



What is the Vibrant Places and Communities Fund (VPCF)?

- The VPCF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) can support projects which improve local pride in place, breathe life into towns, high streets, and local neighbourhoods and address challenges experienced by communities to make a difference for local people.
- Dudley Council as the opportunity to utilise the Spacehive crowdfunding platform to deliver grant funding projects on a pilot basis until March 2025.
- Eligible projects can receive a VPCF pledge of up to £20,000 or 60% of the project target, whichever is lower.
- Projects will need to evidence both fund eligibility and local support to be considered for a pledge from Dudley Council.
- Both revenue and capital costs can be pledged to projects.
- All projects must have a wider social benefit and cannot be for-profit projects.
- Projects need to benefit Dudley Borough and its people.
- Before the council proposes to contribute towards a project, the owners of the project are required to sign up to the terms and conditions displayed on the crowdfunding website.
- Once the 100% crowdfunding target is reached for your project, all funds pledged from VPCF will be released and the project can be delivered.

What projects is the VPCF eligible to fund?

- Funding can be used for initiatives, activities, events and their delivery costs as well as for buildings/infrastructure repairs, refurbishment or equipment for wider community benefit.

Examples of projects VPCF would be eligible to fund:

- Creation/improvement of green spaces, including urban greening, parks, nature reserves, visitor centres, and waterways.
- Projects which help to tackle social barriers and challenges, such as poverty, ill health, access to services, isolation and/or loneliness, reducing inequality and promoting common good.
- Food equity projects e.g. Create or improve community gardens, growing projects, field to fork initiatives.
- Local activities, events, festivals, celebrations.
- Arts projects including street art, pop up exhibitions, locally led music and theatre performances, public film screenings.
- Delivery of outreach/engagement/participatory programmes.
- Campaigns or events that promote the local area.
- Funding for community spaces, such as village halls, or community centres for wider community benefit.
- Projects which generate and circulate value and opportunity within the local economy.
- Support resilience to global issues.
- Initiatives to encourage active travel.



Organisations pitching and seeking a pledge must be one of the following:

- Community Interest Company.
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
- Company Limited by Guarantee.
- Social Enterprise.
- Registered charity and exempt charities.
- Public body that delivers or hosts community projects.
- Voluntary Group with a constitution, committee and its own bank account.

VPCF is unable to pledge to these groups:

- Private companies unless they fall into the above criteria.
- Statutory service providers.
- Groups proposing projects with a political affiliation.
- Individuals (the fund is for organisations with legal status only).
- Educational institutions and religious organisations whose venue or facility is not accessible to the wider community. The project must have a demonstrable benefit to the wider community and not just their own students or congregation, or be held in a public space.

Other important information:

- The funding will continuously run throughout the year, on a first come, first serve basis (subject to meeting the above criteria).
- If a community organisation wishes to crowdfund more than one project at a time and they feel they can fundraise and deliver, both simultaneously, please note that the funding is capped to £20,000 from each fund **per organisation** not per project.
- The maximum pledge available from each fund is: £20,000 from Vibrant Places and Communities fund and £20,000 from NCIL fund = £40,000 total maximum pledge **per organisation**.
- Dudley Council's panel will consider making a VPCF pledge to a project once it has reached 10 backers through your Spacehive campaign.
- Organisations should have ended their crowdfunding campaigns no later than 24 February 2025.

How to begin crowdfunding and pitch to Crowdfund Dudley Borough:

- Get started and create your project page at www.spacehive.com/movement/dudley
- Find out more by visiting www.spacehive.com/movement/dudley/supporters
- Should you have any questions contact Spacehive's Project Success Team at support@spacehive.com for assistance.
- Dudley Council can be contacted at email crowdfund@dudley.gov.uk