



Hull
Community
Fund



20

grants awarded



£68,723

total grants awarded



£3,436

average grant



18,487

people supported



Two Ridings
Community Foundation



An introduction

The Hull Community Fund focuses on building on and strengthening the dynamism, impact and potential of Hull's voluntary and community groups and their vital contributions to life in the city.

The fund's priorities focus on four key aspects of life in Hull, aligning with Hull City Council's community plan for the city's development:

Health & Wellbeing

- Supporting older & vulnerable people and children & young people to enjoy healthy lifestyles
- Improving mental health
- Supporting inclusion health groups for people facing barriers in accessing health & care services

Education & Training

- Developing employability skills & providing volunteering opportunities

Culture & Heritage

- Increasing accessibility to culture and heritage, and supporting community arts initiatives

Environment

- Increasing biodiversity & supporting environmental improvement

Where the fund comes from

Hull Community Fund was launched in July 2024 with initial investment from the Rank Foundation and the Alderman Jackson Endowment Fund. Since then, individuals and businesses have donated to the fund.

Supporting small organisations addressing

HEALTH &
WELLBEING

EDUCATION &
TRAINING

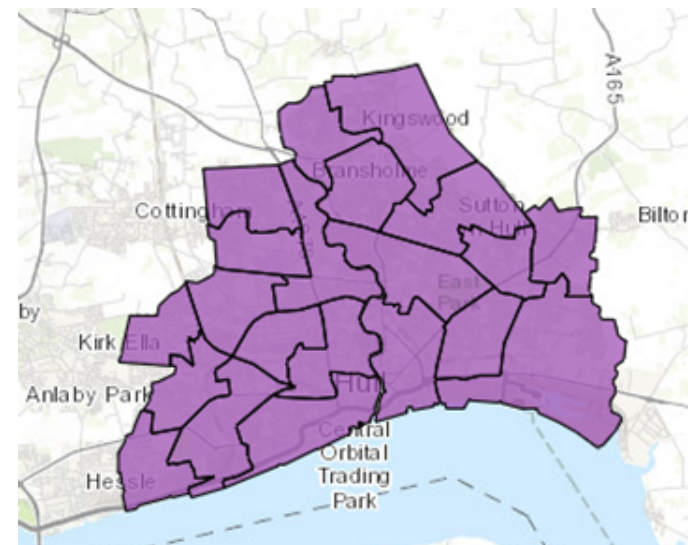
CULTURE &
HERITAGE

ENVIRONMENT



The area the fund supports

Hull Community Fund supports small organisations with a turnover under £150,000 serving the people of Hull.



Grants were distributed as micro-grants to cover the cost of an activity or project, or larger organisational development grants to cover core costs or invest in a way that boost the group's organisational capacity or sustainability.

The reach of Two Ridings

Through working with Two Ridings, Hull Community Fund reached locally trusted organisations, led and delivered by people with lived and working experiences of the issues being funded.

It has allowed support for both long-standing organisations previously funded by Two Ridings and newer emerging community groups. Groups supported range from community hubs, sport and dance organisations and groups working alongside the global majority populations in the city.

