

DUDLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PRIDE IN PLACE PROGRAMME (PiPP)

COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME 2026 – 2027

Guidance for applicants

Important

This document must be read in full before completing the PiPP Community Grant Scheme application form.

All completed application forms must be submitted to prideinplace@dudley.gov.uk no later than 5pm on Friday 3rd July 2026.

What is pride in place?

In March 2025, the UK government announced the Pride in Place Programme (PiPP), which you might have also heard referred to as Plan for Neighbourhoods. PiPP is a 10-year government programme that gives communities the power to improve their local area and restore pride in the places they live. A defined geographical area within Dudley was confirmed as one of the first phase of places to benefit from £19.5m in investment over the next decade. Success will look different in every place, but the PiPP has three overarching aims to build stronger communities, thriving places and return power to the communities ensuring they have the tools, resources and skills needed to drive the change they want to see.

Dudley's PiPP is led by an independent, decision-making [Neighbourhood Board](#) comprising representatives from the community and the voluntary sector, education, police and local MPs. The Neighbourhood Board co-created a [10-year Regeneration Plan](#) and [4-year Investment Plan](#) that was approved by government in April 2026. It provides a high-level vision along with priorities for the first PiPP delivery phase for investment into the local area. The Regeneration Plan provides a detailed summary of local challenges and shared priorities for investment relevant to the area and was shaped by those who live, study, visit and work across the area through extensive community engagement and underpinned by local data analysis, and statistical evidence. Community is at the heart of our programme and the cornerstone of our approach to ensure a lasting difference within our neighbourhoods and communities.

The Dudley Neighbourhood Board and Dudley Council reserve the right not to allocate some or all of the available grant funding. Grant funding for successful projects is subject to receipt of funds by the UK Government.

