



HOUNSLOW THRIVING COMMUNITIES FUND

Sustainability Grant Guidance

2026 - 27



**London Borough
of Hounslow**

Thriving Communities Fund: Sustainability Grant 2026/2027

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1. Introduction

The Thriving Communities Fund (TCF) Sustainability Grant replaces the previous TCF Revenue Grant. It represents a new approach to supporting Hounslow's voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector by investing in the sustainability and resilience of organisations rather than individual projects.

Local organisations play a vital role in supporting residents and strengthening communities, but many are facing increasing demand, rising costs and a challenging funding environment. Rather than funding a specific project or service, the Sustainability Grant is designed to invest in organisations themselves.

Through unrestricted funding and tailored support, the grant aims to help local organisations become more sustainable, resilient and better able to support Hounslow residents.

This grant will invest £100,000 in local VCSE organisations and combines flexible funding, dedicated support and access to wider opportunities.

2. Grant Objectives

The TCF Sustainability Grant is designed to help local VCSE organisations:

- Build stronger, more resilient organisations.
- Improve the way they are run and managed.
- Respond to the needs of their communities.
- Access funding through a straightforward application process.
- Develop plans for the future.
- Benefit from new skills, partnerships and support networks.
- Become more sustainable beyond the life of the grant.

Corporate Plan Priorities

The Sustainability Grant aims to support organisations that contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan priorities. We are particularly interested in supporting organisations whose work helps improve outcomes for Hounslow residents in one or more of the following areas:

Early Childhood	Supporting organisations that help children, young people and families thrive, ensuring residents have the best possible start in life.
Learning and Opportunity	Supporting organisations that help children and young people develop skills, confidence, wellbeing and aspirations, enabling them to thrive, participate and achieve their potential.
Work	Strengthening organisations that support residents to access employment, skills, training and progression opportunities, helping more people benefit from good work
Community Life	Investing in trusted local organisations that strengthen community connections, encourage participation and volunteering, reduce isolation and help residents feel connected to their communities
Healthy Life	Supporting organisations that improve health, wellbeing and independence through preventative, community-based support and action to reduce health inequalities

3. Amount Available and Key Dates

- The Sustainability Grant has a budget of £100,000.
- Applicants can apply for between £10,000 and £15,000.
- We expect to fund approximately 8 to 10 organisations through this grant.

Funding Type

Funding is provided as unrestricted funding, enabling organisations to use funding where it will have the greatest benefit to their sustainability, development and impact.

Eligible Expenditure

As this is unrestricted funding, the examples below are illustrative rather than exhaustive. Funding may be used towards:

- Staffing costs
- Rent and premises
- Systems and digital infrastructure
- Volunteer/staff support and development
- Governance improvements
- Organisational development activity
- Service delivery costs
- Community engagement activities
- Other reasonable organisational costs that support sustainability and impact

Key Dates

Milestone	Date
Applications open	21 August 2026
Applications close	30 September 2026
Assessment conversations	w/c 19 October 2026
Funding decisions	November 2026
Grant delivery and support begins	November 2026
Grant delivery and support ends	December 2027

4. Who Can Submit a Proposal?

We Can Fund

Applications are welcomed from not-for-profit constituted voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations, including:

- Registered charities
- Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs)
- Community Interest Companies (CICs)
- Companies Limited by Guarantee (without share capital)
- Constituted community and voluntary organisations

Hounslow Connection

To be eligible, organisations must:

- Deliver activities or services within Hounslow.
- Primarily benefit Hounslow residents.

Priority will be given to:

- Organisations based in Hounslow.
- Organisations working within [Equality Opportunity Areas](#). The areas of the Borough with the highest levels of inequality.

Organisational Size

The grant is primarily aimed at small and medium-sized VCSE organisations with an annual income of up to £300,000.

We may consider organisations with a higher income where there is a clear case for support and alignment with the aims of the grant.

Governance Requirements

Organisations should also have appropriate governance arrangements in place, including:

- A formal governing document.
- A bank account in the organisation's name.
- A minimum of three unrelated trustees, directors or management committee members.

5. Support Offer

The Sustainability Grant combines unrestricted funding with tailored support to help organisations build their resilience, strengthen their capacity and plan for the future. Each funded organisation will have a named Grant Manager who, alongside Ealing and Hounslow CVS, will work with them throughout the grant period to:

- Build a trusted working relationship.
- Help identify priorities and areas for development.
- Provide support and constructive challenge.
- Connect organisations with relevant networks, opportunities and partners.
- Support future planning and succession.
- Help organisations access additional support where needed.

Support may include:

- Governance and leadership
- Financial management and planning
- Funding and sustainability advice
- Monitoring, evaluation and impact
- Safeguarding and policy development
- Volunteer management
- Partnership and collaborative working
- Communications and visibility

Support will be tailored to the needs and priorities of each organisation.

