to 300 words)



Highlight the specific measures you will take to involve those with lived experience in your project.



How will you work to ensure that you're effectively networked and ensure voice and representation of the Black led VCS? (up to 300 words) *(required)



Outline your approach to networking and ensuring the voice and representation of the Black led VCS. Describe the methods you will use to build and maintain connections, such as organising networking events, establishing advisory boards, and creating communication channels. Emphasise the importance of inclusive and participatory processes.

Borough Wide Digital inclusion

Approach and track record



What do you think are the needs in relation to borough-wide digital inclusion? Please consider intersectional needs of the communities



served, for example those who are also Black, LGBTQ+, disabled, older, or sanctuary seekers (up to 300 words) *(required)

Identify the key barriers to digital inclusion in the borough, such as lack of access to devices, internet connectivity, digital skills, and support. Highlight the specific needs of different communities and how addressing these needs can improve overall digital inclusion.



What experience do you have in delivering Digital Inclusion services? (up to 300 words) *(required)



Include any relevant projects, partnerships, and outcomes. Highlight your expertise in addressing digital barriers and supporting diverse communities.



Please describe your approach to delivering borough wide Digital Inclusion services for residents and to build the capacity of organisations. You will have the opportunity to list your activities and outcomes later in the application. (up to 400 words) *(required)



Outline your strategy for delivering digital inclusion services across the borough. Describe the key activities, target audiences, and expected outcomes. Explain how you will collaborate with local organisations, engage with the community, and ensure sustainability. Provide examples of successful initiatives and how you plan to build on them.

Borough wide capacity building support for Arts organisations and freelancers

Approach and track record



What do you think are the needs of arts organisations and freelance artists in Lewisham? (up to 300 words) *(required)



Identify the key challenges faced by arts organisations and freelance artists in Lewisham, such as funding, access to spaces, networking opportunities, and professional development.



What is your experience in providing support for arts organisations or freelance artists in Lewisham? What successful initiatives have you led on or supported when working with Arts organisations or freelance artists in the borough? Please give examples including projects and who you have worked with. (up to 300 words) *(required)



Summarise your organisation's experience in supporting arts organisations and freelance artists in Lewisham. Include any relevant projects, partnerships, and outcomes.



How will you support the efforts of arts organisations and freelance artists across Lewisham? Describe your strategy and the types of support



activities you will undertake. You will have the opportunity to list your activities and outcomes below. (up to 400 words) *(required)

Summarise your strategy and key activities for supporting arts organisations and freelance artists across Lewisham and how addressing the needs described in the previous question will enhance the cultural landscape of the borough. Remember that you will have a chance to list activities, targets and outcomes further down in the application.



How will you help us to develop and deliver the Lewisham Cultural Strategy and support the work of the Lewisham Cultural Partnership? (up to 400 words) *(required)



Explain how your work aligns with the borough's cultural priorities and how you will support the growth and sustainability of these initiatives. In order to respond to this question, it is essential for applicants to be familiar with Lewisham's Cultural Strategy and be engaged with the Lewisham Cultural Partnership.

Lewisham Cultural Strategy



What is Lewisham's Cultural Strategy?

Lewisham's Cultural Strategy – We Are Lewisham 2022-2028 outlines a bold and inclusive vision for embedding culture at the heart of community. It is structured around four key priorities, each with its own rationale, goals, and actions.

Creative Communities: Focuses on increasing cultural participation across all communities, especially those currently underrepresented. It aims to empower residents as cultural producers and consumers, fostering inclusion, wellbeing, and social cohesion.


Creative Places: Seeks to animate Lewisham's public spaces and neighbourhoods through cultural activity. This includes supporting place-based cultural development and ensuring that culture is embedded in regeneration and planning.


Creative Enterprise: Supports the growth of Lewisham's creative economy by nurturing talent, supporting freelancers and small businesses, and creating pathways into creative careers—especially for young people and marginalised groups.


