



We Love MCR Charity

Stronger Communities Fund

Guidance Notes

We Love MCR Charity is Manchester's iconic charity.

We support communities and individuals to improve lives and to achieve success in Manchester.

In our thriving city, many people are excluded from, or are unable to enjoy, the benefits of rapid business growth. We exist to **give heart, hope and opportunity to the people of Manchester, when they need it most.**

We support and inspire Mancunians to make our city a fairer, safer, cleaner, friendlier place. As community groups emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic and assess the holes in their finances and the opportunities to improve lives locally, our Fund is here to offer financial help.

This fund is here to offer support to communities which know how they can improve lives locally but need some financial help to deliver their plans.

Constituted community groups, charities, community interest companies and social enterprises can now **apply for an SCF grant of up to £5,000** for projects that fit into one of the fund's four themes:

Stronger Communities Fund (SCF)

COMBATING LONELINESS AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION –

Supporting groups of people who are at risk of exclusion from community life for example as a result of advanced age or disability

HELPING IN THE EARLY YEARS –

Supporting children 0-4 years old, and their parents, to make the best start possible in terms of learning, health and/or nutrition

OFFERING POSITIVE YOUTH ACTIVITIES -

Providing sustainable, structured programmes and activities to help communities of young people to live safely and successfully

PROTECTING AND IMPROVING OUR OPEN SPACES –

Delivering work which ensures public spaces are maintained and improved for the benefit of local people, or expanding access to open spaces for all members of the community.



Geographic Restrictions



Your Project should benefit residents of the City of Manchester. (I.e. **not** across Greater Manchester, solely within the city boundaries as defined by Manchester City Council).

We may be able to consider minor exceptions to this e.g. for Projects where up to 10% of beneficiaries are not residents of Manchester, or where beneficiaries include Young People Leaving Care in Manchester who may not all be moving to accommodation within the City of Manchester.

Here are some examples of projects already funded by the Charity:



A project that reaches out to people suffering dementia in care homes and in the community to connect through music
– **Sound up CIC**



Widening opportunities for young people and spreading a love of outdoor activities
– **South Manchester Scouts Group**



A Community festival – bringing local women together from different community backgrounds to celebrate diversity through different cultural food, dress and dances
– **Angels of Hope**



Supporting a community group to update and beautify an alleyway to promote community cohesion
– **Upping it**

Please contact us if you would like to discuss your idea for a Project or activity before you apply.

Restrictions on Applications:



Things we will not fund –

- Private/commercial organisations

- Project proposals which are >50%-funded by Manchester City Council

- Fundraising events

- Projects which benefit residents primarily living outside the City of Manchester

- Projects benefitting only a small number of individuals

- Projects which do not address one or more of our themes

- Projects which promote religious beliefs

- Projects that are brand new, or applications from organisations without previous experience relevant to the proposed Project

- Academic or medical research & equipment

- Organisations which already have an annual income to spend in Manchester in excess of £750,000 p.a.

- Retrospective requests (i.e. Projects/activities that have already taken place or have already been paid for)

- Applications from applicants who have received funding from the Stronger Communities Fund within the previous 1 year

- Requests that will replace or enhance a Statutory Duty of Manchester City Council

- Applications made by one organisation on behalf of another

We reserve the right to extend this list at any time.

Application Process:

Download the application form here -

<https://www.welovemcrcharity.org/> and complete it in full.

You can contact us at any time with queries if you are not sure how to answer any of the questions.

All applications must be typed (not hand-written) and submitted via email to welovemcrcharity@manchester.gov.uk.

Please make sure you send any supporting information along with your application as requested on the application form.

Applications are considered on a monthly basis – all the deadline and grant committee dates are displayed on our website here:

<https://www.welovemcrcharity.org/stronger-communities-fund/>

We will acknowledge receipt of your Application.

How decisions will be made:

Your Application will be reviewed by the Charity team, and we will contact you if we have any questions.

We may ask you to provide additional information or clarification.

Failure to provide information requested may result in your application being delayed.

After an initial review, the Charity's Officers will make a recommendation to our monthly grant committee meetings to Consider or to Reject the application.

The decision to make a grant award or to reject the application lies with the grants committee alone and is not subject to appeal.

The committee is made up of Trustees of We Love MCR Charity.

What happens after decisions have been made:

All applicants will be contacted within a few days following their application being presented at the committee meeting and advised of the outcome.

Unsuccessful applicants can apply again in future, but only with a different proposal.

If your application is successful, we will request the following:

- A few lines (or even a short video!) of thanks to We Love MCR Charity stating what difference the grant will make to the project and the people you want to help
- A photo or video you are happy for us to share
- A signed and returned Grant Award Agreement form which we will send to you. This details all the conditions which apply to our grant award
- A copy of your group's bank statement.

Monitoring and feedback:

Our Grants Manager will also discuss and agree the Update and Feedback requirements of the award with each successful applicant - this will include agreement to complete an "end of grant" survey. This will be detailed in the grant award agreement.

Data Protection Notice

The details you submit on your application form will be held securely. We Love MCR Charity will use them to assess your eligibility to receive funds from the charity.

We may check the information you give us, or information someone else gives us about you, with other information we hold.

We may also get information from other organisations (such as Manchester City Council) or give details to them, to check the accuracy of information and appropriateness of the request, to prevent or detect fraud and/or to safeguard charity funds in accordance with the law.

We will not give information about you to anyone outside We Love MCR Charity or Manchester City Council, or use information about you for any other purposes as governed by the General Data Protection Regulations 2018.

If you want to know what information we have about you or the way we use your information, you can contact the Charity directly.



Giving **heart** to Manchester

**Lord Mayor of Manchester's Charity Appeal Trust
(operating as We Love MCR Charity)
– registered charity no. 1066972**

