

Pride In Place Impact Fund – Small Grant Guidance Notes for Applicants

The Pride in Place Impact Fund (PiPIF) is a Great Britain-wide programme and aims to provide investment to restore pride in place, support community cohesion, and stimulate local economic activity through visible, short-term, community-led improvements.

The Small Grant aligns with the following Pride in Place Impact Fund's objectives:

- a. Community spaces: creating, extending, improving or refurbishing existing community facilities and enabling community organisations to take control or ownership of underused but valued local assets.
- b. Public spaces: enhancing the physical environment in public spaces - examples of initiatives include new or improved green spaces or public squares, improved outdoor play, sports and leisure spaces, installing street furniture, public art or wayfinding.

The aims of the Pride in Place Impact Fund Small Grant are:

- Support sustainable locally led projects that make a positive difference to the communities they serve.
- Support projects that look to future-proof locally owned/leased assets, for example, community venues, green spaces and local sport clubs.
- Encourage projects that will demonstrate value for money and offer a range of sustainable community services.
- Support projects that look to reduce their carbon footprint and look to address climate change.
- Meet the capital costs of projects by purchasing machinery, equipment, or other assets.
- Support capital work that would enable further community and voluntary services to be provided and look to increase income generation potential.
- Provide match funding for larger scale capital projects and work alongside Welsh Government, National Lottery and other major funding capital grants.

Eligibility Criteria

- Grants from this fund are awarded to groups who are involved in community-based projects and initiatives that will benefit their local area.
- Projects will be assessed on their ability to contribute to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan, UK Government's Pride in Place Impact Fund and locally identified community priorities.
- Only projects that can demonstrate they can be completed by the 28th of February 2027 will be assessed for the grant award.
- All projects funded by the Pride in Place Impact Fund small grant must meet one or more of the [objectives associated with the programme](#):

PiPIF1	Number of facilities and premises created or improved.
PiPIF2	Amount of commercial space created or improved.
PiPIF3	Amount of community, culture, sports or heritage space created or improved.
PiPIF4	Amount of green or blue space created or improved.
PiPIF5	Amount of public realm created or improved.
PiPIF6	Number of green retrofits to non-residential buildings and or facilities.

- To be eligible for funding all successful applicants must:
 - Be self-governing, nonprofit distributing, be for community/public benefit and have appropriate signed constitution/governing document/rules.
 - Total project costs cannot exceed £25,000. Any applications received for projects that exceed this figure will be rejected.
 - Have a signed endorsement letter from their local [County Councillor](#).
 - Have a bank account with at least 2 signatories in the name of the organisation applying for the grant.
 - Demonstrate sound financial management, in particular authorising and recording expenditure.
 - Able to provide 1 year of your latest financial accounts, signed as being audited or independently inspected (according to the level of income and expenditure) or in the case of recently formed organisation, a forecast of income and expenditure for the next year.
 - Where appropriate, have in place effective policies, regulations and the required authorisation to carry out the proposed project e.g. safeguarding procedures, licenses, accreditation, etc.
 - Show evidence of community support.
 - Accept the terms and conditions of this funding.

- Ensure that the enclosed Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) Notification and Certificate of Acceptance are signed and returned to the Council as soon as possible.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Constituted community groups or volunteer organisations
- Registered Charities
- Town and Community Councils
- Third sector organisations
- Social Enterprises

If you are unsure of your eligibility, please contact reach@bridgend.gov.uk who will be able to advise.

HOW MUCH YOU CAN APPLY FOR

The Pride in Place Impact Fund Small Grant is **capital only**, the minimum available is **£1,000** and the maximum **£10,000** (including irrecoverable VAT). **Total project costs cannot exceed £25,000.**

Total Project Cost	Match funding required	Maximum grant amount
From £1,000 to £10,000	No	£10,000
From £10,001 to £25,000	Yes	£10,000

The Pride in Place Impact Fund Small Grant application will be assessed by a grant appraisal panel; all forms must be completed and contain the relevant information.

All successful projects must be completed by the **28th of February 2027**.

WHAT CAN BE FUNDED

The PiPIF small grant can support community focused capital regeneration projects. Examples include:

- Small building works / improvements to premises including modest accessibility improvements.
- Purchase of capital equipment, machinery or other assets.
- Capital works to improve community green spaces.
- Innovative community-serving project ideas i.e. renewable energy solutions, improving energy efficiency, combating fuel poverty and climate change.
- Projects that will reduce the long-term running costs of the community organisation.
- Irrecoverable VAT is eligible to be included in the grant claims, provided your organisation is not VAT registered. If the organisation becomes VAT

registered during the timeline of the project before the final claim, then BCBC reserve the right to cease funding the VAT element.

