

## Second Homes Tax Grant Fund

### Support for Arts and Cultural Organisations in Barrow and Eden areas of Westmorland and Furness

#### Introduction and Funding Criteria

#### 1. Introduction / Context

Westmorland and Furness Council is currently refreshing its grant giving scheme to ensure parity across the geographical areas, responsiveness to the needs of the cultural sector, alignment with Council vision, transparency, and ability to measure and demonstrate the impact. During the interim period, it is important to acknowledge that more funding is required to support organisations formerly covered by Barrow Borough Council and Eden District Council (direct investment to organisations is lower, compared to those based in South Lakeland).

To address this discrepancy, through funds from the second homes tax, Westmorland and Furness Council has ringfenced some transitional funding. This funding will provide financial support to organisations delivering work across these two localities. There will be one round of funding in 2026, which will need to be spent by end of March 2027.

This funding aims to:

- Provide core or project funding to arts and cultural organisations, delivering high quality arts activities and events across the localities – e.g. performances, exhibitions, productions and festivals.
- Support projects which increase opportunity and engagement to young people, communities and artists - e.g. youth dance, intergenerational projects, community base activities
- Increase the resilience of organisations - supporting organisational development, sustainability, skills and resource of arts and culture organisations e.g. business support, such as planning, finance or fundraising
- Strengthening existing provision and enhancing the cultural ecosystem, ensuring a diverse cultural offer

The 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.

Applications are invited for grants between **£2,000** and **£10,000**.

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

## 2. Eligibility criteria for funding

- 2.1 The applicant should be based within the Westmorland and Furness area, however the proposed projects and programmes must be delivering work in either Barrow or Eden. There should be a clear and definable benefit to the community of Barrow and Eden, and it must be evident how the work meets the corporate goals of the Council.
- 2.2 Applicants must be one or both of the following:
  - a. An existing charity or not-for-profit cultural, creative or heritage organisation based in Westmorland and Furness.
  - b. 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 The applicant must not be in receipt of Regular Arts and Culture Funding from Westmorland and Furness Council.
- 2.5 Westmorland and Furness Council may consider applications from organisations based in South Lakeland, that deliver new programmes of work across different localities (providing they meet they don't already receive regular funding support through the Council)
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 Applicants must demonstrate that they can deliver their proposal and achieve the agreed outputs and outcomes by **31 March 2027**.
- 2.8 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. Ideally, 12 months' worth of accounts should be available.
- 2.9 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.

- 2.10 It is unlikely that this grants programme will be able to support all potentially eligible applications. Therefore, we reserve the right to prioritise applications to achieve best value for money.
- 2.11 We are seeking parity and will invest appropriate funding across both the areas. Applications will be prioritised which seek to address a strategic need, fill the gap in provision and have a base within the geographical area. We will be seeking to ensure a balanced portfolio.
- 2.12 We also reserve the right to decline applications which do not meet the stated criteria.
- 2.13 Match funding can be used to support programmes of work but is not a requirement.

### **3. Successful applicants 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.
- 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 grant.
- 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 Barrow and Eden.
- 3.7. You will outline clearly a 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.

- 4.3 The Fund will not support 'business as usual' including routine maintenance activities.
- 4.4 Activity delivered outside of Barrow and Eden.
- 4.5 Organisations who are in receipt of Regular Arts and Culture Grants from Westmorland and Furness Council.

## **5. Corporate Plan**

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

## **6. Outputs / outcomes**

Please note that Westmorland and Furness Council will require an agreed programme of work for delivery, along with quality of outputs and outcomes your application indicates that you can deliver.

## **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 - £10,000 you must obtain 2 written quotations. 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 all of the above documentation cannot be considered for funding.*

## How your application is dealt with

- Informal support will be provided by Westmorland and Furness officers, if helpful. These can include phone calls, online or face to face meetings.
- Deadline for completed applications will be **1st June 2026, at 10am**.
- 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.
- Applications which meet all relevant criteria will be put forward for decision making by a panel who will make recommendations
- 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 **mid July 2026**.

Please direct any queries and send completed application forms to the Arts and Culture Officer at [artsandculture@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk](mailto:artsandculture@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk)

**Application deadline - 1st June 2026, 10am**