COMMUNITY INVESTMENT
'Making a Difference in East Ayrshire Communities'

ALERT

6 November 2026

Allen Lane Foundation

The Foundation supports volunteer-led groups, charities and communities facing prejudice and isolation, funding work that brings people together and challenges stigma and discrimination across the UK.

It looks to support small, registered charities and other charitable not-for-profit organisations such as constituted voluntary groups or some Community Interest Companies (CICs) who work:

- In a relatively local area, such as a village, or estate or small town, with an income/expenditure of less than £100,000.
- Across the whole of the UK with an income/expenditure of less than £250,000.

Although the maximum grant is £15,000, the average grant is £5,000 to £6,000 with about 130 to 150 grants awarded each year. The grant is to help organisations become sustainable. The funding will support running and core costs to enable them to have flexibility, security and longevity.

Applications should be focused on adults in the following areas:

- Asylum seekers and refugees – support work to benefit refugees, asylum seekers, and refused asylum seekers, including those held in detention. The focus is on women only. The focus is on those women who are seeking asylum in the UK, and female refugees who have been through the asylum system; rather than people who arrive in the UK through community sponsorship or via resettlement schemes.
- Offenders and ex-offenders – support for penal reform and fund groups working with offenders in prison and out in the community. The focus is solely on organisations supporting female offenders, and those in prison for violence against women.
- Older People – funding is focused on projects that benefit isolated elderly people (generally aged 70+) including those with dementia and especially for elderly people in rural and more deprived areas.
- People affected by violence or abuse – work that supports both men and women who are, or have in the past been, affected by violence or abuse. This includes projects supporting people affected by rape and sexual abuse, domestic abuse, stalking, trafficking, prostitution

and modern slavery, honour-based abuse, female genital mutilation, and forced marriage. The funding can also support work with perpetrators aiming to lessen isolation and prevent the risk of further abuse.

- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities – support groups within these communities and organisations that work to benefit them. Funding can support work that raises awareness of the issues Gypsy and Traveller communities face, and work to combat hate crime, stigma, discrimination and inequalities, including the lack of appropriate accommodation or other service provision.
- People with mental health issues – support for mental health charities and projects that benefit people with moderate or severe mental health issues.

In addition, there is funding for work with young people – aged 12-21 years who are vulnerable, socially excluded or marginalised with a focus on those who are persistently absent from school; school leavers with no qualifications; and young people in/leaving care.

Applications can be made at any time.

Allen Lane Foundation

Discover Creative Careers

The programme aims to widen access to creative careers for young people across the UK.

Grants of up to £4,000 are available for projects supporting underserved young people aged 11-24. Applicants should identify a clear local need or gap, explain the barriers young people face and demonstrate how their proposed activities will build skills, confidence and awareness of opportunities within the creative industries.

Eligible lead applicants include UK-based creative industry organisations, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), registered charities and Community Interest Companies (CICs). Individuals, freelancers and sole traders cannot apply as lead applicants, although they may participate as partners through an eligible organisation.

Eligible activities include:

- Industry networking events that connect young people with local creative businesses.
- Skills, awareness and confidence-building programmes, including short placements and paid traineeships.
- Bootcamps or practical experiences in professional creative settings.
- Creative careers outreach delivered in youth hubs, careers hubs and other community settings.
- Online or virtual activities that directly engage young people who cannot attend in person.
- Travel bursaries or subsidies that help young people access existing opportunities.
- New projects or pilots testing ways to overcome local barriers to creative careers.

Projects should help young people progress towards further training, paid placements or employment.

The deadline for applications is 30 November 2026.

Discover Creative Careers

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere – Ayrshire Tree Planting Programme

Funding is available for projects within the Biosphere, to individuals and organisations to plant trees on less than 0.25 hectares (0.6 acres). They encourage projects designed to be complementary to other natural heritage projects that may have conservation or amenity aims. Land must be located within South or East Ayrshire and the GSA UNESCO Biosphere.

Planting hedges, planting within private gardens, on deep peat or wildflower rich grasslands, or where the scheme requires draining, are ineligible, as are planting projects required as a condition of Planning Consent or of Felling Permission.

Grants of up to £1,000 are available, as follows:

Landowners, farmers and individuals: A grant of up to 100% of material costs (i.e. trees, shelters, guards, stakes, fencing, mulch mats, etc.). Maximum award value: £1,000 (excluding VAT if recoverable).

Not-for-profit making organisations such as schools and community groups: A grant of up to 100% of materials costs, labour and site preparation. Maximum award value: £1,000 (excluding VAT if recoverable).

The deadline for applications is 15 February 2027.

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere – Ayrshire Tree Planting Programme

Hinrichsen Foundation

Grants of between £500 and £3,000 are available for charities and organisations across the UK to deliver music projects that focus on the performance, commissioning and recording of contemporary and experimental music in the UK.

