



Trusted procurement for  
better buildings and homes

in association with



# LHC Community Benefit Fund 2024-5



CONSORTIUM  
PROCUREMENT  
CONSTRUCTION



SOUTH WEST  
PROCUREMENT  
ALLIANCE



MIDLANDS  
LONDON  
SOUTH EAST

## Introduction

LHC is public sector procurement consortium providing specialist technical and procurement services to its members (Local Authorities and Housing Associations) throughout England. As a not-for-profit organisation, any surpluses generated from LHC's procurement activity are returned to its members. The Community Benefit Fund is part of that commitment.

## Where is the fund available?

The Fund is available in the areas covered by LHC committee members across England. Locality has been appointed as an independent fund manager to work with LHC members and potential grantees to assist with the application process, help distribute funds and to support grantees to ensure the fund delivers maximum social value.

## What are we looking to fund?

The Fund will seek to fund activities that demonstrably contribute to LHC social value priorities:

- Social Mobility
- Planet & Environment
- Individual Wellbeing (projects that promote wellbeing, individuals cannot apply)

More details of the social value priorities can be found in the LHC social value 'wheel':



Successful projects will also demonstrate the following features:

- Place based – supporting strong and sustainable neighbourhood in the areas where LHC Committee members work.
- Social Innovation – we are interested in innovative projects, but we will not rule out existing projects that can demonstrate added value.
- A small investment for lasting impact – attracting matched funding, enabling groups to bring in earned income or be sustainable in other ways.
- Demonstrate robust project planning and management.

### ***How much money is available and for how long?***

Grants are expected to be between £5k and £10k in value. More specific guidance will be available in each region.

Projects will be expected to be delivered within nine months of receiving funds.

### ***Delivery Routes:***

In distributing the LHC Community Benefit Fund, we will work closely with the LHC regional committee members and members of the board who each have a budget allocated to them. In some cases, they may have preferred impact areas, knowledge of communities in their areas and may have their own funds separate from the LHC Fund. Invitations to apply will therefore be targeted, rather than through an open application round although will go through a robust assessment process.

### ***Project Application Form***

For a project to be considered, a link will be given to a digital application form which should be completed and returned to Locality. This includes questions on the following:

#### **1. Eligibility**

- a. Must be a constituted community organisation, charity or social enterprise that has:
  - a management board with at least three, unrelated, members
  - a bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two, unrelated signatories.
- b. Must have an Equal Opportunities or Equalities/ Diversity Policy, or demonstrate they are in the process of adopting a policy that will be in force by the project start date.
- c. A Protecting Vulnerable People (safeguarding) Policy must be in place where the proposed project beneficiaries are vulnerable adults or children under 18.
- d. Financial accounts (or recent statements if no accounts) and Constitution/ Governance documents are required to be uploaded and are part of due diligence.
- e. Priority will be given to smaller organisations and those with less than 12 months free reserves.

#### **2. Project description – Outline of the activities being proposed**

#### **3. Need/ demand for the project and level of community involvement.**

4. **Project Plan** - the project must be properly planned, with clear aims and targets. We ask for Outputs (e.g. the number of people involved) and Outcomes (how the project will change things for the better) to be identified here.
5. **Budget breakdown** - the type of activity and the cost. Quotes need to be uploaded for budget items that are £1,000 or more.
6. **Match Funding & sustainability** - can the project demonstrate that it will be sustained beyond the life of the grant or enable the project to bring in other income.
7. **Capability** - The organisation must be able to manage the funds and deliver effectively. We ask for details on income and expenditure as well as information on resources available including volunteers and staff.
8. **Impact measurement** - We ask projects to identify the top Social Value Wheel indicators addressed in their application and commit to collect information to help measure their social value.

### ***We are unable to fund:***

- Individuals – We can fund projects that support individual wellbeing, however individuals cannot apply.
- Activities that promote political views or religious beliefs
- Retrospective funding
- Funding to pay off debts
- Supporting sponsored events, including expeditions
- Large research projects, including medical research
- Animal welfare
- Substituting services or money provided by the statutory sector
- Fees of professional fundraisers
- Educational bursaries
- Trips abroad
- Part funding towards larger projects or appeals, where it is not clear what difference the funding will make

### ***Locality support to participants***

Locality will support grantees in measuring the social value of the fund. Members and their grantees will have a dedicated Locality relationship manager, access to Locality's range of support. And the option of free Locality membership Including:

- Monthly e-newsletter
- Members only directory
- National campaigns for change
- Practical policy summaries

### ***Further information***

Further enquiries about the Fund can be directed to: [LHCFund@Locality.org.uk](mailto:LHCFund@Locality.org.uk)

<https://locality.org.uk/lhc-community-benefit-fund/>