

# Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund Criteria - Winter 2023-24

The Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund has been developed to support culture and sport projects in the community with the aim of improving people's health, well-being and cultural experience.

This is a funding programme focused on encouraging community involvement and activity within Lancashire. Projects go live on the designated crowdfund platform (Spacehive) and raise money through pledges of financial support. The Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund can consider support to top up the pledges to help projects reach their target. To get a pledge from the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund, projects need to show and demonstrate broad community support by attracting individual pledges onto their campaign.

The scope of the fund is to support:

- cultural activity including art, music, literature, poetry, heritage, dance, theatre, craft, photography, film, design, museums, archives, and community arts festivals
- sporting activity including community-based sports clubs, outdoor pursuits, competitions and events, walking and gentle exercise, health and wellbeing.

Projects must deliver public benefit and not be for the purpose of profit-making activity.

Organisations, parish/town councils, and individuals will be able to apply and, providing certain criteria is met, Lancashire County Council will top-up the pledges raised, with a maximum pledge of 50% of a project's target.

There are three strands to the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund these are:

- Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund – Not-for-profit organisations: for constituted groups and organisations supporting up to 50% of a project target with a maximum contribution of £20,000.
- Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund - Parishes: for parish/town councils supporting up to 50% of a project target with a maximum contribution of £5,000.
- Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund – Individuals/businesses: for individuals or businesses running projects which are to provide a cultural / sport activity to a community on a not-for-profit basis supporting up to 50% of a project target with a maximum contribution of £1,500.

Lancashire County Council want to see projects coming forward from all parts of the county and from all communities, particularly from areas with high levels of deprivation. We are particularly interested in hearing from disadvantaged communities or those on low incomes including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and the LGBTQ+ community.

Each year Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund will have two rounds for raising money. A round is the period when campaigns are 'live' and actively seeking pledges. Each round will be up to 3 months. Applicants may have no more than 1 live project per round. Each round will have approximately £250,000 available to support projects.

Please note: in the first 2 rounds, many projects pitched to the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund with some projects receiving less than the maximum LCSF pledge and in some cases no pledge at all. Pledges are awarded based on those projects that mostly strongly meet the priorities of the fund. Not all projects fundraising on Crowdfund Lancashire have received an LCSF pledge.

Projects who have been successful in previous rounds may not be prioritised to receive the maximum pledge amount in future rounds.

All projects supported through Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund will be required to submit monitoring and evaluation information to Lancashire County Council which will be used for promotional purposes and producing annual reports ensuring full accountability and transparency. Project creators with completed projects that do not return monitoring, documentation and evaluation will not be considered for support in future rounds.

The criteria of the fund is below:

- Projects must be based in the Lancashire County Council administrative area (explained below) and benefit residents.
- To be eligible for this fund your project must support cultural or sporting activity of benefit to the wider community.
- Please note: organisations with an annual turnover of more than £500,000 are ineligible to apply in this round.
- For the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund – Organisations: your group must be constituted in some way, have a group bank account (requiring two signatures) and be a not-for-profit organisation designed to deliver benefit to the community (and not designed to create a profit/dividends for shareholders). CICs (Community Interest Companies) and CIO (Community Interest Organisations) are deemed eligible as their activities generate revenue which in turn fund activities that deliver community benefit. The top-up funding eligible for groups and organisations from a Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund round is a maximum of £20,000
- For the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund – Parishes: This is for constituted parish/town councils running a project for community benefit. The top-up funding eligible for parishes/town councils from a Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund round is a maximum of £5,000.
- For the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund – Individuals/Businesses: This is for individuals or businesses running a project for community benefit. The top-up funding eligible for individuals/businesses from a Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund round is a maximum of £1,500.
- District councils cannot directly apply for funding but can officially partner with a local community group or parish/town council who would apply for the funding. The district council can offer support and can be involved in the delivery of the project, but the organisation, parish/town council or individual/business must lead on the project and be the accountable body.
- Projects involving activities or events must be free or low-cost to all. Events and/or activities that are free of charge may be prioritised. Lancashire County Council reserves the right to review all project costs and make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Projects must start within 12 months from the end of the funding round period. One-off events or festivals must take place within 6 months of the end of the funding round crowdfunding period.