Please note this list is not exhaustive and applications are appraised on a case-by-case basis.

WHAT CANNOT BE FUNDED?

Unfortunately, the PiPIF small grant **cannot** support the following costs and activities:

- Any costs incurred prior to formal approval
- Any revenue costs
- Recoverable VAT
- Bank / finance charges & loan repayments
- Legal costs being carried out as a statutory requirement
- Routine or ongoing running / revenue costs (including rents, rates, insurances, salaries, ongoing rentals)
- Fundraiser's fee
- Vehicles
- Membership of Professional Bodies
- Refinancing of bad debts of any kind, or company liabilities not associated with the project
- Insurance
- Financial support to third parties
- Works carried out on a domestic property, either new build or refurbishment or extensions/garden rooms/log cabins
- Schemes for the use of an exclusive group
- Revenue – expenditure / running costs
- Unlawful expenditure
- Religious promotion
- Political promotion
- Projects / schemes aimed at making a profit
- Replacement of facilities subject to an insurance claim
- Statutory duties

HOW TO APPLY

Complete and sign the PiPIF small grant application form and send it with the following documentation:

- Provide two comparable quotes relating to each element of eligible spend. The cheapest quote provided will determine the grant amount.
- Provide a signed endorsement letter from the local [County Councillor](#).
- Include additional reports that evidence community need.
- Include a copy of your lease agreement and a letter of consent from the Freeholder (if the building or land is leasehold).
- Provide a copy of your latest annual accounts or financial statement.
- Copies of the latest 3 months bank statements.
- A copy of your Public Liability Insurance.
- Provide proof of match funding secured for the sole purpose of the project.
- If planning permission or change of use relating to a premises / building is required for the project, then planning approval evidence is to be provided before grant approval is made.

Deadline for applications is 5.00pm on Tuesday 31st March 2026.

Once all documentation has been received by the deadline, the full application is then submitted to the BCBC Grant Appraisal Panel for review. All applicants will be informed of the outcome by the 8th of May 2026. If the full funding allocation is not used during this application window, an additional application round will be opened.

The Applicant must accept the terms and conditions of the grant by completing and returning the Certificate of Acceptance which we will issue if your grant application is successful. Do not proceed with your project until you have returned the Certificate of Acceptance. Should the project not proceed within the period stipulated in the offer letter the grant would automatically lapse.

All projects must be **completed by 28th February 2027** and all evidence including defrayment must be provided within this timeframe.

No expenditure should be incurred before grant approval, as the grants cannot be awarded retrospectively. Under normal circumstance we will only support one application for funding under the PiPIF small grant.

SUBSIDY CONTROL

Under the Subsidy Control Act 2022, a subsidy is where a public authority provides support to an enterprise that gives them an economic advantage, meaning equivalent support could not have been obtained on commercial terms. It can take the form of a grant, a tax break, a loan, guarantee or equity investment on favourable terms, or the use of facilities below market price, amongst other kinds of support.

The Council will assess grant applications to determine any potential Subsidy Control implications. Each application will be considered on the basis of its specific circumstances. All applicants must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control rules and work with the council to provide any additional information that is deemed to be required. Further information on the Subsidy Control rules can be found under the UK Government guidance available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/subsidy-control-regime>

Should any proposal be determined to amount to a subsidy the Council will consider whether the proposed intervention is consistent with subsidy control principles and whether any exemptions or other treatment options are applicable.

One general exemption that the Council will consider is the award of Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA). MFA allows public authorities to award low value subsidies without needing to comply with the majority of the substantive subsidy control requirements prescribed by the Subsidy Control Act 2022. MFA has a financial threshold so no recipient can receive more than £315,000 over the applicable period. The applicable period is a rolling three-year period which runs from:

- The elapsed part of the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April) and
- The two financial years immediately preceding the current financial year.

The following should all be taken into account when calculating the amount of MFA your business has received during the current and previous two financial years:

- Other MFA
- Services of Public Economic Interest (SPEI)
- Aid given under the EU State aid de minimis regulations before the end of the implementation period of 31 December 2020 and
- Subsidies given as small amounts of financial assistance (SAFA) under the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement prior to the Subsidy Control Act 2022 coming into effect.



If you are unsure how any previous financial support you have received was awarded please contact the organisation that provided the support.

CONTACT DETAILS

Please email: reach@bridgend.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.bridgendreach.org.uk>

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os mai Cymraeg yw eich dewis iaith.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh.

Bridgend Council has absolute discretion over the terms, eligibility and decision making of the Pride in Place Impact Fund Small Grant and reserves the right to amend the criteria at any time.