

Thrive with Arts, Heritage and Culture Fund

Support for Local Arts, Cultural and Heritage Organisations

Introduction and Funding Criteria

1. Aims of Fund

The aim of this fund is to help empower arts, cultural and heritage organisations, through funding and support, in the delivery of projects that actively contribute to supporting a diverse cultural and heritage offer within their local community and a better quality of life across Westmorland and Furness.

These grants are aimed at existing not-for-profit arts, cultural and heritage organisations, or charities, in Westmorland and Furness that play a pivotal role in creating vibrant places and communities. The Council recognises the important social and economic role they play in the community and the wider cultural and visitor economy sector within Westmorland and Furness.

The Council will offer bespoke assistance and guidance to those organisations that require support in applying for this grant funding, recognising that there may be barriers preventing some organisations from doing so.

This programme will provide grants to not-for-profit arts, cultural and heritage organisations ranging from £10,000 to £35,000.

The Westmorland and Furness Arts, Culture and Heritage Grant scheme is being funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Both revenue and capital grant funding is available.

Note:

- Revenue expenditure refers to funding of ongoing organisational expenses specifically required in the running of interventions / activities.
- Capital expenditure refers to funding to acquire, build or upgrade physical assets.

Please note, applicants will be asked to identify how they will ensure compliance with Subsidy Control requirements and complete the required documentation if your application is successful.

2. Thrive with Arts, Heritage and Culture Fund Eligibility Criteria for funding

2.1. Both applicant and project should be based within the Westmorland and Furness Area. There should be a clear and definable benefit to the community of Westmorland and Furness.

2.2. Applicants must be one or both of the following:

- An existing charity or not-for-profit cultural, creative or heritage organisation based in Westmorland and Furness.
- A charity or not-for-profit organisation responsible for operating local cultural, historic and heritage sites in Westmorland and Furness.

2.3. The primary activity of the application should fall into the category of Arts, Culture and Heritage.

2.4. Any grant awarded must only be spent for the approved purpose, i.e. applicants must be able to demonstrate that the funding has been spent as outlined in the grant award letter.

2.5. Applicants must demonstrate that they can deliver their proposal and achieve the agreed outputs and outcomes within the required timeframe. Outputs must be completed no later than 27th February 2026. Outcomes must be completed by 26th February 2027.

2.6. This grant is available to organisations and not individuals. A copy of constitution, terms of reference or proof of formalised structure should be submitted with your application form.

2.7. Applicants are required to have a bank account in the name of the group. All withdrawals from the account should require a minimum of two signatures.

2.8. It is unlikely that the Arts, Culture and Heritage Fund will be able to provide grants for all potentially eligible applications. Therefore, we reserve the right to prioritise applications to achieve best value for money.

2.9. We are seeking parity and will invest appropriate funding and aim to support the delivery of revenue or capital projects across the three key areas: Barrow, Eden and South Lakeland.

For advice on any aspect of your application please email artsandculture@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

2.10. Applications will be prioritised which seek to address a strategic need or fill the gap in provision. We will be seeking to ensure a balanced portfolio.

2.11. We also reserve the right to decline applications which do not meet the stated criteria.

2.12. If your project is a capital project and is based in a building or on land that is leased from someone else, you need to demonstrate that you have a reasonable amount of time left on your lease. If you are applying for building work to be carried out on a leased property, you should demonstrate that the length of your lease enables your organisation to get value for money from the project. We would expect to see a lease of 5 years or more.

2.13. Projects which require a total amount of resource in excess of the maximum that can be provided by this fund are still eligible to apply, however applicants will be required to give evidence that match funding will be in place in order to complete the project within the time frame (completion no later than 27th February 2026).

2.14. The target beneficiaries of this funding scheme are charities and not-for-profit organisations. We reserve the right to prioritise these groups when allocating funding and withholding funding from business groups who are capable of applying for support unaided or with a track record of previously successful large scale funding applications.

3. Successful applications will demonstrate the following:

3.1. The proposal will be outlined clearly and fully so that the assessment panel can understand what you want to do in sufficient detail to be able to make a decision.

3.2. Set out how you will monitor and measure outputs and outcomes.

3.3. Set out why you propose to deliver your project in the location / venue chosen and to the audience you have identified. This will clearly show how your project increases engagement and participation levels and be over and above your day to day activity.

