

East Cambridgeshire District Council
Community-led Development Set-up Grant Scheme

Eligibility Criteria

The set-up grant is intended to provide steering groups or other appropriate community-based organisations with funding to pay for the professional fees and technical costs that are associated with the legal set-up for a local community-led development group, and contribute toward the costs of the basic community engagement activities that are essential to build local support and towards developing a business plan.

To be considered for a set-up grant the steering group/community based organisation should ideally meet the following key criteria:

1. The applicant group/organisation should have either a bank account or the means to administer the grant funds on their behalf
2. The group/organisation must be representative of the community, with an open democratic membership structure
3. The group/organisation must be clear about the community that it has been established to serve, with a clear vision for the type of community-led development group they wish to set-up and a description of the project
4. Any assets that are to be retained by the community-led development group in the long-term are expected to be permanently affordable for local people on local wages
5. The organisation must intend to provide evidence of meaningful public engagement and that the proposed project that requires funding has general community support
6. The project will need evidence of the backing of the wider community e.g. local planning authority

Supporting documents

All applications will need to be on an East Cambridgeshire District Council Community-led Development Set-up Grant Scheme Application form which can be downloaded from the Council's website. Any supporting documentation such as a vision or mission statement, evidence of need, letters of support, etc. will help the application process.

Application process

Interested applicants should make contact in the first instance with the Community-led Development Advisor at ECDC who will review the project information and carry out the necessary due diligence to ensure the project is suitable. The completed application will then be submitted, with a recommendation from the Community-led Development Advisor, to the appropriate Committee for consideration. The decisions of the Committee in connection with each application will be final.

If a grant is approved then a grant offer letter will be issued within 14 days of the decision. Funds will be released to the applicant once any grant offer conditions have been met and the applicant has signed and returned the offer letter.

Reporting

It will be a condition of the grant that applicants report regularly on project performance at least quarterly according to a pre-agreed timetable.