

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'



ALERT



25 May 2026

Ayrshire360 – Summer of Sport Grant Scheme

The Summer of Sport 2026 Grant Scheme will support and enable clubs and organisations to provide opportunities for children and young people in East Ayrshire (ages 3–26) to get active, stay active, remain active and improve their lives.

Activities should be free, targeted or offered at a reduced cost to maximise engagement and address barriers to participation. Funding is for activity delivered from June 2026 to March 2027.

The following are eligible to apply:

- Sports club or organisations providing sport, physical activity or outdoor adventure experiences and opportunities in East Ayrshire
- Sports clubs or organisations working with children and young people in East Ayrshire (ages 3–26)
- Sports clubs or organisations who are affiliated to East Ayrshire Sports Council or East Ayrshire Youth Work Network.
- Sports clubs or organisations who are not affiliated members can do so by contacting CommunityPathways@Ayrshire360.com and you will be supported by the appropriate staff member.

This investment provides an opportunity for partners to focus on one or more of the following key strands:

- Opportunities: Deliver a range of safe, welcoming and inclusive opportunities that reduce barriers to participation.
- Pathways: Provide accessible pathways from short-term activity into sustained participation in school, club and community sport.
- Enhancement: Build on existing provision (particularly over summer and beyond), avoid duplication and strengthen what already exists.
- Targeted: Introduce targeted initiatives where gaps exist, with a focus on long-term engagement beyond the funding period.

- Workforce: Recruit, train and retain coaches, officials, volunteers and leaders to grow local workforce capacity.
- Profile: Help raise the profile of sport locally and celebrate participation and success.

Grants of up to £7500 are available.

The first deadline for applications is 19 June 2026.

[Ayrshire360 – Summer of Sport Grant Scheme](#)

Bòrd na Gàidhlig – Early Years Fund

Bòrd na Gàidhlig has opened its Early Years Education Fund to support voluntary and third sector early years groups in Scotland delivering Gaelic sessions for children aged 0 to 3.

The grant aims to help groups provide sustained access to Gaelic early years provision, increase progression into Gaelic-medium learning at key transition stages and improve awareness among families of bilingualism and Gaelic-medium education. It also seeks to help parents access resources and opportunities to support Gaelic use with children at home and in the community.

Two levels of support are available, depending on how often sessions are delivered. Groups running one session per week can apply for up to £4,000. Groups delivering more than one session per week can apply for up to £15,000.

Support is intended for costs associated with delivering Gaelic-medium sessions for young children.

Applicants are expected to show how their group is open to and benefits the whole community, and how activities contribute to the aims of the National Gaelic Language Plan, including increasing Gaelic usage, increasing Gaelic learning and promoting a positive image of Gaelic.

Activities supported through the grant should start from 1 August 2026 and be completed by 2 July 2027.

The deadline for applications is 30 June 2026.

[Bòrd na Gàidhlig – Early Years Fund](#)

Cellnex – Community Fund

Cellnex UK is offering grants of up to £5,000 for charities, charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs), and other not-for-profit organisations across the UK to deliver community projects that empower people, enhance local environments, and promote digital and technological inclusion.

The Cellnex Community Fund will support projects that fall within one or more of the following themes:

- Digital Inclusion and Skills – Helping people to get online, build digital skills, or use technology with confidence.
- Circular Economy – Reducing waste, encouraging repair and reuse, or supporting sustainable use of materials.
- Biodiversity and Conservation – Improving local nature, protecting wildlife habitats, or supporting community environmental action.
- AI and Education – Building awareness of artificial intelligence, responsible use of technology, and STEM learning.

Organisations must have a governing body of at least three unrelated individuals and a UK bank account with two unrelated signatories to apply. Groups must provide a copy of their safeguarding policy for projects involving children or vulnerable adults.

Applications can be submitted at any time.

[Cellnex – Community Fund](#)

Henry Moore Foundation

Grants are available for not-for-profit organisations for projects and activities that promote the growth and development of sculpture across historical, modern, and contemporary registers, and research that expands the appreciation of sculpture.

The Henry Moore Foundation offers funding in the following categories:

- New projects and commissions: Grants of up to £20,000 to encourage new thinking about sculpture or sculpture history, or contribute to public awareness and appreciation of sculpture.
- Acquisitions and collections: Grants of up to £20,000 for museums and galleries to acquire or conserve sculpture for their collections, cataloguing, and display costs.
- Research and development:
 - Long-term grants of up to £20,000 for projects that require funding for more than one year, such as a permanent collection catalogue.
 - Small research grants of up to £2,500 for academics, curators, and independent scholars for research costs on the history and interpretation of sculpture.
- Conferences, lectures, and publications: Grants of up to £5000 to publish a new book or journal, or to stage a conference or other event related to sculpture.

There are typically four deadlines per year. This funding round is for projects starting or opening to the public, no sooner than 1 October 2026.