The Hinrichsen Foundation will support projects and activities that:

- Align with The Hinrichsen Foundation's values and objectives for contemporary and experimental music.
- Express a clear programme of activity and project timeline, parameters, and outputs

- Deliver high-quality projects for diverse audiences, prioritising the cultivation of less familiar and experimental music appreciation.
- Embrace artistic risks and diversity.
- Encourage thoughtful collaboration among composers, musicians, and project leads.
- Ensure fair payment for composers and musicians, particularly in larger organisations.
- Demonstrate the financial need and feasibility of the proposed project.

Applications that take artistic risks, promote diversity, consider sustainability, or are artist-led are encouraged.

The Foundation rarely supports projects where it is the sole funder. Applicants are expected to indicate another source of income, either secured or projected.

The deadline for applications is 11 December 2026.

Hinrichsen Foundation

National Churches Trust – Cherish Scotland Grants

Grants to churches, chapels or meeting houses for church maintenance, urgent repair work or project development. They aim to see churches open and in regular use, available to all. The main goals of the funding are that:

- Church buildings are well maintained, adaptable and in good repair
- Church buildings are suitable, open and welcome

Funding will prioritise:

- Work to architecturally and historically significant buildings;
- Urgent/essential maintenance and repair projects as evidenced in a recent QIR, building survey or condition report;
- Places of worship that can demonstrate a suitable maintenance system is in place, including a maintenance plan, to protect your building and the investment;
- Places of worship that can demonstrate strong community engagement and sound plans for economic viability.

Buildings must be open for regular public worship for a minimum of six services per year and must be open to the public for at least 100 days per year in addition to worship times or meet this requirement within a year of project completion.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available if the project is either for repairs between £1,000 and £80,000 including VAT, or the project development work.

The deadline for applications is 19 January 2027.

National Churches Trust – Cherish Scotland Grants

NatureScot – Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund

NatureScot is inviting Expressions of Interest for projects that restore habitats and species across Scotland, on land and at sea, through the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund.

The initiative supports practical action to address biodiversity loss and climate change. It aims to encourage partnership projects operating at landscape scale and delivering long-term improvements for nature. Projects must demonstrate how they will help address climate change and/or its impacts.

Two grant streams are available:

- **Helping Nature** offers between £25,000 and £250,000 for projects lasting up to two years.
- **Transforming Nature** provides grants of £250,000 upwards for projects lasting up to three years. Separate development funding is also available for preparatory work on larger-scale restoration projects expected to have a delivery value of more than £250,000. Development projects can last up to 12 months.

Due to expected budget availability in 2027/28, applicants are advised to request a smaller amount in the first year. Applicants seeking one year of Helping Nature support are strongly encouraged to request no more than £150,000. Those applying to Transforming Nature for multi-year projects are encouraged to seek no more than £1 million over the project period. These are recommended funding levels rather than fixed limits. Funding decisions remain subject to Parliamentary and Ministerial budget decisions expected in the first quarter of 2027.

Registered charities and trusts, constituted community groups, private individuals and companies can apply where public benefit is demonstrated. Partnerships and collaborative organisations are also eligible, provided a lead applicant is identified. Public bodies cannot be the principal beneficiary but may coordinate or contribute to a wider partnership application.

Projects must address at least one of the following five priority themes:

- Habitat and species restoration: Managing and restoring habitats, supporting species recovery and improving ecological connectivity.
- Freshwater restoration: Including the restoration of natural flows in rural catchments.
- Coastal and marine restoration: Promoting the restoration, recovery, enhancement and resilience of coastal and marine nature.
- Invasive non-native species (INNS): Controlling invasive species that threaten nature.
- Urban nature: Enhancing and connecting nature across and between towns and cities.

Eligible delivery costs can include contractors, equipment and materials, staff, training, travel, irrecoverable VAT and full cost recovery. Development funding can support preparatory activities such as feasibility studies, surveys, securing permissions, stakeholder engagement and project planning.

The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 26 November 2026.

NatureScot – Scottish Government Nature Restoration Fund

Pink Ribbon Foundation

Grants of up to £6,000 to support UK charities and eligible organisations working to improve the lives of people affected by breast cancer.

The Foundation supports organisations that relieve the needs of people living with or affected by breast cancer through information, care, and emotional, practical and financial support. It also funds work to advance public understanding of breast cancer, including its early detection and treatment, and research into its causes, detection and treatment.

Grants are available for projects delivered over 12 to 18 months.

Registered charities working in the field of breast cancer in the UK can apply. Social enterprises and Community Interest Companies (CICs) may also be considered, provided they are legally constituted, have previous experience supporting people living with or recovering from breast cancer, and propose work that aligns with the Foundation's aims. Partnership applications are also accepted.

