



Ward Pot Grants 2025-26. Application Guidance

Our aim

The Councillors' Ward Pots aims to support stronger, successful communities by making grants available to local voluntary, community, self-help groups and projects that want to make a difference in the local community. They should also contribute to at least one of the ward priorities.

Please read this guidance carefully to help you complete the application form and to ensure that your group is eligible to receive funding. If you are unsure about your project and want to discuss it further, please email localareacommittees@sheffield.gov.uk

Who can apply?

You do not need to be a registered charity or have a constitution to apply. You may apply for a grant provided that:

- Your group is not for profit.
- You have a bank account in your group's name and at least two people (not related to one another) must sign any cheque or withdrawal from the account.
- Your group can run the activity and complete the form, even if you get some help with this. The contact for the grant and the person signing the form must be a member of the group or its management committee.
- Your activities begin and costs are incurred **after** receipt of a grant. (You must also spend the entire grant and complete activities we have funded by 31 March 2026, unless agreed otherwise with the LAC team.)
- Your group or activity is open to everyone. If your activity is not open to everyone, you need to tell us why and Councillors will decide if it is eligible.
- Your activities are for the benefit of people who live in the Ward(s). If you are unsure which Ward your activities take place within, please use postcode or location of your venue on the searchable map on [Electoral wards and parliamentary boundaries | Sheffield City Council](#)

Your Local Area Committees

- North NorthLAC@sheffield.gov.uk
- North East NorthEastLAC@sheffield.gov.uk
- East EastLAC@sheffield.gov.uk
- Central CentralLAC@sheffield.gov.uk

- South SouthLAC@sheffield.gov.uk
- South East SouthEastLAC@sheffield.gov.uk
- South West SouthWestLAC@sheffield.gov.uk

We do not consider applications from:

- Other City Council departments.
- Public bodies such as Parish or Town Councils, hospitals, or health bodies.
- Educational establishments including schools, universities, or colleges. We **will** accept applications from school PTAs and Friends group if applicants can demonstrate that the application is for not for mainstream educational activity.
- Private businesses.
- Individuals, including consultants, tutors, or instructors.

We do not consider applications for:

- Activities which do not demonstrate benefit to the specific ward applied within. You should not apply to multiple wards for a single activity (e.g., a city-wide event) but should demonstrate activity and benefit, which is distinct to the ward in question.
- Activities for which there is no evidence of need or demand.
- Costs which have already been incurred before the grant has been awarded.
- Costs for which funding is already in place, for example for staffing or core costs for which other funding has already been received
- Activities primarily aimed at promoting religious or political beliefs.
- Loans, debts, or endowments.
- Flat rate volunteer expenses (as opposed to actual out-of-pocket expenses)
- Anything that might bring the Council into disrepute.
- Costs that you would reasonably expect to fund yourself.
- Management fees
- Costs for the benefit of individuals.

Completing the form

1. Complete all sections of the application form

All sections of the application form must be completed, or your application form will automatically be rejected. If you have any queries, please email localareacommittee@sheffield.gov.uk or your local area committee's generic email. (see 'Your Local Area Committees')

If possible, please provide a contact email for your application in the Contact Details section of the form. If you provide an email, we will use this as to contact you about your application, so please be sure to check it regularly. If you do not have an email, we will contact you by post at your contact address. **Please note if you are a previous Ward Pot recipient, please use the same Contact Details used in previous applications or request to change the details, especially with regards to:**

- Bank Account Name and Account Number
- Contacts Name
- Contacts Email Address

Please tell us in **question 5** which Ward you are applying to.

2. Activities & participants (Q7 to 12). Tell us what you will do with the grant, how many people you expect to take part or an **estimate** of the number, their age, sex, ethnicity, whether

they are disabled etc. Tell us the **date, time, and venue** if the grant is to pay for a one-off event. If it is to buy equipment, tell us when you will do so. For an ongoing activity, tell us the **period over which it will run**.

Please use the link to the ward priorities document on our web page ([Ward pots | Sheffield City Council](#)) to say how your priority supports one or more of those priorities.

We want to ensure that the grants we make comply with the Council's duties under the Equality Act. We do not need you to tell us how you try to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate discrimination, and foster good relations in delivering your service or activity, but we do want to be sure that you do not unintentionally discriminate against anyone with a 'protected characteristic' which includes: age, gender, sexual orientation, religion and belief, race, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership and disability. We ask you about who can participate in the activity you are applying for funding for in questions 9 and 10.

If your group/ activity is for only one gender, you will need to tell us why so that we can be sure that you are exempt from the provisions of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 as amended by the Equality Act 2010 which does not allow the Council to do anything that constitutes discrimination or harassment within the meaning of this legislation.

Please tell us any ways in which you have been able to consider the environmental impact of your project (Q11).