3.4. Your application will contain a detailed breakdown of all costs associated with your application for funding.

3.5. Set out named individuals who will be responsible for the delivery of the project.

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3.6. You will illustrate how your project will have an impact beyond the timeframe of the funding and that it will deliver longer-term benefits to the residents of Westmorland and Furness.

3.7. You will outline a clearly well thought out plan that shows how money will be spent and gives assurance that the project outputs and outcomes will be delivered within the required timeframe. The Council does not have the facility to fund projects that will deliver outputs and outcomes beyond these deadlines.

4. What we will not fund:

4.1. Projects that we consider undeliverable within the timescales required by this fund.

4.2. Projects that do not aim to deliver any of the outputs or outcomes required by this Fund As set out in 'Section 6'.

4.3. The Fund will not support 'business as usual' including routine maintenance activities.

5. Corporate Plan

5.1. Please refer to Westmorland and Furness' Council Plan. Projects will be expected to align with some of the core priorities.

6. Outputs / outcomes

6.1. Please note that UKSPF funding requires Westmorland and Furness Council to deliver specific outputs and outcomes through this funding scheme and so scoring for these applications will take into account the number and quality of outputs and outcomes your application indicates that you can deliver.

6.2. Capital Applications should be to improve existing culture or heritage assets as a result of capital works carried out as a result of funding. This project will lead to the outcome of increased visitor numbers.

6.3. Revenue applications should be to realise a planned event or activity that is linked to cultural or heritage asset. This project will lead to the outcome of an increase in engagement and participation.

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7. All Applicants - What you will need in addition to your application form

- For items up to £2000, you must obtain a written quotation or a verbal quotation confirmed in writing. For items between £2,001 - £50,000 you must obtain 2 written quotations. If your project involves a purchase of over £50,000 then three written quotes must be obtained. The written quotes and estimates must display the relevant company names and addresses and be less than six months old;
- A copy of a recent Bank Statement for all accounts held in the name of your group;
- A copy of your most recent Annual Accounts or Audited Accounts;
- A copy of Constitution, terms of reference or proof of formalised structure;
- Your Equal Opportunities Policy or Statement (where not explicit in Constitution);
- A copy of your last Annual Report and/or AGM minutes;
- Your Child Protection Policy, where appropriate;
- Your Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy or Statement, where appropriate;
- Evidence of building compliance as requested by the Council e.g. fire risk assessment etc. where appropriate;
- Public / employee liability or professional indemnity insurance where appropriate.

Note: Incomplete applications or applications that do not include required documentation cannot be considered for funding.

8. How your application is dealt with

- Surgeries for applications will be held in May 2025. These will be delivered by officers at Westmorland and Furness Council or through Cumbria Arts and Culture Network. These are online meetings where applicants can talk through any queries they might have with the aim of improving their application before the final submission. The surgery sessions are aimed at offering guidance only and do not form part of the decision making process. They are specifically aimed at applicants who have less experience with applying for funding on this scale, but are open to all applicants.
- Deadline for completed applications will be 2nd June 2025
- Upon receipt of a completed application, an initial assessment will be made to check that your organisation and your proposal is eligible for funding against the criteria of the scheme. We aim to acknowledge receipt of applications within 5 working days.
- Applications which meet all relevant criteria will be put forward for decision making by a panel who will make recommendations. These recommendations could include: unconditional funding, funding if specified conditions are met or not to fund. Applicants will be given a period in which to address conditions and resubmit their application before a final decision is made.

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- Once your application has been considered and a decision has been made we will inform you by letter and if you have been successful we will arrange for the funds to be released. Our aim is to notify applicants by: Friday 23th June 2025.
- Applicants will be notified by letter within two weeks of the decision. If your application is not being recommended for funding, you will receive feedback on the reasons for the decision.

Application Timeline

29th April 2025	Thrive with Arts, Culture and Heritage Fund launched
6th May 2025	Deadline for booking surgery session (optional)
Mid-May 2025	Surgery sessions take place
2nd June 2025	Deadline for applications
Mid-June 2025	Panel meet to make recommendations
23rd June 2025	Applicants notified with decision

Please direct any queries and send completed application forms to the Arts and Culture Officer at artsandculture@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Please note that the final application deadline is 2nd June 2025.

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