



Your Place, Your Priorities

Drop-In Sessions

Possible questions that might be asked:

1. How much funding is available?
A total fund of £130,000 is available. Half of the funding (£65,000) has been provided by the Scottish Government through their Community Choices Fund and the other half has been matched by Stirling Council
2. Who can apply?
Any local community, voluntary or non-profit group can apply. Even informal groups without a constitution can apply – however, informal groups must seek the support of a formal group which is willing to hold the grant award in its bank account and manage payments as the project is delivered. Payments cannot be made to individuals.
3. How do I apply for the funding?
You can apply for the funding by completing a short and simple application form. Copies of the application forms are here this evening and Council staff are here to provide advice. There is also a word version than can be completed and emailed in.
4. How much can I apply for?
You can apply for any amount between £500 and £10,000 per application.
5. What projects will meet the criteria for the funding?
The projects can be new or existing and must benefit residents in an urban or rural community within the Stirling Council area. Each project must also address at least one of the following 5 priorities:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prosperous – your project will help people to be part of a prosperous economy that promotes inclusive growth opportunities across our communities (e.g. projects that improve community access to learning, training, skills, transport and jobs) 2. Healthy – your project will help people to live active, full and positive lives within supportive communities (e.g. projects that improve physical health, mental health, good food choices or promote walking, cycling and other activity) 3. Achieving – your project will help people to become skilled and supported to make a positive contribution to our communities (e.g. project that provide opportunities for people to increase their skills and learn new things) 4. Resilient – your project will help people to be part of safe and caring communities within an attractive and sustainable environment (e.g. projects that improve community safety, promote pride of place, encourage sustainable environments or use of green spaces) 5. Year of Young People – Your project will help create opportunities for young people (e.g. projects developed by young people or that create opportunities for young people)
6. Can the funding be used for both capital and revenue spending?
Yes, all projects that meet the criteria are eligible regardless of whether it is a capital or revenue project or a mixture of both.
7. Is there any limit on how many applications one group can apply for?
No, groups can apply for more than one project, however, a separate application would be required for each project. Groups would also have to be prepared to do a separate presentation / pitch for each application they put in so make sure you have enough staff/volunteers to pitch. If you have an idea for a project that covers the whole of the Stirling Council area, 2 separate applications will be required (one for the urban area and one for the rural area)

8. Is there any limit to the annual income of the applicant group?
No, all local community, voluntary or non-profit groups can apply regardless of their annual income.
9. When is the closing date for applications?
12 noon on Friday 16 th March
10. Who do we send the applications to?
Jean Cowie, Stirling Council – details are on the application form.
11. What happens after the application closing date?
All applications will be assessed to make sure that they meet the criteria of the fund. If your project is eligible you will be asked to attend one of two live voting events taking place on Saturday 24th March . You must be prepared to present your project idea to local community members at these events. Community members then get to vote on the day and decide which projects should be funded.
12. What is the format of the voting / presentation event on the 24 March?
There will be 2 events running at the same time 10am – 2pm. The event for rural projects will take place in Callander Primary School and the event for urban project ideas will take place at Stirling High School. (We will advise you of the venue prior to the event). The first part of the event will be made up of short presentations on each of the project ideas. Members of the audience will then get to vote on which projects they want to fund – each person will be given 5 votes and must use them all. There will be a break for lunch while the votes are counted and the results will be announced early afternoon.
13. How long do I get to present my project idea?
You will be allowed a maximum of 2 minutes to present your project and then a further 2 minutes to answer any questions from the audience. Time will be strictly monitored and PowerPoint presentations are not allowed. You can be as inventive and creative with your pitch as you like! There will be no space in the room to display additional project material so please cover everything that you want to in your pitch.
14. How does the voting work?
All members of the audience who are 10 years old or older are allowed to vote. Each member of the audience will all be provided with a voting sheet which lists the projects and gives a short summary of each. Each member of the audience has 5 votes each which are equal in value (not ranked). Voters simply put a tick against their favourite 5 projects. Once everyone has voted the forms are collected in and counted over lunch.
15. Is lunch provided?
Yes, a soup and sandwich lunch is provided for all those attending. This will take place after the presentations.
16. When are the results announced?
The results will be announced on the day. The projects receiving the most votes will receive the funding. It is possible that a winning group may be awarded less than they applied for if insufficient funding remains.
17. Are the events on 24 March open to everyone?
Yes, if you are a Stirling resident you are welcome to attend and vote on the day.
18. When will the funding be released?
As soon as possible after the event. We will ask all the groups that meet the application criteria to provide us with bank details prior to the events on 24 March.
19. When do the projects need to be completed by?
We expect the projects to be completed during the financial year 2018/19.

20. How will the projects be evaluated?
We expect each successful project to complete an evaluation report highlighting the difference that the funding has made.
21. What communities do the Rural and Urban areas cover?
Urban –Wards 3,4,5,6 (except Carron Valley),7 -Dunblane, Bridge of Allan, Causewayhead, Logie, Stirling, Bannockburn, Fallin, Throsk, Cowie, Plean Rural – Wards 1 & 2 Doune and Gargunnoch and Carron Valley and all villages/towns/hamlets south, north and west of them
22. Can an individual application be submitted which includes several different communities?
If you are a group or organisation that covers the whole of the Stirling Council area and have an idea for a project that will take place in both rural and urban areas, then you should complete two separate application forms (one for the urban funding and one for the rural funding) You must also be prepared to have someone in attendance at each of the 2 events to present/pitch the idea. Then the local people from the rural areas will vote on what they would like to see funded in their area, and similarly for the urban areas. You can apply for a maximum of £10,000 per application.
23. Do we score applications when received?
No, we count the votes on the day. The successful projects will be chosen by the audience on the day.
24. Do we need to attend for the full 4 hours on 24 March?
People will be issued with a booklet of all the applications to be considered at the start of the event. The presentations will take during the morning and voting will take place over lunch with the results being announced after that. It is preferable that you stay for all the presentations and lunch as this is a community event, but if you can't, we would ask you not to leave while an applicant is pitching or answering the audience questions and cast your 5 votes before leaving.
25. Can people attend later on the 24 March?
As above, they should not enter whilst a pitch or q&a is in progress but quietly take a seat between times.
26. If children are presenting and ineligible to vote can they leave after their presentation?
As long as they leave quietly at an appropriate time as above. A crèche facility is being provided at both events (urban and rural)
27. Will this funding opportunity be repeated every year?
Stirling Council have applied to the Scottish Government's 'Community Choices' fund for this year only. This is to allow the Council to introduce participatory budgeting in the Stirling area.
28. Are Stirling Council mainstreaming this funding?
No, but Stirling Council do intend to develop participatory budgeting so that communities have more say over how Council budgets are spent. This funding is an introduction to participatory budgeting and will help us to shape how we can develop our approach in the future.