The next deadline for applications is 1 June 2026.

[Henry Moore Foundation](#)

Henry Smith Foundation – Proud Homes Fund

The Henry Smith Foundation's Proud Homes Fund offers long-term development grants to generalist homelessness organisations across the UK to embed safe, culturally competent and affirming practice for LGBT+ young people. In this context, generalist refers to services that are not exclusively specialist LGBT+ provision but support a broader group of young people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

The Foundation anticipates awarding eight grants of £50,000 per year for four years, totalling £200,000 per organisation.

Grants are restricted to improving the experiences of LGBT+ young people, while allowing organisations to strengthen the infrastructure needed to deliver sustainable work. Eligible costs can include core running expenses such as rent, utilities and staff salaries, as well as staff wellbeing. The first year of support may also cover research and scoping activity to develop understanding of the issues LGBT+ young people face, alongside planning and set-up costs.

Applications are open to charitable organisations registered in and working in the UK, including registered charities and charitable incorporated organisations, Community Interest Companies (CICs) that are not-for-profit with an asset lock and other not-for-profit charitable bodies aligned with the Foundation's objectives. Applicants must have a year's worth of audited or independently examined accounts and an annual income between £250,000 and £3 million, based on their most recent published accounts.

Organisations must deliver generalist homelessness support such as housing advice, hostels, supported accommodation, outreach or prevention services. They should show a track record of working with young people, primarily aged 16 to 25, and demonstrate a commitment to inclusive practice and involvement of lived experience and youth voice in decision-making.

There is a two-stage application process.

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 3 June 2026.

[Henry Smith Foundation – Proud Homes Fund](#)

Material Focus – Electricals Recycling Fund

Established community sector organisations based in the UK such as registered charities and local authorities, can apply for grants of up to £100,000 for pilot projects taking place for one year.

The funding should be used for the expansion or introduction of a new project that could not have happened without the funding, rather than core operational costs.

The 2026-27 round is for the following proposed pilots:

- Bring banks
- Bring bank refurbishments
- Community drop off points

- Drop off events if part of a bigger, longer term pilot
- Reuse if part of a larger recycling pilot

The funding can be used for the following:

- Buying new bins or collection points
- Renting vehicles for electricals collections
- Installing bins
- Communication and marketing activity, including printed materials and digital campaigns
- Staffing costs for time spent planning and delivering the pilot. Funding can be used on salaries where the individual is working on the agreed, funded pilot.
- Collection costs, but only to a Designated Collection Facility (DCF) or nominated transfer station.

Applications will not be accepted from individuals, profiting businesses, small community groups such as Parish councils, community stores, youth clubs nor can it support major capital purchases such as vehicles or property.

The deadline for applications is 31 May 2026.

[Material Focus – Electricals Recycling Fund](#)

Museums Galleries Scotland

The funding is intended to support and transform the way museums and galleries operate by enabling them to collaborate and test new ways of working.

This investment aims to drive positive, strategic change, ensuring that museums and galleries can continue to enrich local communities.

The following programmes are now accepting applications for 2026/27:

- Innovation Fund: Grants of up to £250,000 are available to address barriers to strategic development.
- Unlocking Potential Fund: Grants of up to £100,000 are available to support museums in developing, trialling, and implementing activities that directly improve their financial position.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until 20 January 2027 or earlier if funding is fully allocated.

[Museums Galleries Scotland](#)

NatureScot – Future Routes Fund

Funding is for projects that are run by and help young people (aged 11 to 26 years):

- Connect with nature.
- Contribute positively to Scotland's natural environment and landscapes.
- Increase their knowledge and understanding of Scottish biodiversity and empower them to take positive action for nature and the climate.

Two levels of funding are available:

- Grants of between £500 and £2,000 are available to individuals.
- Grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 are available to groups.

Projects must take place in Scotland before 30 November 2026 and address at least two of the following outcomes:

- Are more connected to Scotland's nature.
- Are more knowledgeable about Scotland's nature and the need for nature recovery
- Are encouraged to be more engaged in their community through nature.
- Are empowered to help their communities respond to the challenges of nature loss and climate change.

Projects can be anything that connects young people to Scotland's nature (eg, films, performances, exhibitions, conservation projects, discussion days, nature trails).

The deadline for applications is 19 June 2026.

[NatureScot – Future Routes Fund](#)

Pilgrim Trust – Young Women In Mind 2026-2028

Young Women in Mind 2026-2028 supports registered charities delivering high quality services specifically designed to respond to the needs of young women (aged 14 to 25 years) experiencing mental health difficulties. It is anticipated that the support will enable the young woman to thrive and fulfil her potential. Funding is available to:

- Scale or expand an existing, high-quality, targeted mental health service for young women and girls.
- Strengthen or adapt current provision to better meet young women's mental health needs.

