

# COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

## 'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

# ALERT



17 June 2025

## East Ayrshire Council – Anti-Poverty & Inequalities Grant

East Ayrshire Council has created an Anti-Poverty and Inequalities Grant Programme which is targeted at providing resources for innovative projects which will help to tackle poverty. Applications are welcome from any constituted third sector partner who would like to propose new initiatives, enhance a current initiative, or add long term sustainability to a current initiative.

Projects should be connected to one or more of the Strategy's themes of

- household poverty
- child poverty
- health and wellbeing inequalities
- building individual and community resilience
- building organisation capacity to tackle poverty

These funds are aimed at providing resources for innovative projects which will assist in tackling one (or more) of the five main themes identified. Applications are welcome from any constituted third sector partner and should propose new initiatives, an extension of current provision, or ensure the long-term sustainability of a current project.

Projects should:

- Connect to one or more of the five themes
- Be revenue projects only
- Develop, sustain or enhance activity
- Be co-produced with individuals with lived experience
- Partnerships should be formed with other local groups or, if you are an organisation based out with the community you aim to work in, local partners should be identified and engaged with.

**There is no current deadline for applications.**

**[East Ayrshire Council - Anti-Poverty & Inequalities Grant](#)**

## Groundwork UK – BUPA Foundation Green Community Grants

Grants of between £500 and £2,000 to support practical projects which benefit both people and planet health. This year, priority is given to regeneration of green spaces in or near cities for community use.

Non fee-paying schools, registered charities, not-for-profit organisations, local authorities and social housing providers from across the UK, including the Channel Islands, and Republic of Ireland can apply.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Improve (or create new) green spaces in or near cities.
- Benefit and involve the local community.
- Are located in disadvantaged areas (high Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) scores for the postcode, or a school with a significant proportion of children benefitting from free school meals).

Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to:

- Improving a local community garden for community use and recreational activities.
- Volunteer-led tree or flower planting to improve air quality and biodiversity.
- Creating an outdoor classroom, natural playground or 'forest school'.
- Creating a community food growing space.
- Creating or adapting a green space to make it more accessible.
- Creating a 'pocket park' to bring more greenery into a city.

This is not an exhaustive list and other project ideas to improve green spaces are welcomed.

Projects must be completed by the end of April 2026.

The scheme is being administered by Groundwork UK on behalf of the Bupa Foundation.

**The deadline for applications is 30 June 2025.**

[Groundwork Uk - BUPA Foundation Green Community Grants](#)

## CashBack for Communities

Grants of between £150,000 and £1.5 million are available (between £50,000 and £500,000 per year).

The funding will support projects aimed at young people most at risk of being involved in antisocial behaviour, offending or re-offending, or at risk of entering the justice system.

This phase will focus on:

- Providing safe spaces and suitable activities for young people to combat boredom, frustration, and isolation that can contribute to antisocial behaviours.
- Supporting young people to understand their value and become positive influences and leaders within their communities.
- Delivering holistic support for vulnerable young people, including their family or care environment. Where a young person may be at risk of coming into conflict with the law, support will be extended to their family and caregivers.

- Offering support for young people already in conflict with the law to reflect on past behaviours and work towards a more positive future.

Local groups and partnerships in Scotland with an annual income of £200,000 and over can apply.

**The deadline for applications is 7 August 2025.**

[CashBack for Communities](#)

## Central Scotland Green Network – Growing Food Together Fund

Grants for constituted, not-for-profit organisations that aim to promote and increase community food growing activities across Scotland.

A total of £100,000 is available for projects that:

- Improve food growing skills, particularly in poorly ranked Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) areas.
- Improve access to and understanding of the benefits of growing food.
- Enable people from all walks of life to enjoy and learn about nutritious food.

Funding for projects and activities that have a tangible community benefit, such as:

- Setting up a community-growing area where the land has been set aside for this purpose.
- Installing physical infrastructures such as raised beds or polytunnels.
- Sourcing materials and equipment to prepare sites for growing.
- Purchasing or leasing of tools and equipment.
- Making the site safe for growing, eg installing fences ensuring accessible access.
- Soil analysis testing and site research.
- Site feasibility studies or design work.
- Learning and training opportunities to increase knowledge about food growing.

Eligible costs include staff time dedicated to the project, and reasonable expenses towards volunteers, community members, and overheads such as project management or liability insurance.

The funding is for projects starting from July 2025 and ending by 28 February 2026.

To be eligible groups need to be constituted and not for profit. Eligible groups can be community groups, charities, SCIOs and social enterprises. The fund is not open to private commercial organisations.

**The deadline for applications is 4 July 2025.**

[Central Scotland Green Network - Growing Food Together Fund](#)

## Co-op – Local Community Fund

Each year, the Co-op offers grants to support projects in Co-op members' communities that provide access to opportunities and resources for people to thrive.