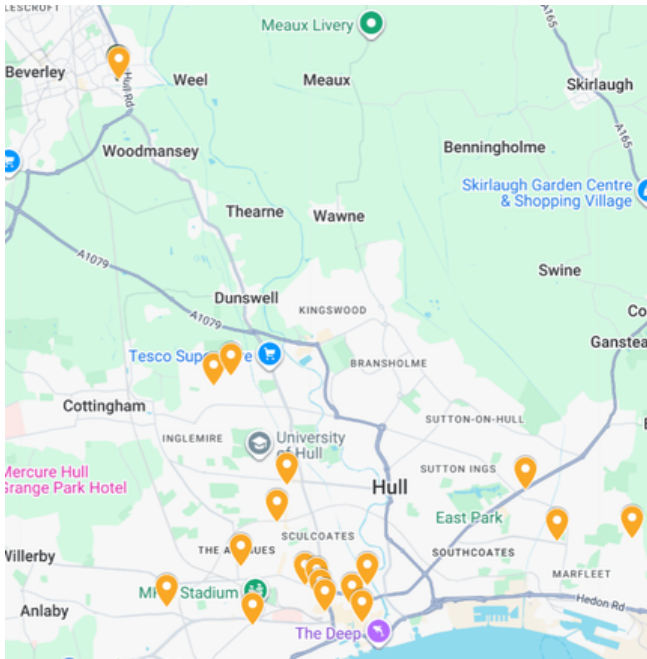
The groups and people supported

In 2025, 20 groups received funding totalling £68,723, including 16 first-time applicants and four groups that had received funding from Two Ridings previously. All the groups are small local charitable organisations with, on average, 0.6 full-time staff members, 2.5 part-time staff and 14 volunteers.

60% of groups have an annual income of under £50,000. All groups have an income of under £150,000.

A wide range of people were supported by the funding, including people living in poverty, children and young people, families, older people, local residents, people looking for employment, people affected by the 2024 riots and people from the global majority community.

Geographical spread of the fund



Supported organisations at a glance:

Art Therapy Group

Beats Bus Records

City of Hull Sport and Community Group
CIC

East Riding Hygiene Bank

Ella Street Residents Association

Hidden Disabilities

Hull and East Yorkshire Ukrainian
Community

Hull International Carnival Association

Hull Musical Theatre Company

Hull Red

Humber All Nations Alliance

MAMA T'S CIO

Rhema Counselling & Recovery Services

Solidarity Hull

St Stephen's Neighbourhood Centre

The Hull & East Yorkshire Centre for the
Deaf

The Hull & East Yorkshire Community
Counselling Service

The Maximum Life Youth Project

Trinity Scout Group

The Wollstonecraft Society

Funded organisations in 2025

Micro-grants for activities

Art Therapy Group are running weekly two-hour art therapy sessions for women at Preston Road Women's Centre. The grant covers materials, volunteer expenses, refreshments, and childcare, enabling local women to connect, enjoy social activities, and take part in small craft projects that reduce isolation. **£750**

Hull Red are employing two part-time trainers to deliver venue training and access drop-in sessions. Ten volunteers with lived experience are also being recruited to meet twice monthly, discuss access issues, and support drop-in activities across the city. **£2,000**

St Stephen's Neighbourhood Centre will deliver 37 inclusive exercise classes, with funding covering refreshments, instructors, and venue hire. The centre works with residents to ensure everyone has the chance to improve their health and wellbeing. **£1,980**

Solidarity Hull is scaling up its Employability Support project by adding an extra five-hour session each week. The programme supports people who speak English as a second language to improve their job prospects. **£2,000**

The Hull & East Yorkshire Centre for the Deaf has used funding towards running costs and social activities for the deaf community. The centre hosts weekly talks, social evenings, and regular events such as bingo, providing daily opportunities for connection and inclusion. **£2,000**

Trinity Scout Group are purchasing paddleboards, buoyancy aids, and helmets to expand the group's programme. Cubs, Scouts, and Explorers will benefit from paddleboarding at summer camps and activity days throughout the year. **£2,000**

The Hull & East Yorkshire Community Counselling Service continues to deliver vital services including a food bank and drop-in sessions, offering advice, emotional support, and signposting to local agencies. **£2,000**

Hull and East Yorkshire Ukrainian Community run a Saturday programme at the Welcome House for refugee families. Activities include children's support, teenage groups, adult sessions, and community lunches. **£2,000**

Hidden Disabilities are delivering festive activities for over 80 beneficiaries, including a Christmas party, craft session, quiz, movie night, and theatre trip, alongside their regular weekly groups. **£2,000**



East Riding Hygiene Bank have extended its service into Hull, building on four years of supporting over 40 organisations. The project provides vulnerable people with access to free or affordable hygiene products. **£2,000**

The Wollstonecraft Society are delivering 10 leadership sessions for 15 disadvantaged young people aged 14–17. The programme offers cultural experiences, employability skills, CV development, and work placements. **£1,920**

Beats Bus Records is taking a mobile recording studio into under-resourced areas, running a six-week project where young people can learn rap, lyric writing, DJ skills and beat-making, helping them express themselves safely and discover new talents. **£2,000**