**Projects should contribute to at least one of the following county council's Corporate Priorities:**

- Delivering better services
- Protecting our environment
- Supporting economic growth
- Caring for the vulnerable

For more information, see [Corporate priorities - Lancashire County Council](#)

**Priorities for the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund:**

- Priority will be given to projects that improve access to culture and sport, contribute to the county council's Corporate Priorities and to projects that enable free or low-cost activity for public benefit.
- Priority will be given to Lancashire led organisations/individuals.
- Events and/or activities that are free of charge may be prioritised.
- Free access events with a direct benefit to participants are likely to receive a higher percentage pledge from LCC than paid for events or festivals where there may not be any direct participation benefit.
- A higher percentage pledge may be considered if a project is delivering in an area with identified need for cultural or sporting activity.
- Capital projects which will help widen participation and allow more people to access cultural activity are a higher priority than restoration projects or improvements to facilities such as heating which do not have a direct benefit for access.
- Where there are several similar projects from the same locality, it is likely that 1 or 2 projects may be prioritised, in accordance with the eligibility criteria.
- If you have received a pledge of over £10,000 in one round you will be a lower priority in the next round.

Lancashire County Council reserves the right to review all project costs and make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

**What can we fund:**

- Projects must be based in and benefit residents in Lancashire (Lancashire County Council area).
- Projects must contribute to community based cultural or sporting activity.
- Projects must benefit the wider community and be open to all
- Projects must contribute to improving places, spaces, or residents' quality of life.
- Projects should involve the public as audience or participants.
- The funding must have a specific purpose and not towards overall organisational costs.

- If the funding is for a capital purchase, it must be for the benefit of the public and have significant impact on culture and/or health and wellbeing.
- Projects should be well planned and managed adhering to all legal obligations, health and safety, risk assessment, public liability, safeguarding requirements and obtaining any relevant permissions.

#### **What can't we fund:**

- Activities which have already taken place or are underway.
- Projects put forward for schools (unless administered by the Parent Teachers Association which is classed as a Not-for-profit organisation) – see above under 'For the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund – Organisations’).
- Any projects that take place outside the administrative borders of Lancashire County Council.
- Projects supporting private interests or profit-making.
- Projects taking place to specifically raise funds for charity campaigns, or which will raise money for future non-profit activity/projects.
- Projects that exclude any particular groups in society or those with protected characteristics.
- Religious groups may apply for projects providing public benefit. However, projects that are part of a campaign to promote particular religions, faiths, or political ideologies are ineligible.
- We are not able to fund or backfill statutory provision, local authority teams or district council projects.
- We cannot fund or contribute to the purchasing of property and buildings. We can, however, make contributions to adaptations and improvements to properties once purchased or built, where there is a tangible community benefit from the proposed improvements.
- Capital purchases must clearly demonstrate how they improve access to culture or sport. Capital purchases must do more than improve the quality of experience. They must offer direct cultural impact and/or impact to physical activity to the project's audience and/or participants. Replacement heating and lighting is ineligible.
- Festivals will need to demonstrate that their event will have a lasting impact on the community and offer tangible benefit to visitors.
- Refurbishments of historical venues are not considered as having strong cultural benefit and are not eligible for funding, unless the project also includes a programme of activity that improves access to culture and/or sport.
- Organisations with an annual turnover of more than £500,000 are ineligible to apply.
- We cannot fund projects that are for the improvement of an individual or group's cultural or sporting practice. Projects must offer benefit to the wider community.
- We cannot fund tours or attendance at events outside of Lancashire.

If a funding round is over-subscribed, Lancashire County Council reserves the right to reduce the maximum amount allocated for funding.

#### **Lancashire County Council administrative area**

To be eligible for a pledge from the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund, at least 60% of the activity must take place in one or more of the following districts:

Burnley, Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Lancaster, Pendle, Preston, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, South Ribble, West Lancashire, Wyre.