



## The Q-FUTURES Community Fund North Yorkshire Guidance Notes 2026

### Overview

The Q-FUTURES Community Fund aims to make a real difference to people living and working in rural communities, recognising the importance of strong integrated local communities. As such, the Fund is designed to help organisations develop and improve collaborative and partnership working. We are looking for engaging community initiatives focused on strengthening and integrating local communities that are led and co-created to meet specific local and rural needs.

### Fund priorities

Projects must be focused on working in collaboration and partnership to create strong, integrated local communities. To help organisations deepen their impact, these grants are offered as multi-year grants covering three years.

Priority will be given to applications demonstrating strong alignment with specific local needs, focusing on one or more of the following:

- Climate action and resilience
- Underrepresented groups and marginalised communities
- Those impacted by neurodiversity

Examples of collaboration or partnership projects that could be funded (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Creating community development networks and hubs that strengthened local connections
- Initiatives to improve integration for migrant, refugee, and asylum-seeking communities.
- Neighbourhood-scale projects finding solutions to climate impact while fostering social cohesion.
- Co-created, tailored decarbonisation plans to strengthen local community resilience
- Future-proofing community spaces by strengthening leadership and governance, and supporting rural resilience and net-zero goals.
- Supporting innovative solutions like income-generating projects and skills development.
- Using local cultural and natural resources to improve health and wellbeing through cross-sector partnerships

### What grants can be used for

We understand the pressures community groups face. A Q-Futures grant supports leadership time to reflect, learn, and lead. Exploring, developing and maintaining collaboration takes time and resource. This grant is designed to give charity and voluntary sector leaders the time and space to build relationships, pilot new ideas and ways of working and to facilitate shared learning.

We are keen to support community-led collaborations that strengthen local connections and shared purpose to address local challenges, build inclusive partnerships, and foster long-term resilience. Strong and successful collaborations need structure.

We welcome applications from groups either as partnership applications or from a single organisation:

- Exploring collaborative working and partnerships for the first time
- Looking to deepen and strengthen collaborations
- Already working together to create meaningful change, especially those involving smaller organisations and underrepresented voices

We expect you to think about how:

- Inclusive decision-making will be fostered and ensured (e.g. how you will handle difference of opinion)
- You will create clear roles and expectations (incl. who will be the named lead partner if you are submitting a partnership bid)
- Workloads will be shared
- Diversity in size, type, and voice will be reflected, ensuring smaller groups are not just included, but empowered.
- The above will be worked into a Memorandum of Understanding (you must submit this if you are applying as a partnership)

We do not expect you to have all the answers and we do not expect all ideas to work, we simply want to enable the time and space needed to explore collaborative ways of working that will help strengthen York communities.

## Who can apply?

You can apply if you are based in and/or serving the people of **North Yorkshire (excluding Selby)** and your annual turnover is under £500,000.

Q-FUTURES Community Fund 2026 grants are targeted at organisations where a small amount of money can make a significant difference.

## How much you can apply for

You can apply for up to £20,000 over three years.

We have a total funding pot of £100,000 for this one-off grant opportunity.

Grants can fund 100% of the activity costs or can be part of a combination of funding to meet the full amount needed, however it is unlikely that priority will be given to projects where the grant award would represent less than 20% of the total project cost. If you are applying for a percentage of the total costs, please tell us what other funding has been secured or how you will secure the remaining funds.

We can support a [Full Cost Recovery](#) contribution towards core overhead costs (rent/ heating/ lighting etc) as part of your application. However, we cannot accept applications where overhead costs are a large proportion of the requested amount.

## Organisational / Group Eligibility

Please read our [How To Apply](#) page on our website for essential information on:

- Organisational / Group Eligibility
- Who and what cannot be funded?
- How to apply
- Assessment and Award
- Reporting and Evaluation
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

## How to apply

Initially you will need to complete an expression of interest. This is a short 300 word summary of your proposal.

**Expression of Interest deadline:** 12 noon, Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.

If your Expression of Interest is shortlisted, **full application deadline:** 12 noon, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Final decisions will be communicated by **Mid-May 2026**.

**Applications will only be processed when all documentation has been received.** If you do not have all these documents, please do get in touch on 01904 929500 prior to the deadline.

**NOTE – if successful, you must submit your bank statement within 4 weeks of your ‘grant awarded’ notification otherwise your application will be withdrawn.** Please make sure you have access to a statement when you apply.

Please follow this link to make an Expression of Interest: <https://ukcommunityfoundation.my.salesforce-sites.com/forms/Q-Futures-North-Yorks-EOI>