3. Activities taking place in a park, open space or woodland or upgrades to premises (Q13)

You must confirm that you have permission from the landowner (whether it is Sheffield City Council or another agency) to use the site for the purpose stated on your application. Your Group should keep evidence of the permission and make it available if we ask to see it. *(If your organisation does not have appropriate permission, your application will automatically be rejected.)*

4. Adequate insurance (Q14)

We ask you to confirm that adequate insurance is in place to cover any activities being delivered or items purchased (for example, public liability insurance with a minimum of £2m cover). *(If your organisation does not have adequate insurance, your application will automatically be rejected.)*

5. Child protection and the protection of young people & vulnerable adults (Q15) If you are applying for funding for a service or activity that involves working with children, young people or vulnerable adults it is your responsibility to have acceptable safeguarding policies and procedures in place which meet your legal responsibilities.

You must have a policy and procedures which are relevant and appropriate, and these must be put into practice. This includes obtaining Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and ensuring that individuals are not permitted to undertake particular activities where a disclosure casts doubt on their suitability to do so.

We do not need you to send a copy of your policy and procedures to us, but we may ask to see them or may visit your organisation to check that these policies and procedures are being put into practice. You are asked to confirm that your organisation understands and discharges its duties and responsibilities in respect of their protection. If you do not have these in place, contact us immediately, otherwise your application will be rejected. For further information and guidance on the term 'vulnerable' adult in relation to current legislation see Sheffield City Council webpage at <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/social-care>

6. Financial information (Q17 to 22)

Please tell us the major areas of funding you are seeking, for example purchase of equipment or provision of refreshments. We will contact you if we need further information or quotes.

If you want a Ward Pot Grant as a contribution to something that is more than the maximum grant available, or if you have already raised some funds but just need a grant to reach your final fundraising goal, please tell us how you have raised, or intend to raise the additional funds in Q18, including any contribution from your group's reserves. The Ward Pot Small Grant must be **spent by 31 March 2026 unless agreed otherwise with the LAC team**, so if you cannot fundraise the full amount and have not purchased the item or run the activity by 31st March 2026 you will be required to pay the grant back to Sheffield City Council.

It is likely that Ward Pots will be oversubscribed. Councillors may decide that to support as many groups as possible, they will offer grants smaller than what you have requested. If you think you cannot do what you intend without the full amount, please tell us in Q18. If you think you could still do what you intend to, for **example**, by fundraising from another source, or scaling back on the event, please tell us about this and whether it will have any negative impact on what you want to do.

Please note, we do not require you to send us a copy of the group's accounts or a financial statement showing your group's income and expenditure for the most recent 12-month period, but we expect that these documents are in place and can be made available to us if needed. If you are a fairly new group, please set up a way of recording income and expenditure, as we may ask to see this. For help with this, please contact Voluntary Action Sheffield on 0114 253 6615.

7. Political affiliation (Q16)

If your group is affiliated to a political party, please state what the affiliation is.

General Data Protection Regulation

Sheffield City Council is fully committed to full compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation. The council will therefore follow procedures which aim to ensure that all employees, elected Members, contractors, consultants, partners or other servants or agents of the council (collectively known as data users) who have access to any personal data held by or on behalf of the council are fully aware of and abide by their duties under the General Data Protection Regulation

The council regards the lawful and appropriate treatment of personal information as very important to its successful operations and essential to maintaining confidence between the council and those

with whom it carries out business. The council therefore fully endorses and adheres to the Principles of the General Data Protection Regulation.

Who decides about our application?

Application forms will be checked against the requirements in this guidance. Eligible applications will be considered by Councillors in each Ward with their views collated and passed to the LAC Manager for formal decision.

When will we find out if we have been successful?

We aim to contact you by email to tell you the outcome of your application. If you don't have an email address we will send notification through the post. On some occasions, Councillors may decide to award you a grant but for less than you applied for. You will then have the opportunity to decline this award if your activity will not be viable.

How will our grant be paid?

Grant payments will be made in one instalment by Bankers Automated Clearing Services (BACS) directly into your organisation's bank account. If your group has not had a grant or other payment from the Council before, or you tell us you have changed your account since your last payment, you will need to be set up or your details changed on our payment system.

Part of this process will involve your nominated contact receiving an email to complete a weblink. The named contact may also receive a phone call. Emails and phone calls will be made from Sheffield City Council's Trade Supplier's Team, tradesuppliers@sheffield.gov.uk. Payments cannot be made until this process has been completed.

Our Trade Supplier team will send you an email asking you to follow a link that will take you to Sheffield City Council's secure website to enter your bank details electronically. Please do not include any bank details for your group in this application form.

What do we need to do after being awarded a Grant?

If you are awarded a grant, you will need to keep to the Ward Pot Grants Conditions, which you accept by completing the *Ward Pot Grants Signature and Conditions Form 2025-26*, as part of your application. You will also need to return a monitoring form which we will send to you with your payment email. This will need to be sent back within a month of your activity ending – the sooner the better when it is fresh in your mind, but by **30th April 2026 at the latest**. Failure to return this monitoring promptly (or that of previous awards) may affect the approval of future funding applications.

If you have a query or a concern:

Please email us at: localareacommittees@sheffield.gov.uk