Creative Connections: Builds partnerships across sectors and boroughs to amplify Lewisham's cultural offer. This includes collaborations with institutions like Goldsmiths, Trinity Laban, and the Horniman Museum, as well as cross-borough and pan-London initiatives


[Read the full We Are Lewisham: A Cultural Strategy 2022-2028](#)


Approach and track record


 **What is your track record of working with Lewisham's arts sector and engaging with the council and our work, such as the Borough of Culture? (up to 300 words) *(required)**

 Highlight any relevant projects, partnerships, and outcomes that demonstrate your commitment to supporting the local arts community.


 **Tell us how your activities will support the delivery of the Lewisham Cultural Strategy and the work of the Lewisham Cultural Partnership? (up to 400 words) *(required)**

 Describe your approach, explain how your activities align with the borough's cultural priorities and how you will support the growth and sustainability of these initiatives. In order to respond to this question, it is essential for applicants to be familiar with Lewisham's Cultural Strategy. See below (page 23) for further details.

 **Please describe the benefits that you will bring to the wider arts and culture sector through your work (up to 300 words) *(required)**

 Summarise how your initiatives will enhance the cultural landscape, support diverse artistic practices, and foster community engagement. Note you will have the opportunity to list impacts and how you will evidence them further down in the application form.

 **How will your work showcase Lewisham and the Borough of Culture legacy? (up to 300 words) *(required)**

 Describe your strategies for showcasing the borough's artistic achievements and engaging with the community to celebrate its cultural identity.

Sports

What is Lewisham's Physical Activity Strategy?

Sport and physical activity organisations such as (but not limited to) local football / basketball clubs clearly align with Lewisham Council's Main Grants Programme priorities, particularly under the 'borough-wide infrastructure' and 'capacity-building' areas of support for sports groups. Sports / physical activity organisations offer far more than recreational value — they foster community cohesion, reduce social isolation, and contribute to better mental and physical health outcomes for our residents. By creating inclusive environments where people can connect, set goals, and build resilience, they offer a vital community resource that supports wellbeing and personal development, as stated in our Physical Activity Strategy.

Accessing funding to build organisational capacity can help to strengthen governance practices, expands outreach, helps to train volunteers and improves referral pathways.

This will assist in deepening the impact organisations can make by enabling further engagement with underserved communities, and contributes to the borough's wider strategic goals around health, inclusion, and equal access to services.

[Read Let's Get Lewisham Moving - our physical activity strategy for 2023-2028 here.](#)

Approach and track record



What do you think are the needs in relation to capacity building support for sports organisations in Lewisham? (up to 300 words) *(required)



Identify the key challenges faced by sports organisations in Lewisham, such as funding, access to facilities, volunteer recruitment, and training.



What is your experience in providing support for Sports organisations in Lewisham? What successful initiatives have you led or supported when providing support for Sports organisations? Please give examples including projects and who you have worked with (up to 300 words) *(required)



Include any relevant projects, partnerships, and outcomes. Highlight your expertise in addressing the challenges faced by the sports organisations in Lewisham.



How will you support the efforts of Sports organisations at a borough wide level? Describe how your project will align with Lewisham's Physical Activity Strategy and the types of support activities you will undertake. You will have the opportunity to list your activities and outcomes below. (up to 400 words) *(required)



Summarise your strategy and key activities for supporting sports organisations across Lewisham and how addressing the needs described in the previous question will enhance sports organisations' capacity. Remember that you will have a chance to list activities, targets and outcomes further down in the application.

Adults with learning disabilities

We are prioritising adults with learning disabilities as we recognise this has historically been a significant priority of the Main Grants programme, funding a number of organisation over time. As such we want to ensure that the sector is supported through specific capacity building to remain resilient and embedded in our developing place-based approach.

The Lewisham Disabled People's Commission Report

The Lewisham Disabled People's Commission Report explores the barriers faced by Deaf and disabled people living or working in the borough. Established in December 2019, the Commission was tasked with investigating these challenges and making recommendations to improve equality, accessibility, and inclusion across Lewisham.

The report covers experiences of discrimination and exclusion, access to services and support, barriers in employment, housing, and public spaces.

It also makes recommendations for systemic change, including co-production with disabled residents and better implementation of the Social Model of Disability

Find link to this and other reports on the [Community Funding Grant Support Hub's Report and Strategy document library](#).