The Local Community Fund is seeking applications for a new round of funding, which starts in October 2025.

The new round will support projects that enable people to access food, create opportunities for young people, improve people's mental wellbeing, promote community cohesion and build sustainable futures.

The funder is also keen to support projects that promote and celebrate diversity and inclusion.

There is a total of £5 million for Co-op communities across the UK with £6,000 to share between three local causes in each community.

Successful groups will receive a minimum of £1,000 to support their projects.

Projects must take place or still be running after November 2026.

To apply, groups must:

- Be registered or based in the UK or Isle of Man
- Have their own bank account
- Deliver activity in their local community
- Be not-for-profit
- Provide a Co-op membership number for one of the people making the application (non-members can join online or via the Co-op App).

Successful groups will be part of the Local Community Fund for 12 months from 19 October 2025 to 17 October 2026. Their local cause will receive funds in November 2026.

**The deadline for applications is 6 July 2025.**

[Co-op - Local Community Fund](#)

## Cycling UK – Cycle Access Fund

Grants are available through Cycling UK's Cycle Access Fund for 2025/26 to organisations in local authority areas in Scotland covered by:

- North East Partnership for Transport (NESTRANS) (only repair strand is available).
- Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT).
- South East of Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran).
- Shetland's Partnership for Transport (ZetTrans).

Funding is for the purchase and repair of bikes for those experiencing hardship and who are least likely to have access to a cycle.

Applications will be accepted from a wide range of organisations, including:

- Charities.

- Social enterprises.
- Commercial businesses (eg, bike shops, bike repair and recycling centres).
- Local authorities.
- Educational establishments.
- Housing associations.

Funding is available in four strands:

- Individual Bike Ownership – grants for the purchase of up to 10 cycles for individuals.
- Shared Use - grants are available for the purchase of up to 10 cycles for shared use schemes.
- Recycle – grants of up to £2,000 are available for the purchase of recycled bikes for donation.
- Repair - grants of up to £2,000 are available for the costs of bike repair.
- Cycle Parking and Storage - to purchase and enhance existing facilities.

There is no limit to the amount of funding strands that can be applied for.

All applications must demonstrate that the purchase or repair of cycles will benefit those struggling financially.

The Individual Bike Ownership, Shared Use and Cycle Parking and Storage funding strands have a two-stage application process. Recycle and Repair have a single-stage application process.

**Expressions of Interest and applications are currently being accepted. The fund will close when the funds have been fully allocated or on 31 March 2026, whichever occurs soonest.**

[Cycling UK - Cycle Access Fund](#)

## Islamic Relief UK

Grants between £1,000 and £40,000 are available for voluntary, community, and social enterprise sector organisations across the UK to deliver projects supporting marginalised and vulnerable people and their communities.

In 2025, Islamic Relief UK has a total of £2 million available for projects and activities that align with the following aims:

- Building resilience to poverty:
  - Prioritise programme delivery within disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.
  - Incorporate sustainability within programme initiatives.
  - Develop the capacity of local communities to address issues of poverty.
- Combatting challenges faced by women:
  - Providing economic opportunities for women.
  - Supporting survivors of domestic abuse.
  - Developing the confidence and skills of women.
- Supporting refugee and asylum-seeking populations:

- Prioritising work that supports and promotes the rights of refugee communities.
- Engaging in projects that empower refugee communities socially and financially.
- Promoting and facilitating the development of young people and their families:
  - Engaging young people in constructive activities.
  - Encouraging youth leadership and confidence-building.
  - Supporting disadvantaged BAMER populations.

Priority will be given to organisations that can demonstrate:

- Strong local or subject area expertise.
- Working to involve beneficiaries in the planning and delivery of their programmes.

Funding can be used to cover project delivery costs, such as staff salaries, room hire, equipment and materials, or organisational and core costs proportional to the size of the project, such as rent, heating, or insurance costs.

**The deadline for applications is 7 July 2025.**

[Islamic Relief UK](#)

## Parkinson's UK – Physical Activity Grants for Marginalised Communities

Parkinson's UK has launched a new pilot grants programme that aims to help more marginalised communities to deliver physical activity sessions for people living with Parkinson's.

Grants of up to £3,000 are available for innovative new projects that will help marginalised Parkinson's communities who are not currently accessing physical activity opportunities and local authorities with the highest levels of deprivation indicated by the Index of Multiple Deprivation in the UK.

Funding can be offered for exercise class provision, consultation with the Parkinson's community and towards engagement events. Applicants can apply for up to 60% of their funding to contribute to physical activity sessions and 40% towards community engagement.

Applications will be accepted from:

- Community based not for profit organisations (including charities, CICs and constituted community groups)
- Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs).
- Community benefit societies and co-operatives.