Networks and Opportunities

Funded organisations may also be connected to:

- Corporate and skilled volunteering opportunities
- Social value opportunities
- Pro bono support from local businesses
- Funding and fundraising opportunities
- Partnership and collaboration opportunities
- Relevant Council teams and services
- Peer learning and networking opportunities

Funded organisations will be invited to take part in regular networking and learning sessions.

6. How to Apply

Stage 1: Short Application

Applicants will be asked to respond to two questions:

1. How will this funding enable your organisation to be more sustainable?
2. How will this benefit Hounslow residents?

Applications can be submitted either in writing or by video. Both formats will be assessed equally and there is no advantage to choosing one format over the other. We encourage you to select the format that works best for your organisation.

Applications need to be made via our [grants portal](#). Any issues please contact the Thriving Communities team via community.development@hounslow.gov.uk

Stage 2: Assessment Conversation

Shortlisted organisations will be invited to participate in a structured conversation with the TCF Grant Managers lasting approximately 30-45 minutes. These conversations will take place online via MS Teams during the week commencing 19 October 2026

We are interested in understanding your organisation and its potential rather than assessing grant-writing ability.

We are committed to making the assessment process accessible. If you have any communication or accessibility requirements, please let us know and we will work with you to ensure you can participate fully.

7. How Applications Will Be Assessed

Applications and assessment conversations will be considered against:

- The potential benefit for Hounslow residents.
- The organisation's need for, and readiness to benefit from, the support offer.
- How the funding could strengthen the organisation's sustainability and resilience.
- The organisation's contribution to one or more Corporate Plan priorities.
- Supporting a fair geographic spread of funding across Hounslow.
- Supporting organisations working with residents experiencing inequality or disadvantage, including within Equality Opportunity Areas.
- Previous funding received through the Thriving Communities Fund.

Please note that demand is expected to exceed the funding available. Funding decisions will take account of the assessment criteria, the available budget and the overall balance of awards across the TCF programme.

What We Are Not Looking For

We are not looking for:

- Professionally written applications.
- Complex budgets or technical language.
- Organisations with dedicated fundraising capacity.

We are interested in understanding your organisation, the difference you make for Hounslow residents, and how the funding and support offer could help strengthen your organisation.

Decision Making

TCF Grant Managers will review applications and present them to a cross-council assessment panel. Recommendations will then be made to the Chief Executive Officer, who has delegated authority from Cabinet to make the final funding decisions.

8. Monitoring and Learning

Monitoring will be proportionate and focused on learning, reflection and organisational development.

Funded organisations will be supported by their Grant Manager throughout the grant period and will be asked to provide:

- A short summary of how the funding was used.
- Key organisational improvements achieved.
- Examples of the difference the funding has made for the organisation and Hounslow residents.
- Reflections on learning, challenges and future plans.

9. Supporting Information

Applicants are not required to submit supporting documents as part of the initial application process.

Where required, shortlisted organisations or successful applicants may be asked to provide information to confirm eligibility, governance or financial arrangements before funding is awarded. This may include:

- Governing document or constitution
- Recent accounts or financial information
- Bank account details
- Relevant insurance documentation
- Safeguarding policies where applicable

Other information reasonably required to support funding decisions or grant administration

We aim to request only the information necessary and to minimise unnecessary administrative burden on applicants.

10. Accessibility

If you require information in an alternative format or need support to access the application process, please contact the Thriving Communities Fund team and we will do our best to assist.

11. Further Information and Support

You can contact the Thriving Communities Grant Managers throughout the process to discuss your application and we encourage you to get in touch via:

- Michelle Hutchinson: michelle.hutchinson@hounslow.gov.uk t. 020 8583 2454
- Halima Hussain: halima.hussain@hounslow.gov.uk t. 020 8583 2512

Please be aware that if you contact us within a week of a fund deadline, we may not be able to respond in time so please contact us as early in the process as possible.

	For support with funding searches and applications, developing your organisation, policies and procedures, or IT support, please contact the Hounslow CVS on • 020 3096 4250 • iain@ehcvs.org.uk • https://ehcvs.org.uk To receive or feature in their regular e-newsletters contact iain@ehcvs.org.uk
	Hounslow Volunteer Centre is the official volunteer centre for the London Borough of Hounslow. They can support you with recruiting and managing volunteers. Contact them: • https://ehcvs.org.uk • whitley@eahcvs.org.uk
	Evolve is the e-newsletter for the community and voluntary sector. Featuring useful information about funding, events, training, and other opportunities. You can also use it to promote your activities. • Email 'Subscribe to Hounslow' in the email subject title to: community.development@hounslow.gov.uk
	We require all grantees to have a page on Hounslow Connect to promote their services: • https://hounslowconnect.com Contact hounslowconnect@hounslow.gov.uk for more details