Approach and track record



What types of capacity-building support do you think are most needed by groups working with adults with learning disabilities in Lewisham? Please consider intersectional needs of the communities served, for example those who are also Black, LGBTQ+, older, or sanctuary seekers (up to 300 words) *(required)



Identify the key challenges faced by groups working with adults with learning disabilities in Lewisham, such as funding, access to resources, training, and advocacy.



What is your experience in providing support for specific communities and/or organisations working with adults with learning disabilities in Lewisham? What successful initiatives have you led or supported when providing support for these groups? Please give examples including projects and who you have worked with. (up to 300 words) *(required)




Include any relevant projects, partnerships, and outcomes. Highlight your expertise in addressing the challenges faced by these groups and supporting their efforts to improve the lives of adults with learning disabilities.




How will you support the efforts of groups across Lewisham working with adults with learning disabilities? Describe your strategy and the types of support activities you will undertake. You will have the opportunity to list your activities and outcomes below. (up to 400 words) *(required)




Summarise your strategy and key activities for supporting organisations working with adults with learning disabilities across Lewisham and how addressing the needs described in the previous question will enhance these organisations' capacity. Remember that you will have a chance to list activities, targets and outcomes further down in the application.

 **How are adults with learning disabilities, particularly those with lived experience of marginalisation, involved in the design, delivery or governance of your project? (up to 300 words) *(required)**


 Highlight the specific measures you will take to involve those with lived experience in your project.


 **How will you link with key strategies and policy initiatives such as our work on delivering the outcomes of the Disabled People's Commission? (up to 300 words) *(required)**


 Tell us what you know about the work that is underway, what the strategies are and how you would link with these to ensure your work is complementary.

LGBTQ+


Approach and track record


 **What types of capacity-building support do you think are most needed by groups working with LGBTQ+ communities in Lewisham? Please consider intersectional needs of the communities served, for example those who are also Black, disabled, older, or sanctuary seekers. (up to 300 words) *(required)**

 Identify the key challenges faced by groups working with LGBTQ+ communities in Lewisham, such as funding, access to resources, training, and advocacy.

 **What is your experience in providing support for specific communities and/or organisations working with LGBTQ+ communities in Lewisham? What successful initiatives have you led or supported when providing support for these groups? Please give examples including projects and who you have worked with. (up to 300 words) *(required)**

 Include any relevant projects, partnerships, and outcomes. Highlight your expertise in addressing the challenges faced by these groups and supporting their efforts to improve the lives of LGBTQ+ communities in Lewisham.

 **How will you support the efforts of groups across Lewisham working with LGBTQ+ communities? Describe your strategy and the types of support activities you will undertake. You will have the opportunity to list your activities and outcomes below. (up to 400 words) *(required)**

 Summarise your strategy and key activities for supporting organisations working with LGBTQ+ communities across Lewisham and how addressing the needs described in the previous question will enhance these organisations' capacity. Remember that you will have a chance to list activities, targets and outcomes further down in the application.



How are LGBTQ+ people, particularly those with lived experience of marginalisation, involved in the design, delivery or governance of your project? (up to 300 words)



Highlight the specific measures you will take to involve those with lived experience in your project.



Please describe how your organisation will ensure meaningful inclusion and support for trans, non-binary and gender-diverse people. What specific steps will you take to understand and meet the distinct needs of these communities? (up to 300 words) *(required)



Highlight the specific measures you will take to create a welcoming and safe environment for trans individuals. Explain how you will address the unique challenges faced by trans communities and ensure that their needs are met.

Sanctuary seekers

Approach and track record



What types of capacity-building support do you think are most needed by groups working with sanctuary seekers in Lewisham? Please consider intersectional needs, for example those of sanctuary seekers who are also Black, disabled, older, or LGBTQ+. (up to 300 words) *(required)



Identify the key challenges faced by groups working with sanctuary seekers in Lewisham, such as funding, access to resources, training, and advocacy.



What is your experience in providing support for specific communities and/or organisations working with sanctuary seekers in Lewisham? What successful initiatives have you led or supported when providing support for these groups? Please give examples including projects and who you have worked with. (up to 300 words) *(required)



Include any relevant projects, partnerships, and outcomes. Highlight your expertise in addressing the challenges faced by these groups and supporting their efforts to improve the lives of sanctuary seekers in Lewisham.