To apply, applicants need to work with or be a part of one of the following marginalised communities and community groups:

- Ethnic minority groups.
- Anyone with physical or learning disabilities.
- Low affluence areas and low socio-economic groups.
- Anyone from the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant communities.
- Anyone who identifies as a woman.

Or they need to work with the Parkinson's community in any of the locations listed on the Parkinson's UK website.

Parkinson's UK is holding the following webinars. [Registration is required:](#)

- 19 June (13:30 to 14:30)
- 23 June (10:00 to 11:00)
- 9 July (13:00 to 14:00)

**The deadline for funding applications is 10 August 2025.**

[\*\*Parkinson's UK - Physical Activity Grants for Marginalised Communities\*\*](#)

## Tree Council – Branching Out Fund

Grants of between £250 and £2,500 for schools, constituted community groups and charities, community interest companies, Tree Warden networks, and other organisations across the UK to deliver tree-planting projects during the 2025/26 Winter planting season.

Through the Branching Out Fund, groups can purchase:

- Bare root, UK-sourced and grown, native trees of an appropriate size (priority will be given to younger trees that will establish better).
- UK-sourced and grown, bare-root whips (saplings) and cell-grown (root trainer) stock for hedging projects (between 40-120cm height).
- Hedgerow trees.
- Orchards, such as fruit trees on semi-vigorous, vigorous, and very vigorous rootstocks.
- Cardboard/bioplastic tree/hedge guards.
- Non-plastic ties.
- Stakes (coppiced material such as chestnut or hazel is preferred, although machined softwood will also be considered).
- Mulch.
- Non-peat-based soil improvers if needed.

The following may also be considered:

- Non-native tree varieties if appropriate to the setting.
- Non-native varieties and species that are chosen with climate change adaptation and resilience in mind.
- Fruit trees on dwarfing rootstock if the setting is appropriate.
- Trees in containers/raised beds if the reason is adequately explained and supported by a robust and comprehensive irrigation and aftercare plan.
- More robust and costly guards if the setting justifies it.

Funded projects must have been planted and groups submitted a claim form before 15 March 2026.

**The deadline for applications is 14 November 2025.**

[\*\*Tree Council - Branching Out Fund\*\*](#)

## Tree Council – Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund

Grants of between £2,500 and £10,000 for local authorities, charities, community groups, educational institutions, and landowners across England, Scotland, and Wales, to deliver and well-planned tree-planting projects that directly benefit people and communities.

The Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund will support projects that align with the following criteria:

- Clear community benefit and involvement, such as volunteering, education, or wellbeing initiatives.
- Improvements in biodiversity at the planting site.
- Clear understanding of site suitability for tree planting, based on site-specific considerations.
- Thoughtful tree selection following 'right tree, right place' principles, supported by a detailed planting plan.
- Use of UK-sourced and grown trees, preferably native species from local or community nurseries and/or those that are plant healthy certified.
- Comprehensive establishment and aftercare plan, including a commitment to maintain the trees and site for a minimum of three years.
- Willingness to provide content for external communications purposes.
- Commitment to participate in monitoring and evaluation activities post-planting.

The following criteria are also desirable:

- Close proximity to the Network Rail network (lines or stations).
- Contribution to climate resilience (eg, riparian planting, sustainable drainage in urban areas).
- Part of a wider initiative or partnership (eg, environmental, social).
- Youth involvement, including skills training or enterprise elements.
- Collaboration with a Tree Warden Network or other local community groups.
- Use of sustainable, recyclable, non-polluting, and low-impact resources and materials for tree protection.

Funding can be used for bare-root, UK-sourced, and grown native trees of an appropriate size for the projects (preference will be given to younger trees), bare-root whips (saplings), and cell-grown (root trainer) stock for hedging projects (40 to 120cm in height), hedgerow trees, and orchards. Non-native varieties may be considered if appropriate to the setting or chosen to consider climate change adaptation and resilience. Priority will be given to trees planted in the ground, however, trees planted in containers or raised beds may be considered.

Proposed projects should be completed by 1 March 2026

**The deadline for applications is 31 July 2025 (midnight).**

**[Tree Council - Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund](#)**



## Volunteering Matters – Action Earth

Grants of between £50 and £250 for volunteer groups across Scotland to respond to the ongoing nature and climate crises and support practical outdoor activities in local communities.

Through the Action Earth Grants Programme, groups can apply for funding to make environmental improvements to urban green spaces, such as planting projects or wildlife habitat creation.

Priority will be given to volunteer groups that:

- Work in areas where there is substantial social or economic deprivation.
- Improve and develop the health and well-being of their local community.
- Involve disabled people, vulnerable people, or those at risk of exclusion.
- Encourage and involve people under 26 in practical outdoor conservation.