Grants of between £200,000 and £500,000, spread over a period of three years, are available.

To be eligible, applicants must be either a mental health charity or a women and girls' charity. The organisation must have been in operation for at least three years.

For the current round, the work must be located in the North East, North West, Yorkshire and Humber, the Midlands, Northern Ireland or Scotland. However, organisations working UK-wide or England-wide are also welcome to apply for work across their remit.

The closing date for Stage One applications is 22 June 2026.

[Pilgrim Trust – Young Women In Mind 2026-2028](#)

Radcliffe Trust

Radcliffe Trust is offering grants for charities, not-for-profit groups, and exempt organisations across the UK to support projects in the areas of music, heritage, and crafts.

For music projects, the Trust will consider projects in the following categories:

- Composition and contemporary music - in the case of commission applications, the lead composer must be named.
- Bursaries for courses and summer schools (limited to UK-based students).
- Music therapy and special needs.
- Academic research.
- Youth orchestras.
- Performance projects.
- Educational projects - excluding applications from individual mainstream primary and secondary schools.
- Miscellaneous.

For heritage and crafts projects, the Trust will support the development of the skills, knowledge, and experience that underpin the UK's traditional cultural heritage and crafts sectors. This includes support for:

- Emerging craftspeople.
- Craft and conservation projects and training.
- Projects demonstrating creative outcomes by designer-makers.
- Projects with potential for capacity building within the sector.
- Special needs projects focusing on the therapeutic benefits of skills development.

Other areas of cultural creativity related to heritage and crafts may also be considered, including theatre, performance, and literature, especially where projects can be shown to promote and develop high-level skills among early career practitioners and disadvantaged groups.

Heritage and Crafts Grants are generally in the region of £2,500 to £7,500. Music Grants are generally in the region of £2,500 to £5,000.

There are typically two rounds per year, with trustee meetings held in June and December. Groups can apply for Music and Heritage & Crafts grants in the same funding round.

The next deadline for applications is 31 July 2026.

[Radcliffe Trust](#)

Rosa – Stand With Us Fund

Rosa has launched the third round of the Stand With Us Fund which aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Women and girls will be supported by organisations delivering frontline services to end male violence against women and girls, ensuring women and girls can be safe, healthy and equal.
- Women and girls organisations will be empowered and strengthened, meaning that they will be in a stronger position to survive, thrive and grow into the future.

The funding is intended to enable organisations to be in a stronger position to survive, thrive and grow by investing in organisational development work such as developing strategy, strengthening governance and leadership, a stronger voice in the women's movement, creating stronger alliances and partnerships, increasing fundraising, volunteering and activism, demonstrating impact and more effective systems and processes.

Not-for-profit frontline women's and/or girls' organisations with an income of between £100,000 and £500,000 can apply now for a one-year grant of up to £28,000. Grants will be paid in January 2027 and last one year (until December 2027). It is expected at least 18 organisations from across the four UK nations will be funded.

Priority will be given to applications from women's and girls' organisations which are:

- Operating in the top 10% of the most disadvantaged areas in the UK-based on the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD).
- Based in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- Led by and for Black and minoritised women and girls.
- Led by and for disabled women and girls.
- Led by and for LGBTQ+ women and girls.

In addition, organisations that have not received funding from the second round of this fund will be prioritised.

The deadline for applications is 22 June 2026.

[Rosa – Stand With Us Fund](#)

The National Archives – Archives Revealed Scoping Grants

Grants of up to £3,000 are available to public sector bodies, registered charities and other not-for-profit organisations in the UK to help analyse collections, supporting development of future plans for cataloguing priorities and projects.

The funding is for consultancy services, to enable the scoping of collections. The programme funds an expert report, to assess significant and unknown collections that may be of public value.

To be eligible, applicants must make their collections accessible to people outside of their organisation for at least ten years, following the conclusion of the grant-funded project.

Organisations with owned or deposited collections can apply as long as they can provide a commitment from the depositor that the collection will not be withdrawn from public access or sold within ten years of the project end date.

The deadline for applications is 18 June 2026.

[The National Archives – Archives Revealed Scoping Grants](#)

The 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 2026/27 Winter planting season.

The Branching Out Fund will support groups to 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 must have submitted a claim form before 14 March 2027.

The deadline for applications is 19 July 2026.

[The Tree Council – Branching Out Fund](#)

The 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 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:

- Proximity to the Network Rail network (lines or stations).
- Contribution to climate resilience (e.g. 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 2027.

The deadline for applications is 1 July 2026.

[The Tree Council – Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund](#)

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

The next deadline for applications is 17 July 2026.

[East Ayrshire Council Community Grant](#)

Renewable Energy Fund

To check the next deadline for applications please contact Democratic Services at Council HQ on 01563 554400 or eaRenewableEnergyFund@east-ayrshire.gov.uk .

[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](#)