How will you support the efforts of groups across Lewisham working with sanctuary seekers? Describe how you're your project links to Lewisham's Borough of Sanctuary Strategy and the types of support activities you will undertake. You will have the opportunity to list your activities and outcomes below. (up to 400 words) *(required)



Summarise your strategy and key activities for supporting organisations working with sanctuary seekers across Lewisham and how addressing the needs described in the previous question will enhance these organisations' capacity. Remember that you will have a chance to list activities, targets and outcomes further down in the application.



How are sanctuary seekers, particularly those with lived experience of marginalisation, involved in the design, delivery or governance of your project? (up to 300 words)



Highlight the specific measures you will take to involve those with lived experience in your project.



How will this project contribute to wider strategic goals? Describe how you plan to share insights, influence local priorities, collaborate with other sector organisations for sector development and engage with strategic boards or networks through this work. (up to 400 words)
***(required)**



Explain how your project aligns with and supports the broader strategic goals of the borough. You can view Lewisham's reports and strategies on the [Grant Support Hub](#).

Cross sector collaboration - Will you be working with other organisations? If so, please detail their roles and your collaboration approach.

You have detailed any formal partnership agreements above - this is the section where you can tell us about other sector wide organisations you will be collaborating with and how you plan to do this.

Organisation name

Role in partnership or collaboration - i.e. referral partner etc.

Add Item

*** Please see below section on [Application questions included in all of the Main Grants application forms – neighbourhood, borough-wide and transition grants](#) (page 31) ***

Transition Grant Application Questions

Your Funding Needs



How has your organisation benefited from your Main Grant funding? (Up to 250 words) *(required)



Please include a summary of specific projects, any additional benefits gained, funding you've been able to leverage and whether and how this has supported core activities



Please tell us how you plan to use this transition grant? (up to 300 words) *(required)



Please share details of the approach and strategy you will use including details of how you will build your own capacity and resilience.



How will you work with the neighbourhoods and borough-wide projects to share your expertise? (up to 400 words) *(required)



Please tell us how you expect to work with others over the period of the programme to integrate your service to the developing model and neighbourhood approach.

Funding Amount

Applicants can bid for funding up to the value of their existing grants, however we encourage applicants to consider requesting less than their current amount to enable us to support more of our grant-funded organisations



How much funding are you applying for through the Main Grants Transition Fund. Please give a total figure which should cover the full 3 year programme. *(required)



See the section How much can I apply for? above (Page 11)

*** Please also see below for guidance on the additional application questions which are covered in all of the Main Grants application forms (page 31) ***

Application questions included in all of the Main Grants application forms – neighbourhood, borough-wide and transition grants



What do you plan to do?



List the activities you plan to deliver and the target numbers you aim to achieve. This will directly feed into your quarterly monitoring so keep your activities SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) and include clear target numbers. You have up to 50 words per activity and target.

Describe the activity – what it is and who it is for (up to 50 words) *(required)

Describe the target, such as the number of activities and/or the number of people involved (up to 50 words) *(required)

Add activity

Impact



What difference will your project make?



List the ways in which you expect people's lives or organisations will be improved as a result of the project. This will feed directly into your quarterly monitoring so keep your outcomes SMART and clearly state your data collection methods. [Please see a broad Theory of Change for our Infrastructure and Capacity building funds](#). You have up to 50 words per impact and reporting method.

List your outcomes - the ways in which your project will have an impact on the organisations or individuals you plan to serve (up to 50 words) *(required)

Describe how you will know these things have changed. Tell us what specific information and data you will collect, how you will collect it. This could be through surveys, feedback, case studies, data collection, photos (up to 50 words) *(required)

Add impact

Your beneficiaries



Who are your beneficiaries? Describe the organisations or individuals you plan to work with (up to 100 words) *(required)



This is your chance to tell us in your own words the type of people you aim to work with and who will benefit from your project. Be as specific as you like. Note this question does not appear on the transition grant form.

