

Building Stronger Communities Together (BSCT) FAQ document

The project delivery timescale for the BSCT Grant has been extended from **31st July to 30th September 2025**. All projects approved for funding will receive funding in March with funded activity starting in April 2025 and delivery to be completed by end of September 2025. Please note the date for submitting applications is still Thursday 16th January 4:00pm. If you have already submitted an application and would like to make changes, please email omfunds@manchester.gov.uk and we will re-open your form.

Please note that the 40% cap has been removed and **no longer applies**. Applicants can apply for any salary costs related to the project. Applicants should check the grant specification for details about what we will and won't fund.

What are the timescales for this grant?

- 1st April project start date
- 30th September project end date
- 31st October evaluation report due

What is the total fund size of the programme?

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has provided Manchester City Council with community recovery funding, of which £225,000 has been allocated to the BSCT grant.

Does the grant programme fund Greater Manchester?

No, the fund will only support activities within the Manchester Council ward boundaries. You can view these wards here: [Ward boundaries - All wards | Manchester City Council](#).

Which of these wards constitute the Manchester North, South and Central areas?

North	Central	South
Ancoats and Beswick	Ardwick	Baguley
Charlestown	Deansgate	Brooklands
Cheetham	Gorton and Abbey Hey	Burnage
Clayton and Openshaw	Hulme	Chorlton
Crumpsall (includes Blackley Village)	Levenshulme	Chorlton Park
Harpurhey	Longsight	Didsbury East
Higher Blackley	Moss Side	Didsbury West
Miles Platting and Newton Heath	Piccadilly	Fallowfield
Moston	Rusholme	Northenden
		Old Moat
		Sharston
		Whalley Range
		Withington
		Woodhouse Park

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Why does the application form ask for our organisation's annual income?

We ask this to ensure that your organisation is requesting an amount of funding that you are experienced in handling, e.g. if you typically only have £2,000 of annual income, but you are requesting £30,000 grant funding, we would like to understand in our due diligence stage how your organisation will be able to manage this significantly larger amount of money.

Can you explain when core/operating costs are related to the activity? Can we apply for full cost recovery for the project?

Yes, you can apply for full cost recovery for the project, meaning that you can request funding to cover all of the costs associated with the project, including direct costs and overheads. However, these need to be explained in your costings section.

Direct costs are costs that are directly related to a project, such as salaries, marketing costs, and venue hire. Indirect costs are shared organisational costs that are difficult to attribute to a specific project, such as infrastructure, finance, and administrative staff costs. If using indirect costs in your costings breakdown, this must be calculated in relation to your project.

Is there an aim to spread the funding across the whole city? For example, if one area or ward has a high number of applications, is it unlikely they will all receive funding even if they're all good applications?

This depends on the number and quality of applications we receive and their geographical spread. The main criteria that the assessment panel will score applications are based on:

- The skills and experience of the organisation(s) applying
- How well the application responds to the objectives and principles of the fund
- The impact of the project on beneficiaries
- Value for money

Can housing associations be partner orgs?

Yes, whilst housing associations can't be the lead partner in an application, they can be a partner organisation.

Are schools eligible to apply?

Schools are not eligible as a lead partner, but they can be a partner organisation.

Funded activity needs to be completed by 31st July, can evaluation/ reporting/ admin take place in the weeks after this?

Please note that the activity end date has been extended to 30th September. The evaluation report would be due on 31st October, providing one month for reporting.

Does the grant support projects with children?

Yes, projects funded can include intergenerational projects that work with children. In the cases of working with very young children you will need to explain in your application how this meets the aims of the programme. Please note that you will need a relevant safeguarding policy in place.

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Can our project start before 1st April? We're expected to be notified on 14th February, so could we carry out work from this date?

We can fund continuation of ongoing projects, however we cannot fund retrospective costs. Payment will be made by 31st March 2025 which can be used to cover costs from the 1st April 2025. Delivery should not start until a grant agreement is in place, which will allow for payments to also be made.

In the application form, it says we can't spend more than 40% of funding applied for on salaries costs, this seems quite low. Does this include activity costs such as external workshop leaders?

Please note that the 40% cap has been removed and no longer applies. Applicants can apply for any salary costs related to the project. Applicants should check the grant specification for details about what we will and won't fund.

You state that you will not fund payments to individuals. Making Manchester Fairer and other MCC strategies are promoting the payment of individuals involved in participation / co design activity, which would seem to be an important principle for the participation objective of this fund. Are we allowed to fund for participation?

We will not fund direct payments to individual beneficiaries, including cash lump sums to people for participating in your project. Organisations can cover reasonable expenses for staff, project beneficiaries, and volunteers. Other costs may be considered if a strong rationale for doing so is given. For example, vouchers to beneficiaries.

Do all the partnership organisations need to link with city of Manchester wards, or just the lead partner?

The partnership organisations do not need to be based in City of Manchester wards, however they do need to have experience of working in these areas. For example, if your organisation is based in Broughton but works regularly in Cheetham Hill, they are applicable.

In 'we won't fund', can you please elaborate of this point 'Payments to Individuals including travel study or other purposes', does that include a stipend (cash or voucher) that might be given to participants?

We will not fund direct payments to individual beneficiaries, including cash lump sums to people for participating in your project. Organisations can cover reasonable expenses for staff, project beneficiaries, and volunteers. Other costs may be considered if a strong rationale for doing so is given. For example, vouchers to beneficiaries.

If the project funding is supplemented by another funding, can we use their other funding to cover the ineligible costs through BSCT?

Yes, if you receive match funding for your project as well as funding through BSCT grant, you can use the match funding to cover ineligible costs as long as this meets the match funders requirements.

What's the average reasonable cost per head for a regular project?

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This is dependent on the project type, size, and the level of impact that your project will have on beneficiaries, and is for the applicant to justify. For advice on budgeting, see [Preparing your budget | NCVO](#).

Will you fund to a lower amount if you like the project, but think it can be delivered for less?

Unfortunately, due to the timescales of the programme the assessment panel are not able to amend total funding amounts for projects.

Is it okay to apply if your organisation has been running for less than 12 months?

All organisations that are applying or listed as delivery partners on an application must have experience of working with Manchester residents for a minimum of 12 months.

What if a partner organisation has been running for longer, or was trading as a sole trader for any years?

Your application will need to evidence how you have been working with Manchester residents for the past 12 months. The decision will then be made by the panel on how this competes with other submissions.

How do you print the smart survey form?

You should be able to print your submission by clicking on the 'print submission' button at the end of the Smart Survey Form.



Building Stronger Communities Together Community Grant 2024-25

You have submitted your application!

Thank you for taking the time to submit your application to the BSCT grant.

A copy of your application has been emailed to the email address provided. You can also print your response using the option below.

What happens next?

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by email in due course. Please ensure that omfunds@manchester.gov.uk is on your safe senders list.

Submitted by mistake?

Please contact us as soon as possible and we can re-open your form.

[Print Submission](#)

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We are considering an application which involves a school as a delivery partner. The school won't receive any funding as part of the project. Is this ok?

Yes, Schools are applicable as a delivery partner.

What if you want to cover all wards? Do you tick all boxes/ wards?

You are able to tick all wards, however your application will be expected to explain how you will work in each ward selected. It is usually better to tick the wards that you are certain you will be working in, for example where your organisation is based or where the activities will take place.

Can the partnership cost be a lump sum payment to cover for their fee / general cost or it has to be budgeted and itemised?

You can pay your partner in a lump sum, however in your costings this needs to be budgeted so that the assessment panel can understand what the money will be spent on.