

Innovation Fund Criteria and Guidance

The Innovation Fund is about stimulating new thinking, building new partnerships and testing innovative approaches.

The deadline for applications is 31 July 2020.

We are seeking to fund a small number of bold and ambitious projects that fit into our programme priorities, which are;

Pillar 1: Getting On- Address factors affecting economic participation and language skills.

We would be interested in buddying schemes for refugee and asylum seekers and skilling up or training further ESOL tutors.

Pillar 2: Getting Along- Promote greater interaction, dialogue and understanding between people from different backgrounds; ensuring that people understand fully their rights and freedoms and their responsibilities.

We are particularly interested in projects that address intergroup LGBTQ+, racial or religious discrimination.

Pillar 3: Getting Involved- Generating and connecting people to opportunities to participate in community and civic life and strengthening leadership.

We are particularly interested in developing leadership skills, especially raising political awareness and developing confidence in navigating local services. Ideas to support communities who are not ready to engage will be of interest including campaigning where communities can be brought together.

Pillar 4: Feeling Safe- Tackling hate crime and the fear of hate crime so that everyone feels safe.

We are keen to hear from organisations with innovative ideas about addressing the Climate Emergency, Ecological Breakdown or localised environmental challenges (e.g. litter, fly tipping, air pollution, flooding), in ways that could help to bring people together from different backgrounds – improving community cohesion, resilience and meaningful social mixing in a sustainable way.

These are our current priorities. However, if you have identified other gaps and have an idea please get in touch with us to discuss.

We will fund activities that;

- Are delivered within the Bradford District area and benefit local people
- Contribute to one of the programme priorities
- Do not duplicate local projects- please speak to one of our Project Support Officers.
- Can measure impact and change.

- Are innovative and experimental
- Add value to existing initiatives
- Demonstrate how projects have been co-designed with communities and
- Have collaborated with other partners.

All activities must look to engage **all communities**. We currently deliver some activity across 23 wards but are particularly seeking applications where currently no activity is being delivered from the programme. Please speak to a Project Support Officer for further information.

We will not provide funding for:

- Projects that fit or meet other funding programmes such as J:UMP or LEAP which aimed to increase social mixing, volunteering and civic participation.
- Costs outside what has been agreed in the project.
- Salaries, PR, marketing and related events organised by the applicant that do not directly support the proposed project.
- Extending a pre-existing project's length.
- Spending on contingency costs, loans, endowments of interest payments and recoverable VAT.
- Alcohol or gambling
- Political campaigning.
- The promotion of religious beliefs.

Amounts we will fund

Grants of up to £5,000 – Typical awards will be anything between £2,500-£5,000. This fund will open from **16 March 2020**. The total amount available for this pot is £50,000. *These grants will be awarded via Participatory Budgeting.*

Announcements will be made through our Newsletter.

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKBMD/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKBMD_157

We can help you with your proposal; connect you with other delivery partners and help design monitoring of your proposal to measure successful outcomes.

We expect projects to be up and running shortly after notification of a successful application to the Fund. Projects can run for 3 to 6 months and must have completed delivery by **31 March 2021**.

Eligibility Criteria

The *Innovation Fund* is open to applications from a wide range of organisations. We are willing to support proposals that meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Organisations must be legally constituted organisations. Bradford Council, individuals, sole traders and limited liability partnerships are not eligible.
- Groups which are not formally constituted should request for a lead VCS organisation to be the accountable body.
- Organisations must have a registered bank account in the name of the organisation, and they must be able to demonstrate fair and transparent governance arrangements including an Equal Opportunities policy
- Organisations working with children or vulnerable adults will need to demonstrate appropriate safeguarding policies.
- An organisation can only be the lead partner on one bid per funding round
- A group or organisation can only apply once per round.
- Project ideas in receipt of funding in the first and second round will not be eligible for this round.

Evaluation and Monitoring

We are committed to ensuring that projects supported through the new Fund measure the positive outcomes they achieve.

Applicants will be expected to help us think about how the success of the project might be measured from the start. Applicants must be willing to collect data before and at the end of the project and share this data with Bradford Council. Applicants must ensure they comply with data protection regulations.

What we learn from the Fund will be disseminated widely.

Partnering and collaboration

When seeking to stimulate genuine innovation in tackling poor integration, there are benefits in bringing together the skills, knowledge and experience of a range of different organisations. We see a real strength in collaboration. We will help you do this.

Process

- **Step 1:** Talk to us in the first instance by contacting the Project Support Officer about your idea;
 - Neena Punnu (neena.punnu@bradford.gov.uk) – Community and neighbourhoods, Hate Crime, women and new technology
 - Barry Cusack (barry.cusack@bradford.gov.uk) – Schools, Housing, Culture, Young People and Environment
 - Matthew Henderson (matthew.henderson@bradford.gov.uk) – Employment, English Language, New communities, Refugees and those seeking Asylum.

- **Step 2:** Once we have talked through your idea, we will ask you to submit an application. All applications will be reviewed for eligibility purposes only by the *Bradford for Everyone (formerly Stronger Communities Together)* team. **The closing date for final applications is 31 July 2020 at 5pm.**
- **Step 3:** If at this stage your application requires further work, we will contact you to provide some feedback before the final submission date. Please note applicants submitted for checking after 17 July 2020 may not receive any feedback and your application may be rejected.
- **Step 4:** If your idea is shortlisted, you will be asked to attend the provisional event '**You Decide**' event. Date to be confirmed. This event will involve other shortlisted groups and invited residents who will score each applicant after a short presentation to determine which proposals should be funded. The process will be completed once all groups have been evaluated. Decisions will be made on the day.
- **Step 5:** Once the funding has been approved. An offer letter along with the grant agreement will be agreed by both parties subject to an agreement on how you will record, store and provide us with data.
- **Step 6:** Once the offer is accepted, the group will work with us to look at how we can demonstrate the success of your project.

For further information and helpful hints and ideas about the Innovation Fund please contact one of our Project Support Officers;

Or email: hello@bradfordforeveryone.co.uk