Equality and Diversity

The Council must adhere to the Equality Act 2010 when providing funding. Lewisham Council is also a Borough of Sanctuary, meaning we also strive to make our services accessible and available to sanctuary seekers (people seeking asylum, refugees and people with No Recourse to Public Funds).



Given your knowledge of the neighbourhood/priority area, do you think your offer needs to target particular communities?



Select yes if you will be aiming to attract particular communities to your project. If you answer yes, you'll be asked to identify which protected characteristics or socioeconomic categories those fall into in the next question.



If you are targeting those with a particular protected characteristic or socio economic status please select which ones. *(required)

Our offer is open to all communities and is not targeted

Age

Disability

Gender reassignment

Marriage & civil partnership

Pregnancy & maternity

Race

Religion & belief

Sex

Sexual orientation

Sanctuary seekers (Refugees, people seeking asylum and vulnerable migrants)

People facing financial hardship

Care leavers

Only tick the protected characteristics you plan to target. If your project is generally open to all communities please tick that box.

We expect that some elements of your offer will be resident facing whereas some will be focused on organisations.



Targeted Accessibility - Please tell us how you will ensure your will make your project accessible to residents from the communities you are targeting as indicated above (up to 100 words) *(required, neighbourhood application only)



This question will only appear if you have ticked that you are targeting specific communities. You will be monitored on this targeted work. Beyond usual marketing and promotion methods, how will you specifically target **Residents** from seldom heard from communities you are seeking to work with on your project, ensuring inclusive codesign with other organisations and engage effectively through tailored communication. You will be monitored on this targeted activity.



How will you ensure you will make your project accessible to residents in your neighbourhood (up to 100 words) *(required, neighbourhood application only)



This question will only appear if you have ticked that you are targeting specific communities. You will be monitored on this targeted work. Beyond usual marketing and promotion methods, how will you specifically target **residents** from seldom heard from communities you are seeking to work with on your project, ensuring inclusive codesign with other organisations and engage

effectively through tailored communication. You will be monitored on this targeted activity.



Targeted Accessibility - how will you ensure you will make your project accessible to the organisations from the communities you are targeting as indicated above (up to 100 words) *(required)



This question will only appear if you have ticked that you are targeting specific communities. You will be monitored on this targeted work. Beyond usual marketing and promotion methods, how will you specifically target **organisations** that work closely with the seldom heard from communities you are seeking to work with on your project to ensure inclusive codesign with other organisations and engage effectively through tailored communication. You will be monitored on this targeted activity.



How will you ensure you will make your project accessible to organisations in your priority area (up to 100 words) *(required)



This question will only appear if you have ticked that you are targeting specific communities. You will be monitored on this targeted work. Beyond usual marketing and promotion methods, how will you specifically target **organisations** that work closely with the seldom heard from communities you are seeking to work with on your project to ensure inclusive codesign with other organisations and engage effectively through tailored communication. You will be monitored on this targeted activity.



How will you expand your reach? Think about how you will reach out to new organisations - not just those already linked into your network. (up to 100 words) *(required, neighbourhood and borough-wide applications only)



We want to know about your strategies for identifying and engaging with these new organisations. The types of organisations you are targeting, what methods you will use to reach out to them, and how you will build relationships with them.



Promotion and marketing of your project - How will you make sure both residents and organisations know about your project and can access it? How will you highlight your successes to funders and the wider Lewisham community? (up to 100 words) *(required)



What are your strategies to promote and market your project to a wide audience. How you will tailor your messages, ensure your promotional materials are inclusive and describe how you will highlight your successes to funders and the wider Lewisham community. demonstrate a plan for raising awareness, making your project accessible, and effectively communicating your successes.


Your Timeline

We plan to have a preparation period from January to March 2026 which will include signing paperwork and agreeing timeframes. We will also discuss what we can expect from each other as far as admin, monitoring and project support is concerned. Then projects should start by April 2026 and run for 3 years.

 **Will you be able to start delivery by April 2026?*(required)**

Funding Your Project

 **What will you spend Main Grants funding on?**

 List each item of expenditure. List all the items for year 1, followed by all of the items for year 2, and finally for year 3. List main heading only except for staff where you should enter each paid staff member separately. Please calculate staff costs on the London Living Wage. Please increase the costs for years 2 and 3 to account for inflation and pay rises. Add as many rows required by selecting '+ Add item'.