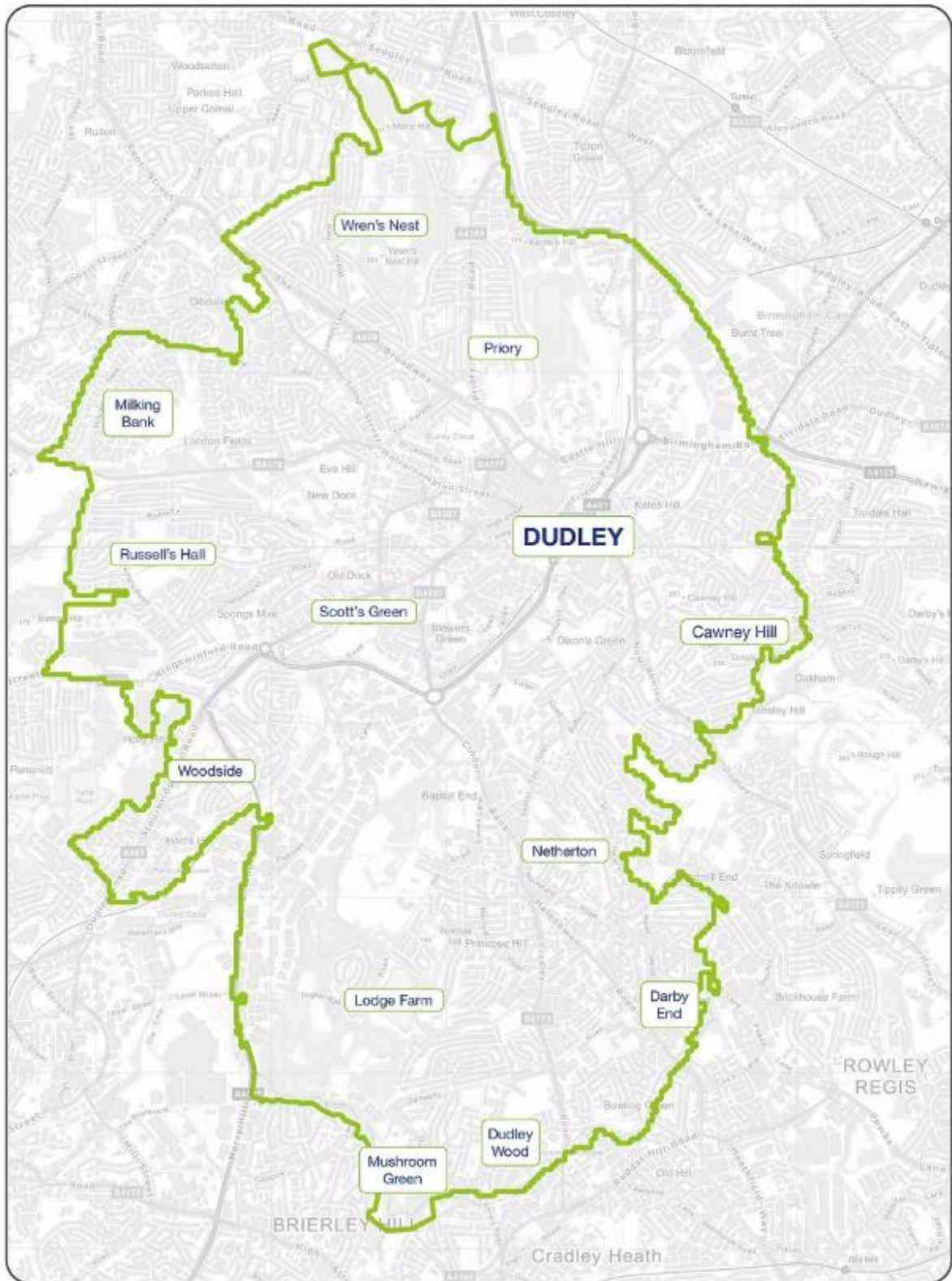


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PRIDE IN PLACE
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Boundary map



<https://www.regeneratingdudley.org.uk/plan-for-neighbourhoods>

What are the aims of the Community Grants Fund?

The Community Grants Fund aligns with the key overarching aims of the Pride in Place Programme:

- Stronger communities
- Thriving places
- Taking back control

Am I eligible to apply for funding?

Pass/Fail eligibility criteria

Projects must:

1. Be delivered within the programme's geographical area*
2. Be delivered by an organisation based within Dudley borough
3. Meet at least one or more of the programme's themes
4. Must contribute a minimum of 10% of total project costs in match funding (further details of what we will consider as 'match funding' below).
5. Be made up of at least 85% of capital costs if seeking total grant funding of £5,000-£20,000**.
6. Be bid for by a constituted group with a bank account
7. Be deliverable within 12 months
8. Not have already incurred any spend on items the grant is to pay for

* Projects that directly benefit the priority locations of Dudley Town Centre, Netherton Town Centre, or Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve will score more favourably.

**As an exception, for projects requesting total grant funding of up to £4,999 (inc. VAT), revenue only applications will be considered.

Eligible groups / organisations able to apply for funding are:

- Constituted community groups / associations with a bank account
- Registered charities
- Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO)
- Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Company Ltd by Guarantee with charitable status (CLG)
- Community benefit society

Eligible projects:

We would really love to see project ideas that deliver against the themes identified as priorities in the 4-year investment plan, these are:

- public spaces buildings and heritage
- safety and crime reduction
- education
- family support and youth opportunities
- community cohesion (bringing people together) and therefore have higher funding availability than other themes.

However, we will consider projects which align with any of the eight PiPP themes, these are:

