



Banks Community Fund (LCF)

The Banks Group develops land for a variety of uses including surface coal mining; residential and commercial property; and renewable energy (on shore wind and solar (PV)). It is a family owned, County Durham based, business employing around 400 people across the north of England and Scotland.

‘Development with Care’ is central to the aims and objectives of the Banks Group. The phrase describes how it deals with people inside and outside its company and is the guiding principle of how it conducts its business at all times.

The Banks Group looks for opportunities to make a real positive difference to local people and their communities; to provide lasting benefits, whether during the lifetime of the project or during long-term aftercare. It is this ethos that led to the establishment of the Banks Community Fund, to support local community and environmental projects around the areas in which its projects are located.

The Banks Community Fund is made of a number of different funds including the **Banks Community Fund (LCF¹)**.

To check if your group or project is located within an area where the Banks Group is currently operating please [click here](#). Grants from the **Banks Community fund (LCF)** will typically be up to **£5,000** although the Banks Group reserves the right, in exceptional circumstances, to support projects to a higher level.

Funding will be awarded to projects that aim to:

- bring land back into use
- reduce or prevent pollution
- provide information on sustainable waste management
- build, improve or maintain public parks or amenities
- build, improve or maintain community buildings or amenities
- improve quality of life in a local environment
- promote or conserve biological diversity through the provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat, or the maintenance or recovery of a species in its natural habitat

It is an important requirement of this Fund, that if your application is successful you will be required to pay 10% of the amount awarded to the Banks Group, prior to your grant being released. No grant funding will be paid to your organisation until this money has been received by us. The contribution can be made by any business, local authority, applicant organisation

¹ Landfill Community Fund

(through fundraising activities only, proof will be required), or local resident, who should hold no interest in the project e.g. financial or reputational gain.

To be eligible to receive a grant from Banks Community Fund (Landfill)

- you must be open to the community (public) and allow access to your premises/project for a minimum of four evenings per week, two days per week or 104 days per year
- be located in an area where the Banks Group is currently operating (you will need this information to complete your application).

Who we support:

Typically, we award grants to:

- constituted voluntary-led organisations with charitable aims,
- registered charities
- charitable incorporated organisations (CIO)
- social enterprises
- community interest companies (CIC)
- companies limited by guarantee that have charitable aims

Organisations seeking funding must satisfy the following conditions:

Volunteer-led organisations, registered charities and CIOs must:	Social enterprises, Community Interest Companies (CIC) and other companies must:
Have a management committee with a minimum of four unrelated members	Have a management committee with a minimum of three directors, or four directors if two are related
Have a bank or building society account in the name of the organisation/group, with a minimum of two unrelated cheque signatories	Have a bank or building society account in the name of the organisation/company, with a minimum of two unrelated cheque signatories
Have charitable aims	Have clear charitable purposes and a defined social benefit
Provide evidence of good governance practices and sound financial management (including registering with the Charity Commission, CASC or other governing body, depending on the size of the organisation)	Have a recognised status (e.g. a company limited by guarantee), and be registered with the necessary relevant body (e.g. Companies House)

Usually, you must register with the Charity Commission if your charity is based in England or Wales and has over £5,000 income per year. We may ask for evidence of this in the form of a letter from the Charity Commission confirming receipt of your application for charitable status.	Have a nominated organisation as an asset lock body.
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In addition, social enterprises, CICs and other companies must demonstrate within applications that:

- the company has been registered for a minimum of 12 months
- a reasonable percentage of their income has been earned through trading
- the project they wish to fund is not a tradable asset or service
- the application is made for cost to deliver the project not managing the CIC
- the project or activity for which funding is sought is charitable i.e. it must not be part of the trading services for which they would usually have a charge
- there is clear evidence of need (consultation etc.) from the community and the benefit must also be clear

In managing your organisation, we would expect that the appropriate policies are in place. These should include (if appropriate) but not be restricted to:

- safeguarding policies and procedures for children and vulnerable adults
- public liability insurance
- employer's liability
- equality and diversity
- disclosure and barring service (DBS) checks carried out and in place for all paid and unpaid volunteer staff working with children and vulnerable adults
- suitable planning permissions and/or other regulations approval are in place prior to the commencement of any improvements to building or land as required.

While we may not always ask that these are submitted with all applications, we do anticipate that you hold appropriate assurances and that these can be produced upon request.

We are unable to accept application from groups that:

- have not returned monitoring forms to County Durham Community Foundation for previous grants awarded from any grant programme not just a Banks Group Fund
- are subject to an investigation by the Charity Commission, the police or any other organisation in a legal capacity
- have restricted membership other than that associated with the objects of the group itself i.e. necessary for the safety/wellbeing of disadvantaged users,
- fail due diligence or do not comply with Charity Commission guidelines i.e. we would not make grants to organisations that had related bank signatories, several related trustees, income well in excess of the threshold for charitable registration etc.

What the Banks Community Fund (Landfill) will not fund:

- unspecified contributions to general fund-raising appeals or large projects
- for-profit or commercial elements of charitable organisations
- capital items for general office or company resourcing (non-project)
- public bodies to carry out their statutory obligations
- direct replacement of statutory or public funding,
- party political activity and campaigning
- contingency funding
- refreshments or food
- buying premises or land rights
- projects that solely support animal welfare
- feasibility studies or initial community consultations
- fundraising activities
- deficit or retrospective funding
- sponsored events, multiple trophies or prizes
- general running or core costs, except as a proportionate contribution to a project
- CIC start-ups
- wholly grant-maintained CICs
- profit making or business ventures, including start-up costs
- activities that are primarily about the advancement of a particular faith or supporting worship activities (faith organisations may apply for funding towards a project/activity that is open to the whole community and has wider social benefits)

What the Banks Community Fund (LCF) will not normally fund

- national or regional charities, although we can support local branches of national charities if they are financially independent and locally managed
- organisations whose free reserves include more than 12 months of running costs,
- medical research and contribution to major medical equipment fundraising campaigns
- organisations that do not have their own bank account (in exceptional circumstances and through prior agreement with County Durham Community Foundation a group may nominate an organisation to hold the funding on their behalf).

Need more help?

If you are unsure about whether you are eligible to apply, please contact **Margaret Vaughan** on **0191 378 6342** or email **fundmanager@bankscommunityfund.org.uk** contact the Community Engagement Co-ordinator for your area from the Banks Group.

Please note that in submitting your application you, or a person in your organisation who knows the details of your application, should be available to speak to us during the next month. Applications can take up to 12 weeks before a decision is made as decision panels are held quarterly throughout the year.