

Locality Fund and Local Community Fund 2025/2026

Louise McKinlay, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities, Economic Growth and Prosperity



Essex County Council

Today's Session

How the member grant programme will work this year:

- Local Community Fund
- Locality Fund



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Local Community Fund

- Funding of £5000 per county councillor
- Spending by ECC as determined by ECC members and approved by officers and Cabinet Member
- Individual allocation, but pooling encouraged for increased impact
- The 2025/2026 fund will focus on:
 - **Community safety**
 - **Improving the environment**
 - **Levelling up in the community**
 - **Support community events, with 2000+ people in attendance**
 - **Youth provision**



Differences from the scheme last year

This year there is no district collective decision making and therefore no lead members

There are two additional themes – community safety and community events

The youth provision category has been expanded

The environmental category has been expanded

No batches for CMA approval and therefore no call-in

Community safety

Improve or promote
safety within a local
community
(awareness/initiatives)

Must be
sustainable

Improving the environment

Improving the local environment by supporting voluntary or community climate projects

Enhancing green spaces

Tackling or increasing awareness of climate change issues

Programmes and improvements must be sustainable

Ideas

Increasing Green Infrastructure (e.g. trees, pocket parks, wildflower meadows, orchards, verges)

Renewable Energy (e.g. solar panels, solar batteries, air/ground source heat pumps)

Building Retrofit (e.g. energy efficiency measures such as insulation, grey water)

Waste reduction (e.g. increased re-use and recycling schemes, uniform swaps)

Active travel (e.g. walking buses, cycling clubs)

Engagement, Education and Awareness of climate change issues and action that people can take.

Levelling Up Essex

“Everyone should have the opportunity to succeed in life and fulfil their potential; and that all places and communities should be able to share in this.”



People with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (children and adults)



Children entitled to free school meals



Working families on low incomes



Young adults (16-25) who have not been in education, training or employment for more than six months

Support community events

To support events in local communities to be attended by over 2000 people

To be sustainable

Youth provision



Community capacity



Young Carers



Duke of Edinburgh



Hospital Youth Work Team



Targeted Youth Work

How to make a successful application

Before submitting the application make sure it meets the criteria and is sustainable

Do not submit an application that includes any running costs or general overheads
IMPORTANT - Any ongoing costs must be clearly identified as being met elsewhere

Make sure the application is fully costed

Make sure the purpose is clear, who the recipients are and how they will benefit from the proposed scheme (you must include scale e.g. expected number of participants etc)

Ensure the recipient can deliver the scheme and provide evidence within the timescales

Inform district county colleagues of the scheme, to avoid duplication

What do I need to do to submit a proposal?



MINIMUM FUNDING OF
£1000



CHECK THE
SUGGESTED SCHEME
LIST REGULARLY



ALL MEMBERS TO
SUBMIT THEIR OWN
PROPOSALS (NO LEAD
MEMBERS)



FUNDING CAN BE
POOLED FOR BIGGER
PROJECTS



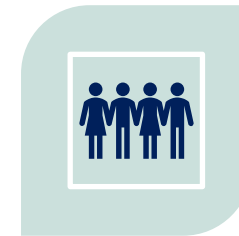
SPEAK TO
COLLEAGUES TO AVOID
DUPLICATION



SUGGESTED SCHEMES
CAN BE FOUND ON THE
PORTAL



LIAISON WITH
OFFICERS FOR
SCHEME IDEAS



SPEAK TO LOCAL
COMMUNITY GROUPS
WITHIN YOUR DIVISION

Submit the form for each proposal

Full
description of
the proposal

Breakdown
of costs

Expected
benefits

Category

Single or
joint bid

Confirmation
of contact

Deadlines – Local Community Fund

- Applications will be approved as they are submitted
- No bids will be accepted after Friday 9 January 2026
- Consider lead in times for initiatives to be implemented.

START EARLY!



Locality Fund 2025-2026: What is your Role?



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Each member allocated £5,000

No money carried forward from previous year or into next year

Minimum spend of £300 per nomination

No money will be spent unless it is recommended to ECC by the relevant County Member

Members are **politically accountable** for the spend

Permissions need to be submitted early

Locality.fund@essex.gov.uk