Note: The Total Project Expenditure should equal the amount you are applying for from Main Grants.


Item of expenditure *(required)

Cost*(required)

Total Project Expenditure: £0.00

Add Item

 **Please confirm that your project does not require any match funding that you have not already secured.*(required)**

 Select yes to confirm that the amount of Main Grants funding applied for will fully fund this project. You will not be successful if you are awaiting confirmation of match funding.

 **Additional Funding**

 **Have you secured any additional funding that will enhance your project? Please list any additional funding and explain what added value it will bring to your project.**

Funding Source (e.g. another funder, crowdfunding, reserves, etc)

Amount

Added Value

Add Item

Understanding our expectations of you if you are successful in your Main Grants application

Funded organisations will be required to:

- Sign a Grant Agreement by end of March 2026
- Attend a mobilisation event likely to be held in March 2026
- Attend quarterly meetings during your consortium's delivery period to talk about how things are going
- Collect demographic data about your beneficiaries for your quarterly monitoring reports
- Complete quarterly monitoring reports and return these to your monitoring officer by the agreed quarterly deadlines
- Send photos and other publicity materials that can be shared to promote the Main Grants programme

Please tick this box to confirm that you have read and understood the above list of expectations of funded organisations. Failure to comply may result in withdrawal of funding.

Please tick this box to confirm that you have read and understood the above list of expectations of funded organisations. Failure to comply may result in withdrawal of funding.



Are you also planning to apply for Neighbourhood, Borough-wide or Transition Main Grants?



Please select the option that describes your intentions to apply for any of the other Main Grants in this round. Note that if you apply for a neighbourhood or borough-wide grant and are unsuccessful, you will need to have submitted a separate transition grant application in order to be considered for a transition grant. Please also check the eligibility criteria before applying to any of the Main Grants funds.

Lead Organisation

Name of Lead Contact*(required)

Lead Contact Position in Organisation (if applicable)

Lead Contact Phone Number*(required)

Lead Contact Email*(required)



Has the lead organisation received any grant funding from Lewisham Council in the last three financial years? *(required)



Which Lewisham Council fund or department have you received funding from in the past three years?

- Main grants
- Borough-wide NCIL
- Ward NCIL
- Greening Fund
- Arts Fund
- Public Health



Has the lead organisation's bank details changed in the past three years?

In order to comply with our due diligence, please upload your Public Liability Insurance and Safeguarding Policy documents as well as a recent bank statement, if you have one.

Upload or drag files here.

These can be provided at a later date, but this may affect your application and failure to provide these on request will result in delay to signing of the grant agreement and grant payments if your project is successful.



Please send us a copy of your latest Public Liability Insurance policy document. If you have also updated your Safeguarding Policy or changed banks in the past 3 years, then please upload the documents and/or a bank statement, if applicable.

Upload or drag files here.

We will need your latest public liability insurance document and, if we don't already have them, your bank details and safeguarding policy. If you have updated documents to send us, these can be provided at a later date, but this may affect your application and failure to provide these will result in delay to signing of the grant agreement and grant payments if your project is successful.



Please tick to confirm the below documents are held by your organisation:*(required)

- Constitution
- GDPR Policy
- Equality & Diversity Policy
- Last 3 Years of Accounts (or most recent 1 or 2 years of accounts for newly established organisations)
- Solo Worker Policy (if applicable)
- Volunteer Policy (if applicable)
- AQS Accreditation/ Quality Mark (if applicable)

We reserve the right to request these with 7 days notice. Failure to provide these on request may result in delay or withdrawal of grant funding.



Please provide details of your current board members.

Name

Position on board

**Length of service
on the board**

Add Item



Please upload a statement from the board on their approach to governance and management of your organisation

Upload or drag files here.