| Theme | What it might fund |
|--|--|
| Safety and crime reduction | Crime and anti-social behaviour reduction, projects that address crime and safety issues or perceived issues that help people to feel safer in their neighbourhoods. Diversionary activities and youth prevention. |
| Public spaces, buildings and heritage | Improvements to and activations of public spaces, parks, buildings and heritage to restore pride in our areas improving the look, feel and/or use of high streets, parks and green/blue spaces. This could include cleaning, greening, maintenance, refurbishment of degraded infrastructure, use of vacant spaces and cultural activity and events. |
| Education, family support and youth programmes | Youth provision and family education & support Improving opportunities for young people to go to secure employment in the future |
| Community cohesion / bringing communities together | Events and activities which bring people together particularly in relation to those that are in parks, town centres and existing community facilities. Community & youth facilities |
| Health and Wellbeing | Activities that support physical and mental wellbeing (eg in parks and through social prescribing) |
| Housing, homelessness and rough sleeping | Improvements to communal spaces in residential areas. |
| Skills, employment, business support and growth | Activity which supports business growth and links with employment support initiatives and skills and training, enabling communities to benefit from wealth generated locally |
| Transport and getting around | Improved infrastructure and accessibility projects |

Further examples of projects that could be funded under these themes can be found on the PiPP [Indicative Interventions List](#). This list is not exhaustive but gives ideas for eligible activity scope.

Funding

What funding is available in the Community Grants Scheme?

This grant scheme provides capital and revenue funding to eligible organisations.

A funding pot of £277,470 is currently available through the Pride in Place Programme.

Year 1 Grant funding

| Capital | Revenue | Total funding |
|----------|---------|---------------|
| £180,000 | £97,470 | £277,470 |

The amount of available funding for each theme is detailed below and has been determined / apportion across the thematic priorities identified in the PiPP Investment Plan.

Year 2 Grant funding

There will likely be a second round of funding in early 2027. Full details, including funding amounts, eligibility criteria, and timelines are still to be confirmed. Applicants who are unsuccessful in Round 1, or who are not yet ready to apply, will be able to access support to help them prepare for Round 2.

The Dudley Neighbourhood Board reserves the right to withhold, reschedule or reduce/increase the value of any funding rounds at any point throughout the programme.

How much can I apply for?

Grant funding of up to £20,000 per organisation is available.

Organisations may only submit one application (includes partnership applications) in a single funding round.

For projects seeking total grant funding of £5,000-£20,000 the total grant funding cost must be split at least 85% capital and at most 15% revenue.

As an exception, for projects seeking grant funding up to a total of £4,999, revenue only grant funding applications will be considered.

What are capital and revenue funding?

Government spending is classified into two types – revenue and capital.

Revenue - Revenue funding covers day-to-day spending and ‘frontline’ services, i.e. any spending to make things run. For example: staffing to deliver something, or it can be for activities and events, venue hire and other eligible non-capital expenses. It may also support development of a capital project i.e. feasibility funding.

Capital - For the purposes of this scheme capital funding is funding used to acquire, upgrade or build a physical asset that will be measurable and generate future economic gain. It includes building or improving an asset that will be used for more than a year. It may also support development of a capital project such as business case etc.

For a full explanation please see Revenue and Capital Classification document which will be available on the Regenerating Dudley website after the launch.

Subsidy

- Applicants will be asked to declare whether they / their organisation(s) have received any public or EU funding in the last 3 years when applying to ensure all projects are compliant with the UK Subsidy Control regime. Further details can be found here: [gov.uk Subsidy Control website](https://www.gov.uk/subsidy-control).

Data protection

Dudley Council will securely store and process information from grant applications to support administration and compliance. All data will be handled confidentially in line with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. This personal data will be held and processed by DMBC to provide and share data with the organisations involved in the administration of the Community Grants Scheme (Dudley Neighbourhood Board).

Personal information provide may be shared with trusted partners involved in the grant programme to deliver support, meet legal obligations, and protect public funds, including preventing fraud or the misuse of resources on the basis that they treat the information as confidential and as part of any statutory duties requiring such disclosure and to protect the public funds it collects and administers. For further information on our privacy notice, visit [Privacy Information](#).

What is match funding?

Eligible organisations must contribute a minimum of 10% of total project costs in match funding. This means that the grant funding you are applying for should not exceed 90% of the total project costs.