Funding can support projects that make a direct and meaningful difference to people affected by breast cancer. Eligible expenditure may include revenue, capital and project costs, although applications should focus on specific projects rather than routine organisational activities or core running costs. In exceptional circumstances, a contribution towards core costs may be considered where needed to ensure an organisation's continued operation.

The deadline for applications is 28 May 2027.

Pink Ribbon Foundation

Seachdain na Gàidhlig – Small Grants Fund

Funding is available for activities taking place during Seachdain na Gàidhlig (World Gaelic Week), which will run from 22 February - 28 February 2027. The theme for 2027 is Dùthchas**:** the intangible link between people, community, place and heritage. Projects and events need to have this theme at their core.

Grants of up to £500 are available to individuals (over 18), voluntary and community groups, schools, educational institutions and professional organisations.

Applicants must demonstrate a positive track record in and commitment to Gaelic and have a UK bank account.

The funding is for projects that align with the following objectives:

- Celebrate the 2027 theme of 'Dùthchas' through Gaelic.
- Promote interest and participation in Gaelic.
- Increase opportunities to experience Gaelic.
- Strengthen and broaden the network of people engaging with Gaelic.

- Raise the profile of Gaelic locally, nationally, and worldwide.
- Ensure activities are inclusive and accessible to as many people as possible.

The following are examples of eligible costs:

- Venue hire.
- Staff costs.
- Marketing materials.
- Refreshments.

The deadline for applications is 22 November 2026.

Seachdain na Gàidhlig – Small Grants Fund

UK Government – Connect Fund

Grants to support civic collaboration between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. The fund aims to strengthen civic East-West collaboration on matters of shared interest, including common challenges and opportunities across a range of sectors that directly affect communities in Northern Ireland.

Applications must have a clear East-West focus and deliver on one or more of the following objectives:

- Strengthen East-West connections by developing long lasting civic relationships.
- Propose an original approach to developing East-West connections.
- Support the development of cultural, sports and people-to-people links.
- Build leadership capability opportunities for community leaders on an East-West basis.
- Facilitate positive and constructive dialogue on shared opportunities/challenges facing communities in the UK.

Proposed activities must directly benefit Northern Ireland. However, they are not restricted by location and can take place in either Northern Ireland or Great Britain, provided Northern Ireland stakeholders are involved.

Grants ranging from £300 to £50,000 for projects delivered between 1 April 2027 and 31 March 2028 are available in this round.

Applications are welcome from organisations in the voluntary and community sector, wider civil society and national representative bodies, including those representing underrepresented voices.

Applicants and their project partners must be formally established, not-for-profit organisations operating for public benefit. Eligible applicants include voluntary and community organisations, registered charities, constituted groups or clubs, not-for-profit companies, Community Interest Companies (CICs) and statutory bodies.

Applicants based in Northern Ireland must engage with a partner in Great Britain, while applicants based in Great Britain must engage with a partner in Northern Ireland. Exceptions may be considered for standalone activities, such as attending a conference. National representative bodies must involve partners or organisations in both locations.

Grants will be awarded to one lead organisation, which will be responsible for the collaborative activities set out in the application.

Funding can support standalone activities, longer-term engagement, enhancements to existing projects and new opportunities for collaboration. Eligible activities may include cultural exchanges, shared performances, sporting or youth competitions, conference attendance, knowledge and leadership exchanges and forums addressing issues such as racism, the environment, peace and reconciliation.

The deadline for applications is 18 December 2026.

UK Government – Connect Fund

Veterans' Foundations – Access Unconquered: Adaptive Sport Grants

Grants to improve access to adaptive sport, providing awards of between £1,000 and £15,000. Projects must support wounded, injured and sick (WIS) veterans and serving personnel, who must be the exclusive direct beneficiaries. Activities must contribute to improved physical and mental health.

Eligible work should include a clear adaptation, such as modified equipment, coaching, rules or delivery methods. Projects may form part of an established programme or operate independently. Delivery must take place between January 2027 and 31 May 2027.

Registered charities and other not-for-profit organisations supporting WIS beneficiaries can apply. The funding can cover fixed-term staff time, freelancers, sessional workers and professional coaching. Eligible equipment costs include sports materials, delivery tools such as phones and laptops, plus essential equipment hire or purchase.

Awards may also support additional places at UK-based adaptive sport activities, event days, taster sessions, participation in events and trips, and reasonable travel costs for staff, volunteers or beneficiaries. Training for staff or volunteers on adaptive equipment and inclusive delivery is eligible when directly connected to project delivery. Reasonable overheads, storage and transport costs may also be included. Delivery can be undertaken by a third party, although the recipient remains responsible for managing the award.

The deadline for applications is 4 December 2026.

Veterans' Foundations – Access Unconquered: Adaptive Sport Grants

East Ayrshire Council Community Grant

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

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 **eacrenewableenergyfund@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