**Please upload your most recent strategic or business plan here:
Upload or drag files here.**



Number of people involved in your organisation. Please include paid staff, board members, other volunteers *(required)

Shared Values

Our shared values reflect the nature of our council. They describe what is important to us and what we can expect from each other in the way we do our work. Lewisham Council's shared values are: Ambitious, Inclusive, Collaborative, Trustworthy.

We also ask you to commit to:

- Pay London Living Wage
- Ending Modern Slavery
- Sustainability



Please confirm that you are happy to demonstrate your commitment to our shared values as outlined above: *(required)

Declaration



Please make sure you read and sign the declaration before submitting your application. You may also upload any additional documents using the upload link at the end of the form. Check you are happy with all of your responses before selecting 'Submit'.

Saving and submitting your application

It is possible to save your application and return to it later if you do not wish to complete the application all in one go. At the bottom of each application page, you will find a 'Save' button. Click on 'Save' and enter an email address where you would like the resume link to be sent to. If you have any trouble with this function, lose your resume link, or accidentally submit your application prematurely then please email us on main.grants@lewisham.gov.uk for support.

Evidencing your answers

For some questions, it may strengthen your answer to provide evidence. This could be examples from your own experience, such as things you've learned through the work you've done previously. Or this might be evidence from research reports or studies or articles found online. This evidence might show why a project is needed, why an area is lacking some infrastructure or service or why your approach to an issue is worth funding. Be sure to reference the source (publication title and author or website link) when including data or research findings.

Get support with your application

The Community Development Team will be providing a series of workshops to give potential applicants all the information you need to find out if Main Grants is right for your organisation and how to apply.

Come along to a workshop to find out more about Main Grants and how to apply. Visit communityfunding.lewisham.gov.uk

Contact the team

Main Grants Helpline: 020 8314 7249 Monday to Friday 10am to 4pm

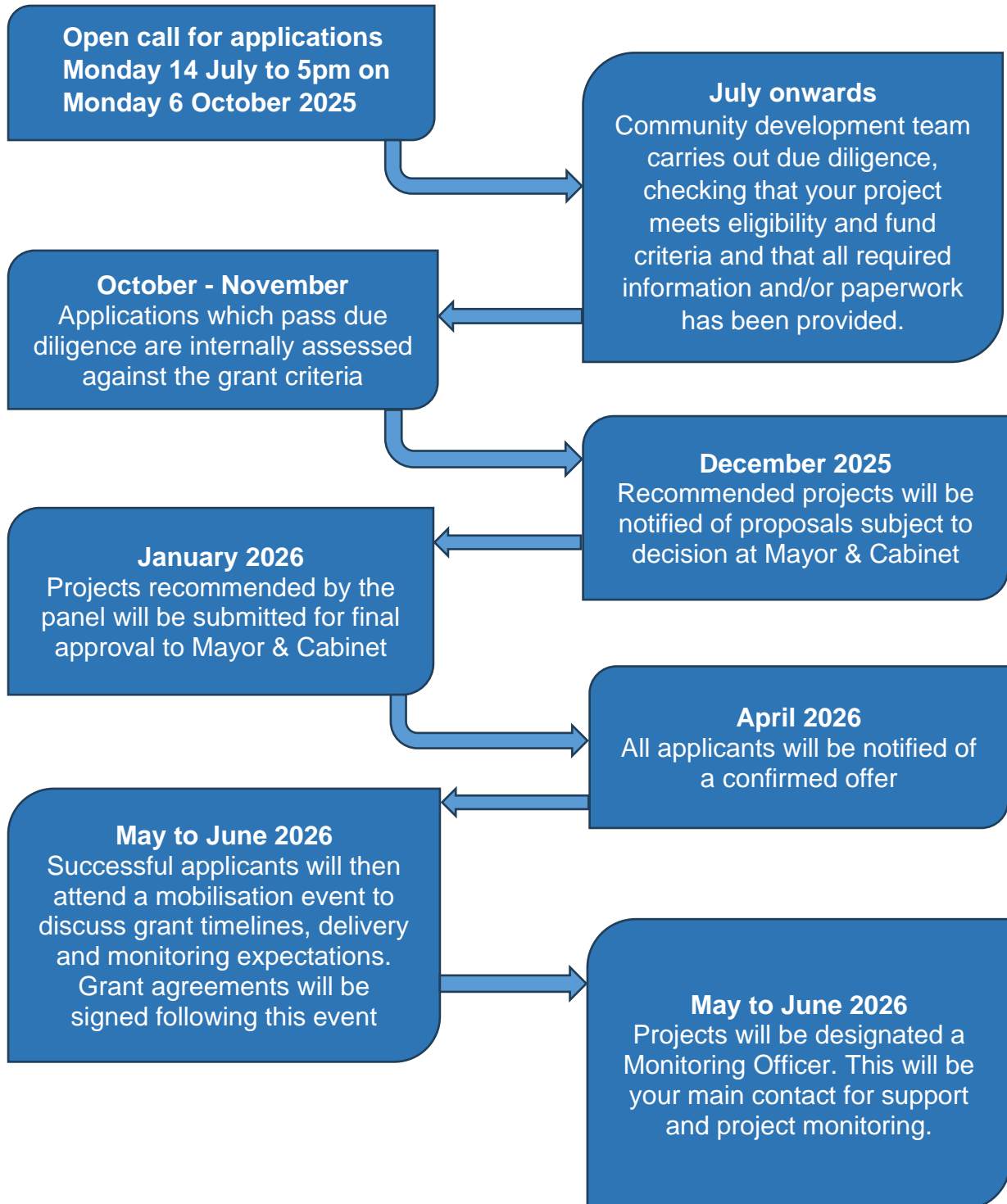
Email enquiries: main.grants@lewisham.gov.uk