Rhema Counselling and Recovery Services are creating a peer-led safe space for women affected by abuse, offering support and professional guidance when needed. **£2,000**

Hull International Carnival Association is bringing people together through inclusive music and arts events that celebrate diversity and challenge prejudice. **£600**

Ella Street Residents Association is planning its next community festival to build on the success of 2024. **£2,000**

Mama T's is opening up performing arts to children with free street dance lessons, giving them the chance to perform on stage and grow in confidence. **£2,000**



MAKING IMPACT **Ella Street Residential Association**

Ella Street is one of Hull's most vibrant neighbourhoods, known for its year-round community spirit and the much-loved Ella Street Festival. What began as a small, resident-led celebration has grown into a major event attracting up to 4,000 people. The festival has become a joyful expression of the creativity and diversity of the area, from live music and local art stalls to the "Ellaympics," colour fights, drumming workshops, and activities for all ages. Some of the children's artwork created at past festivals still decorates garden walls today, a reminder of the event's lasting impact.

As the festival has grown, so has all of the planning, coordinating permits, safety measures, equipment, and logistics. This now requires seven months of preparation, stretching the capacity of a small team. Yet the festival remains vital for the community, particularly for residents facing isolation or financial pressures. It brings together people from a wide range of backgrounds, offering a free, welcoming space to connect and celebrate together. Despite heavy rain, the 2024 festival still drew an estimated 3,000 attendees and received a 4.5 out of 5 satisfaction rating.

The Hull Community Fund will contribute to running costs for the 2026 festival, including first aid provision, permits, publicity materials, staging, and equipment hire. This support will ensure the festival remains free, safe, and accessible to all. It will also allow the Residential Association to focus on strengthening community engagement and supporting the wellbeing of residents.

The festival's impact extends far beyond a single day. It builds friendships, encourages volunteering, boosts neighbourhood pride, and strengthens cohesion across a diverse area of Hull.



MAKING IMPACT MAMA T'S

Mama T's Dance House opened its doors in 2020, bringing dance and performing arts to children who wouldn't otherwise have the chance. Patricia, a Hull-born dance teacher, set it up after seeing how many families couldn't afford classes, even though their children wanted to dance and take part. She wanted to make sure cost was never the reason a child missed out on something that would bring them joy and happiness.

Each week, up to 50 children aged 5 to 11 take part in free street-dance sessions held in community centres across Hull. Sessions run in Endike Lane, North Bransholme and the Ings estate, and more neighbourhoods are asking for classes. Children arrive full of energy, often straight from school, and step into a space where they can move freely, make friends and enjoy dancing.

These sessions give children a chance to express themselves, build confidence and feel part of something positive in their own community. Parents explain that their children are more active, more motivated and excited to show off what they've learned at home. For many families, this is the only structured activity available close by, and it offers a safe, welcoming alternative to staying indoors or hanging around with little to do.

Funded organisations in 2025

Organisational Development grants



The Maximum Life Youth Project £9,990

Maxlife is entering a moment of real momentum, a chance to strengthen the foundations that keep their work with young people thriving. By funding a coordinator, an admin assistant, refreshed staff training and a modern HR system, the organisation can lift a huge administrative weight off its frontline team. That means more time spent doing what matters most: supporting the 32–48 young people who walk through their doors each week, offering warm meals, guidance and a safe place to grow. Strengthening their core systems also gives Maxlife the stability they've fought hard to protect through years of financial uncertainty, creating the space needed to plan ahead, secure long-term funding and keep expanding opportunities shaped by young people's voices.

With these stronger foundations, Maxlife can widen its reach in ways that feel genuinely exciting. Digitalising systems, upskilling the coordinator, recruiting new volunteers and building a volunteer handbook all help pave the way for new open-access sessions, daytime activities and outreach delivered with Autism Plus on the lngs Estate. This means meeting young people closer to home, welcoming new faces and offering even more creative, nourishing and community-driven experiences. This funding doesn't just strengthen an organisation—it strengthens a whole community. It gives Maxlife the tools to grow with intention and keep creating a place where young people feel supported, valued and able to thrive.