- We will ask you to confirm the source, value and type of match funding on your application form.
- We will accept both in-kind and financial match however for in-kind match funding to be considered its value must be monetised in your application. *For example: free use of venue for hire to deliver services would be provided its equivalent cost, or volunteer hours to deliver a programme calculated at standard minimum wage hourly rate.*
- A project's match contribution may comprise any other funding source including private funds, applicant contributions, loans, or grants (excluding PiPP funding).
- Match funding must be confirmed or confirmed in principle (e.g. subject to successful award of PiPP funding) at the point of application.
- Match must be unique to this project funding (i.e. not 'double counted' in other funding applications and may be subject to audit.

What we can't fund

Funding is not available for the following purposes and must not be included in applications:

- Cannot be used to cover or subsidise existing organisational staffing costs or roles not directly attributable to the funded activity. Only staff time that is clearly linked to the delivery of the project, and appropriately evidenced, will be eligible.
- Retrospective costs (anything you have already delivered, purchased or incurred costs on)
- Projects that are not delivered within the Dudley PiPP Boundary area (see [map](#))
- Organisations who are not based in Dudley Borough
- Payment for works or activities that any grant recipient, end beneficiary, project delivered or local authority has statutory duty to undertake or that are fully funded through other sources
- Political / religious activities
- VAT reclaimable from HMRC
- Gifts or donations

What is the funding timeline for applications?

This is a pilot grant scheme, and is therefore expected to open for one round of applications initially as set out below:

Application window opens Friday 5th June 2026 and closes Friday 3rd July at 5.00pm.

Successful applicants will start to deliver their projects from 1st September 2026, and must complete all project delivery and spend by 31st August 2027).

The grant funding process will involve the following stages:

| Stage | Timescale | Dates |
|--|--|---|
| Launch Event | 1 day | Friday 5 th June (in person event) |
| Application window | 4 weeks | 5 th June – 3 rd July 2026 |
| Application assessment, appraisal and approval | 4 weeks | 3 rd July – 31 st July |
| Application notification and award | 4 weeks | 3 rd August – 31 st August |
| Successful projects start date | 1 day | 1 st September 2026 |
| Grant funding period | Up to 12 months | 1 st September 2026 – 31 st August 2027 |
| Monitoring and reporting period | Up to 6 months post project completion | 1 st September 2026 – 31 st March 2028 |

The Dudley Neighbourhood Board reserves the right to withhold, reschedule or reduce/increase the value of any funding rounds at any point throughout the programme.

All applications are subject to a competitive process and due to the limited availability of funding an award is not guaranteed.

Applicants who are unsuccessful in Round 1, or who are not yet ready to apply, will be able to access support to help them prepare for Round 2.

Quality criteria and Scoring

How will my application be assessed / scored?

All applications will be assessed against the pass/fail project eligibility and quality questions, set out in this guidance document.

Any application that fails to meet the pass/fail criteria will not be taken forward to quality question appraisal by the panel.

If all pass/fail criteria is met, an independent panel will review and assess and score your project proposal against a set of quality criteria set out below, and a recommendation will be made as to whether a grant will be awarded.

The quality criteria table below details how the panel will score and assess applications. Each component will receive a score 0-5 based upon the content and quality of the responses submitted in the application form, considering the applicant's ability to illustrate the following points:

| Quality criteria and scoring table | | |
|--|--|-----------|
| Theme | Consideration | Weighting |
| Deliverability - Experience | Assurance / Experience of delivering similar projects. Question 1 | 10% |
| Justification of funding | Explanation of the need for grant funding e.g. opportunity or challenge and who it will target. Question 2 | 15% |
| Strategic fit | Explanation of the use of grant funding and how it will positively contribute to the identified Pride in Place themes, clearly explaining the main and sub themes. Demonstration of outputs, outcomes and impact of investment relating to the relevant theme(s). Question 3 | 25% |
| Deliverability – How you will deliver this project | Explanation of how the project will be delivered on time and to budget, including how you will ensure project delivery is on track, identification of risks and risk management. Question 4 | 15% |
| Legacy and sustainability | What will the impact of the project be, and how outputs and outcomes will be captured, measured and evaluated. How it be sustainable long-term. Question 5 | 10% |
| Extra points question | Is the project benefitting an identified priority location? | 10% |
| Total available score: | | 85 points |
| Scoring matrix reference | | |
| 0 | No reference/answer/inadequate submission – no comments or information provided; complete rejection of fundamental principles of the Agreement; meets none of the main requirements; fails to demonstrate the | |