Alternatively, contact the Community Development Officer for your neighbourhood:

Neighbourhood	Ward	Community Development Officer
North	Brockley, Deptford, Evelyn, New Cross Gate, Telegraph Hill	Katie Drew katie.drew1@lewisham.gov.uk
East	Blackheath, Crofton Park, Ladywell, Lee Green, Lewisham Central, Rushey Green	Sarah Lang sarah.lang@lewisham.gov.uk
South	Bellingham, Catford South, Downham, Grove Park, Hither Green	Lucy Formolli lucy.formolli@lewisham.gov.uk
West	Forest Hill, Perry Vale, Sydenham	Paul Gale paul.gale@lewisham.gov.uk

Deciding which projects to fund

Main Grants Timeline and Decision-making process



Glossary

Capacity building: the process of developing and strengthening the skills, abilities, and resources that organisations, communities, or individuals need to adapt and thrive in a changing environment. This can involve training, education, and other forms of support to enhance their effectiveness and sustainability.

Collaborative Working: Also known as joint or partnership working - covers a variety of ways that two or more organisations can work together.

Constitution: The aims and rules that a group will use. It's a statement of what the group is going to do and how it is going to do it. A constitution should provide the structure for an organisation, describe its purpose, and define the duties and responsibilities of the officers and members.

Infrastructure support: The provision of essential services, facilities, and systems necessary for the functioning and development of an organisation, community, or society.

Intersectionality: The interconnected nature of social identities such as race, gender, sexuality and disability, which can create overlapping systems of disadvantage or discrimination.

LGBTQ+: An umbrella term referring to people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, and others with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

Match Funding: Funds that are set to be paid in proportion to funds available from other sources.

Mayor and Cabinet: Makes the decisions on strategy, policy, service provision and finance and ensures that the council is run in accordance with the relevant statutory guidance and legislation.

Member: A locally elected Ward Councillor representing the local community.

Protected Characteristics: There are nine protected characteristics in the Equality Act. Discrimination that happens because of one or more of these characteristics is unlawful under the Act. The characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

Stronger Communities Partnership Board: A strategic forum in Lewisham that brings together the local authority, health partners, and the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to develop joint actions and inform strategic development.

Terms of Reference: Define the purpose and structures of a project, committee, meeting, negotiation, or any similar collection of people who have agreed to work together to accomplish a shared goal.

Trans / transgender: People whose gender identity is different from the sex they were assigned at birth. This includes non-binary people.

Ward: An electoral district within the borough represented by two or three councillors. The ward boundaries in Lewisham were changed in 2022.

Reminder: Please go to [Grant Support Hub](#) for further resources to support your application.