Hull Musical Theatre Company £9,800

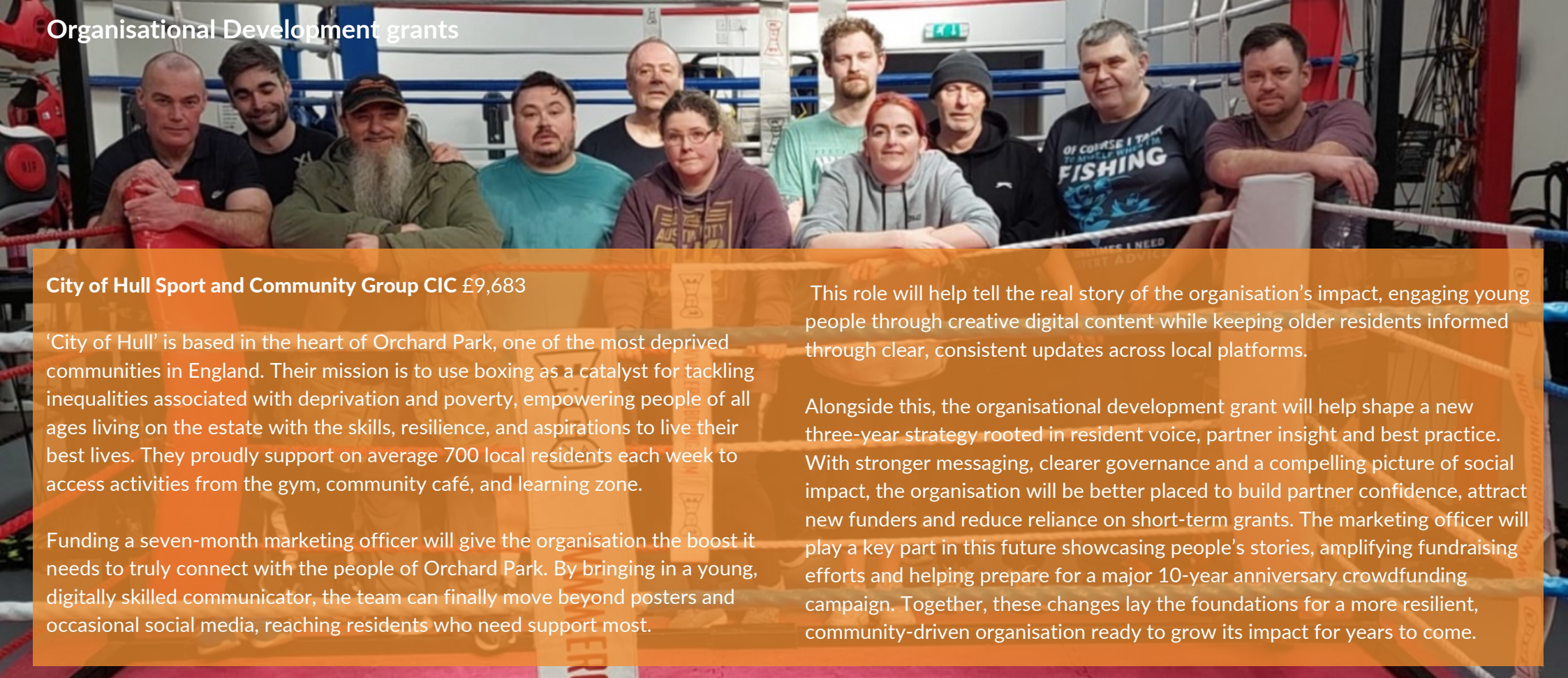
Hull Musical Theatre Company is on the brink of an important shift, moving away from them relying on overstretched volunteers to building a stable, sustainable and future-focused organisation. Funding for a freelance community development role will give the Theatre company the dedicated capacity it has long needed to strengthen governance, develop essential policies and finally register as a charity. This funding frees the volunteer committee from constant firefighting and opens the door to long-term planning, deeper partnerships and new creative health projects that reach people who might never have considered musical theatre as a space for them. It also allows them to actively welcome communities underrepresented in the arts, enriching both its membership and the stories it brings to the stage.