Applications that make major environmental impacts or involve mass participation will also be considered.

A minimum of 15 volunteers must be involved in the project, each giving at least five hours of volunteering time. Sites to be worked on must be accessible to the public.

The grant can be used for plants, tools, materials. Some volunteer expenses can be claimed.

Groups must use non-peat compost and are encouraged to plant native species only. All projects need to have completed their activities by 28 February 2026.

**Applications will be accepted until all the funding has been awarded.**

[Volunteering Matters - Action Earth](#)

## W F Southall Trust

Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 for registered charities across the UK with an annual income of less than £1 million to deliver projects and activities that align with the Trust's key areas of interest.

- Quaker Work and Witness.
- Environmental Action and Sustainability.
- Peace and Reconciliation.
- Social Action.

Priority will be given to the following:

- Projects that encourage wider support of the four areas above.
- Projects where grants of up to £5,000 will make a quantifiable difference.
- Grassroots initiatives.
- Projects that show creativity and innovation.
- Projects that promote social justice, inclusion, and diversity.
- Projects that challenge structural inequalities and injustice.

- Projects that can demonstrate clear support from the communities in which they are based or operate.
- Projects that are engaged with the local community and show clear evidence of support through local giving, volunteering etc.

Funding can be used for capital and revenue costs associated with project delivery.

**Applications can be submitted at any time.**

[W F Southall Trust](#)

## Weir Charitable Trust

Grants of up to £25,000 to small charities and community groups across Scotland with an annual income of less than £150,000 to deliver projects and activities that improve the quality of life for local communities.

Due to high demand, the Trust introduced the following changes to its funding programme for 2025:

- Applications are now considered quarterly.
- The Trust's annual budget increased from £200,000 to £400,000.
- The annual income threshold increased from £125,000 to £150,000.

The Trust will support projects and activities that fall within the following categories:

- Sport - Projects to encourage and increase public participation in sport (eligible activities should involve physical skill and exertion).
- Recreational facilities - Providing or organising recreational facilities (buildings, pitches or similar) to improve the conditions of life for the people for whom the facilities are primarily intended. This is only in relation to facilities which are primarily intended for people who need them due to age, ill health, disability, financial hardship, or another disadvantage.
- Animal welfare - The advancement of animal welfare.
- Health - The advancement of health, including prevention or relief of sickness, disease, or human suffering.
- Culture - Supporting the heritage - tangible or otherwise - of Scotland, through projects that encourage participation in and preservation of Scotland's distinctive culture.

Examples of eligible activities and costs are as follows:

- Capital projects (such as equipment, fixtures, fittings, and refurbishments).
- One-off projects.
- Running costs.
- Core costs.
- Salaries.

**The next deadline is 15 August 2025.**

[Weir Charitable Trust](#)

## Woodward Charitable Trust – General Applications

Woodward Charitable Trust has changed the focus of its funding from previous years, and it now only provides grants to organisations:

- Supporting disadvantaged families with young children up to age 11.
- Working directly with children of the same age group (0-11 years).

The Trust offers grants of up to £10,000 per year for core costs for a maximum of three consecutive years. The Trustees will also continue to provide one-off grants. An organisation may receive funds for a maximum of three years in any five-year period.

Registered UK charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs), Community Interest Companies (CICs) or exempt charities with an income up to £200,000 for the last financial year and whose unrestricted reserves did not exceed 50% of income in the last financial year may apply.

Priority will be given to organisations who are working in one or more of the following areas:

- Parenting / caregiving support.
- Educational programmes for children both in and out of school, such as those that aim to boost attainment, attendance or emotional wellbeing.
- Programmes and activities that benefit children's wellbeing and development.
- Pre-natal and post-natal support services.

The Trust makes grants for core costs rather than specific projects. This includes:

- Staff salaries.
- Rent.
- Utilities.
- General office costs.
- Accountancy and audit costs.
- Fundraising.
- Governance and compliance.
- Costs supporting the core programmes of the organisation.

There are two application windows each year with applications usually considered in March and November.

**The next deadline for applications is 31 July 2025.**

[Woodward Charitable Trust - General Applications](#)

## East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline date for applications is 18 July 2025.

[East Ayrshire Council Community Grant](#)

## Renewable Energy Fund

To check the next deadline date for applications please contact Democratic Services at Council HQ on 01563 554400 for further information.

[Renewable Energy Fund](#)

## Tincornhill Quarry Fund

For further information on application criteria and deadline dates please go to:

[Tincornhill Quarry Fund](#)

## East Ayrshire 4 Community

If you are looking for external funding for a particular project then please remember to register **FREE** at East Ayrshire 4 Community by going to the following link:

[East Ayrshire 4 Community](#)