

# Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund - Criteria

In 2022, Lancashire County Council (LCC) agreed to create a separate annually recurring fund of £500,000 to boost culture and sports initiatives across the county.

The Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund (LCSF) has been developed to support culture and sport projects in the community with the aim of improving people's health and well-being and cultural experience.

This is a match-funding programme focused on encouraging community involvement and activity within Lancashire. Projects go live on the designated crowdfund platform and raise money through pledges of financial support. The Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund can consider support to top up the pledges to help projects reach their target. To get a pledge from the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund, projects need to show and demonstrate broad community support by attracting individual pledges onto their campaign.

The scope of the fund is to support:

- cultural activity including art, music, literature, poetry, heritage, dance, theatre, craft, photography, film, design, museums, archives, and community arts festivals
- sporting activity including community-based sports clubs, outdoor pursuits, competitions and events, walking and gentle exercise, health and wellbeing.

Organisations, parish/town councils, and individuals will be able to apply and, providing certain criteria is met, Lancashire County Council will pledge to match-fund donations raised up to a specified maximum.

Projects must deliver public benefit and not be for the purpose of profit-making activity.

There are three strands to the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund these are:

- Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund - Organisations: for groups and organisations supporting up to 50% of a project target with a maximum contribution of up to £20,000.
- Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund - Parishes: for parish/town councils supporting up to 50% of a project target with a maximum contribution of up to £5,000.
- Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund – Individuals/businesses: for individuals or businesses running projects which are to provide a cultural / sport activity to a community on a not-for-profit basis supporting up to 50% of a project target with a maximum contribution of up to £1,500.

If a project is delivering in an area with identified need for cultural or sporting activity then a higher percentage match may be considered.

Each year Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund will have two rounds for raising money. A round is the time period when campaigns are 'live' and actively seeking pledges. Each round will be up to 3 months. Applicants may have no more than 1 'live' project in each round. Each round will have approximately £250,000 available to support projects.

All projects supported through Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund will be required to submit monitoring and evaluation information to Lancashire County Council which will be used for promotional purposes and producing annual reports ensuring full accountability and transparency.

The criteria of the fund is below:

- Projects must be based in the Lancashire County Council administrative area (explained below) and benefit residents.
- Priority will be given to Lancashire led organisations/individuals.
- To be eligible for this fund your project must support cultural or sporting activity of benefit to the wider community.
- For the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund – Organisations: your group must be constituted in some way, have a group bank account (requiring two signatures) and be a not-for-profit organisation designed to deliver benefit to the community (and not designed to create a profit/dividends for shareholders). CICs (Community Interest Companies) and CIO (Community Interest Organisations) are deemed eligible as their activities generate revenue which in turn fund activities that deliver community benefit. The match-funding eligible for groups and organisations from a Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund round is a maximum of £20,000.
- For the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund – Parishes: This is for constituted parish/town councils running a project for community benefit. The match-funding eligible for parishes/town councils from a Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund round is a maximum of £5,000.
- For the Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund – Individuals/Businesses: This is for individuals or businesses running a project for community benefit. The match-funding eligible for individuals/businesses from a Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund round is a maximum of £1,500.
- District councils cannot directly apply for funding but can officially partner with a local community group or parish/town council who would apply for the funding. The district council can offer support and can be involved in the delivery of the project, but the organisation, parish/town council or individual/business must lead on the project and be the accountable body.

Projects must start within 12 months from the end of the funding round period.

**Projects should contribute to at least one of the following county council's Corporate Priorities:**

- Delivering better services
- Protecting our environment
- Supporting economic growth
- Caring for the vulnerable

For more information, see [Corporate priorities - Lancashire County Council](#)

**What can we fund:**

- Projects must be based in and benefit residents in Lancashire (Lancashire County Council area).

- Projects must contribute to community based cultural or sporting activity.
- Projects must offer community benefit.
- Projects must contribute to improving places, spaces, or residents' quality of life.
- Projects should involve the public as audience or participants.
- The funding must have a specific purpose and not towards overall organisational costs.
- The funding can go towards an activity or a capital purchase where this is specifically for the benefit of the public.
- Priority will be given to projects that improve access to culture and sport, contribute to the county council's Corporate Priorities and to projects that enable free or low-cost activity for public benefit.
- Projects should be well planned and managed adhering to all legal obligations, health and safety, risk assessment, public liability, safeguarding requirements and obtaining any relevant permissions.

### **What can't we fund:**

- Activities which have already taken place or are underway.
- School or college curriculum-based activity.
- Any projects that take place outside the administrative borders of Lancashire County Council
- Projects supporting private interests or profit-making.
- Projects taking place to specifically raise funds for charity campaigns.
- Projects that exclude any particular groups in society or those with protected characteristics.
- Projects that are part of a campaign or promote particular religions, faiths, or political ideologies.
- We are not able to match-fund or backfill statutory provision, local authority teams or district council projects.
- We cannot fund or contribute to the purchasing of property and buildings. We can, however, make contributions to adaptations, refurbishment and improvements to properties once purchased or built, where there is a tangible community benefit from the proposed improvements.

Lancashire County Council reserves the right to review all project costs and make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

If a funding round is over-subscribed, Lancashire County Council reserves the right to reduce the maximum amount allocated for match-funding.

### **Lancashire County Council administrative area**

To be eligible for Lancashire Culture & Sport Fund match-funding, the activity must take place in one or more of the following districts:

Burnley, Chorley, Fylde, Hyndburn, Lancaster, Pendle, Preston, Ribble Valley, Rossendale, South Ribble, West Lancashire, Wyre.