With this support, the Theatre Company can grow into the cultural anchor it is ready to become. A paid staff member will build relationships across Hull's voluntary sector, raise awareness of the company's impact on wellbeing and skills, and seek funding for ambitious, inclusive projects.

Strengthened governance will unlock new grants and sponsorships, while improved communications will showcase the Theatre Company not just as a theatre group, but as a community organisation that boosts confidence, connection and creativity. As the company approaches its 130th anniversary, this investment ensures it can move beyond survival mode and step into a future where it thrives, offering richer productions, broader participation and a lasting contribution to Hull's cultural and community life.



Organisational Development grants



City of Hull Sport and Community Group CIC £9,683

'City of Hull' is based in the heart of Orchard Park, one of the most deprived communities in England. Their mission is to use boxing as a catalyst for tackling inequalities associated with deprivation and poverty, empowering people of all ages living on the estate with the skills, resilience, and aspirations to live their best lives. They proudly support on average 700 local residents each week to access activities from the gym, community café, and learning zone.

Funding a seven-month marketing officer will give the organisation the boost it needs to truly connect with the people of Orchard Park. By bringing in a young, digitally skilled communicator, the team can finally move beyond posters and occasional social media, reaching residents who need support most.

This role will help tell the real story of the organisation's impact, engaging young people through creative digital content while keeping older residents informed through clear, consistent updates across local platforms.

Alongside this, the organisational development grant will help shape a new three-year strategy rooted in resident voice, partner insight and best practice. With stronger messaging, clearer governance and a compelling picture of social impact, the organisation will be better placed to build partner confidence, attract new funders and reduce reliance on short-term grants. The marketing officer will play a key part in this future showcasing people's stories, amplifying fundraising efforts and helping prepare for a major 10-year anniversary crowdfunding campaign. Together, these changes lay the foundations for a more resilient, community-driven organisation ready to grow its impact for years to come.

Humber All Nations Alliance £10,000

HANA is stepping into an important new phase of its work, one where safeguarding becomes not just a responsibility, but a core strength of the organisation. They are using their funding to train 12 staff and volunteers up to Level 2 which will give HANA the confidence and capacity to support communities who often face cultural, linguistic and systemic barriers when trying to access help. This training isn't just about compliance; it's about maturity, readiness and responding to the real issues affecting families across the Humber region.

By building a team of safeguarding-aware staff, HANA can work more closely with schools, youth settings and local authorities. This offers insight that reflects the lived experiences of the communities they serve.

As well as creating safeguarding leads within the organisation, the funding will develop multilingual resources, and strengthen relationships with over 25 schools and community partners. Children and young people from ethnically diverse backgrounds will benefit from adults who understand their cultural context and can advocate for them with sensitivity and skill.

Schools will gain trusted partners who can help them navigate complex situations with greater cultural awareness. And HANA's staff and volunteers will grow in confidence, equipped to deliver workshops, respond to concerns and support families who may previously have been hesitant to engage with mainstream services. Over time, this investment will ripple outward - building trust, improving referrals, and creating safer, more connected communities across Hull.

Be the difference

Do your charitable giving through Hull Community Fund

Launched in 2024, the Hull Community Fund supports people and community organisations across the city. The fund was set up through a partnership between Two Ridings Community Foundation, Hull City Council, Hull CVS, HEY Smile Foundation and Forum CIO, to create a shared, collaborative approach to giving and community impact in Hull.

While the Hull Community Fund is relatively new, Two Ridings Community Foundation has been distributing grants across Hull and the East Riding since 2010. In 2024 alone, almost £1 million was distributed in Hull through a range of grant programmes.

Hull is a vibrant, proud and unique city, but many local people continue to face significant challenges. Donating to the Hull Community Fund helps support communities now while investing in long-term change.

Currently, all donations to the fund are eligible for 100% match funding in Hull — effectively doubling the impact of your gift.



Discuss your giving with us

If reading this report has made you realise you want to support Hull Community Fund, please contact Celia directly on **07519 485103**

Celia would be very happy to visit you and talk through your tax-efficient giving options and how you can make a difference in Hull.



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Charity Registration Number: 1166471