

Grants & Funding

1. Before you start to apply

SALC has grant funding available to give to Somerset's town, parish, and city councils. We want to award money to councils for projects informed by community need, and for issues relating to reducing inequalities in health and wellbeing that are not already benefitting from funding.

This includes groups working to improve:



Food & Nutrition



Increasing Physical Activity



Financial Wellbeing



Access to Health & Community Services

What Supports our Health and Wellbeing



Social Connection & Families



Environment & Climate Change



Employment, Education, & Training Opportunities



Housing & Built Environment



Equity Diversity & Inclusion

You do not have to be good at writing grant applications because we can offer support and have a simple application form for grants up to £2500.

If we are not sure about something, then we will ask you for more information. We can also support you if you have other access needs or if you cannot complete our online form.

2. Apply for funding for your Council-led community health and wellbeing project.

Town, city, and parish councils in Somerset can apply for a:

- Seed funding grant of up to £1500 to help with development of ideas/test and learn to develop larger funding applications.
- Small grant of up to £2500.
- Large project grant, of up to £35000 for transforming your council's capacity and expertise to collaborate with your community to tackle inequalities in one or more of the nine health determinant areas shown above. This funding has an expectation that the project activity will become sustainable beyond the grant period.

What we will fund:

- Evidence based projects to address needs and deliver outcomes that will support your community's health and wellbeing in one or more of the nine health determinants listed above.
- Partnerships/collaborative work between councils and other stakeholder groups/organisations.
- Match funding for initiatives already planned that meet the criteria above.
- Seed funding for test and learn work to scope larger projects to identify funding sources and capacity/learning needs for completing applications.
- A service/benefit that the council aspires to control/manage.

What we are unlikely to fund:

- Payments for external fundraisers/consultants.
- A service/benefit that the council controls/manages and has previously funded.
- Large capital projects.

3. Timescales

Applications will open in June 2023 and this project is funded until July 2025, so we must have evidence of the funded activity starting and benchmarking for evaluation data by the end date.

Small project grants - Applications will be opened in phases to enable a fair distribution of resources and time for applicants to put together a proposal.

- Group 1. June 2023-August 2023
- Group 2. January 2024-March 2024
- Group 3. June 2024-August 2024

Large project grants - Applications will be developed from June 2023 with the support of the health and wellbeing officer and approved via a sub-group of the Project Advisory Group on a quarterly basis.

4. Safeguarding and due diligence

Ensuring that children, young people, and vulnerable adults are safe is paramount. We expect the groups we fund to have safeguarding and risk assessment practices and procedures in place before they apply to us. The required detail will be laid out in the application forms alongside the due diligence checks that we will be conducting. The checks will be proportionate to the amounts of funding requested and nature of the proposed activities.

5. What we expect from you

PR and marketing

If you receive a grant award from us, we will supply our logo and guidelines on how to acknowledge the funding.

SALC's authorised logo should be shown on your website and used in all publicity about the funded project, including press releases, social media, leaflets, flyers & brochures, annual reports, and films.

By acknowledging SALC you help us raise awareness of our work, generate interest in the work of local councils, and encourage more support and funding for your group and others like it.

Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring and reporting requirements will be proportionate to the size of your grant and will reflect how you told us you would report your outcomes in your application.

We will discuss with you during the application and development process the measurable and reporting outcomes that are appropriate for the award.

Outcomes are the results of what you do in your funded project and are a key part of reporting. For example, the changes the work is making (e.g., improved health, increased confidence, reduced isolation, or gaining a job or qualification).

Case studies can be a powerful way to communicate the outcomes you have achieved with the funding. This means sharing the impact of the interventions made on individuals or on communities, either in their own voice through video and audio, or by reflecting the changes made through the medium of writing and images. Outcomes should link back to the need or problem that your project addresses, as identified in the application process.

6. Application process & conditions.

If your council needs support to apply or what to apply for, please contact our Health and Wellbeing Officer Ann Diment by email (see below), or book a meeting [here](#) and she will talk you through it.

If you're still consulting your community or developing your idea or governance processes and have questions about what policies you need, how to find volunteers or community groups to run the activities, etc, then [Spark Somerset](#) may be able to help you.

There are also a lot of useful resources on the [Smart Communities](#) website [here](#).

7. Councils without the General Power of Competence (GPC).

If your council has not declared the GPC, then it will rely on a range of specific statutory powers to undertake its work. Before making a grant application, it is necessary for your council to identify which statutory power it intends to rely on.

For help in ascertaining what powers are available to your council, contact sam@somerset-alc.org.uk

If there is no statutory power applicable for the project the council wishes to undertake, and if the value of the grant application is too high for section 137 expenditure to apply, then the assessment panel considering the grant application can consider making the grant payment direct to a third-party partner to the project (generally a VCFSE organisation).

Irrespective of which body receives the grant payment, it is vital that the parish or town council's involvement and commitment to the project is active and genuine.

8. How will the applications be assessed?

The grants panel will consider each application based on the evidence provided and will expect to see that parish or town council complies with the following:

1. The council leads on the application.
2. The council makes a meaningful annual grant to the project using its own funds for the term of the project (i.e., using section 137).
3. Named councillor(s) elected as the parish/ town council lead on the project and in membership of the committee/steering group for the project.
4. Approved council minutes are provided to evidence how the council is actively participating in the project.
5. Evidence is supplied to show councillor(s) attending and presenting on the project at meetings of neighbouring parishes or other relevant groups.
6. Evidence is provided to show how the council is involved with developing wider health and wellbeing work to deliver broader benefit around/beyond the grant funded project.
7. Evidence is provided to show the council's work toward achieving the GPC (i.e., supporting the clerk's qualification and actively engaging with the community to promote the value of standing for election).

Should the grants assessment panel be mindful to make the grant payment to a third-party organisation, it will be mandatory that:

8. A clear grant agreement is put in place to show that the parish/ town council is the accountable body and remains responsible for ensuring the grant is spent in line with the application and delivers the intended benefit.

This agreement must show how the council will ensure it can manage the grant alongside the third-party organisation. For example, all expenditure for the grant funded project is approved by the steering group/ committee (which includes councillor member(s)). The application should show how

the council will address any requirement for additional capacity/ support for clerk/RFO, and/or training for the identified lead councillor(s) to ensure an understanding of the financial arrangements so that support/scrutiny of the project is appropriately undertaken.

9. Help and further support.

If you want to find out more about whether your project idea is eligible, or if you do not know where to start with developing your application, then please contact us and we will do our best to help. We will share updates on our website [here](#) and in newsletters ([sign up here](#)), and you can also follow us on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) health & wellbeing profiles or reach us directly on:

- Email: ann@somerset-alc.org.uk Tel: 07704 223641

Please be aware that we will not be able to award a grant to every council that applies, and we will be coordinating our funding rounds with other funding organisations in Somerset to ensure that the most benefit can come from all the funding pots available. This means your project might not be granted SALC funding if we feel that a more suitable fund is available to meet your needs.

To reduce the chance of this happening, and before making an application, you are advised to think about where else you can first apply.

You could start with:

- Exploring Somerset Community Foundations' [open grants data](#) to find out who it has given money to over the last few years. There is also a wealth of information on its website here <https://www.somersetcf.org.uk/grantfunding>
- [Somerset Funding Portal](#) has a list of funding opportunities for groups maintained by Spark Somerset.
- Smart Communities [Resource page](#) has advice about consulting with your community.
- [Turn2us](#) has a database of grants and bursaries for individual people.