| | |
|----------|--|
| | relevant resource, ability, understanding, skills and qualities required; demonstrates a complete misunderstanding of the question; and/or fails to answer the question posed |
| 1 | Poor submission – limited evidence that the main requirements are met. The response demonstrates a poor understanding of the requirements and there are issues, weaknesses or omissions which seriously detract from the quality of the response. The response leaves considerable doubts about the bidder’s understanding, skills, resource and/or ability to deliver. The response provides little or no supporting evidence. |
| 2 | Less than satisfactory submission - the submission contains identifiable shortcomings and the comments made show areas of weakness and though mandatory requirements are broadly met, there are areas where the evidence of delivering the mandatory requirements is not detailed or clear. Information has been provided but there are areas where the understanding of the Agreement requirement is not supported by detailed evidence; or there are issues, weaknesses or omissions which detract from the quality of the response more than occasionally. The response leaves doubts about the bidder’s ability, understanding, skills, resource and/or ability to deliver. |
| 3 | Satisfactory submission - comments made are satisfactory and meet the mandatory requirements of the question without offering any notable advantages. A satisfactory level of information is provided that demonstrates a satisfactory understanding of the requirements. Though supported by evidence, there are issues, weaknesses or omissions which occasionally detract from the quality or detail of the response. The bidder demonstrates a satisfactory level of understanding, skills, and resource and/or ability to deliver. |
| 4 | Good submission – comments made demonstrate a good approach which meet the mandatory requirements of the question. A good level of information provided that demonstrates a good understanding of the requirements. The response is supported with clear and detailed evidence with a few minor issues, weaknesses or omissions. The response identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with good evidence to support the response. Minimal further configuration / development required. |
| 5 | Excellent, project exceeds stated requirements - comments made demonstrate a sound and complete approach which meet and even exceed the mandatory requirements of the question. Comprehensive level of information provided that demonstrates an excellent understanding of the requirements. The response is supported with clear and detailed evidence and if there are any issues, weaknesses or omissions identified, they are very minimal and do not detract from the high level of relevance and detail of the response. The response provides an excellent demonstration of the relevant ability, understanding, skills, and resource and/or quality measures required to deliver the Procurement. The response identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with excellent evidence to support the response. No, or very minimal, further configuration / development required. |

Extra points question

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
|--|--|

0 – If project isn't delivered in one of the priority areas

5 – If project is delivered in one of the priority areas

Grant funding awards will be made to projects that score the highest and align with funding availability. The Dudley Neighbourhood Boards decision is final and not subject to appeal due to the competitive process. If unsuccessful, applicants may re-apply for any future rounds, or other grant opportunities through the Pride in Place Programme subject to meeting eligibility criteria. Light-touch feedback may be provided subject to capacity.

The Dudley Neighbourhood Board has the discretion to determine additional assessment and or criteria to allow for further moderation if projects tie on scores or the scheme is heavily over-subscribed. Dudley Neighbourhood Board reserves the right to not allocate some, or all of the funding in this scheme.

Grant Funding Agreements

Successful applicants will undergo due diligence checks, for example procurement and subsidy control compliance, project related permissions e.g. planning permission, insurances, etc before a grant funding agreement is issued.

A Grant Funding Agreement setting out the terms and conditions of the grant will then be sent out to successful applicants; this must be signed and returned to Dudley Council before any funding is confirmed.

Monitoring and Reporting

All funded projects will be required to submit reporting this may include photos, a short project evaluation/impact report, and evidence of outcomes achieved. Full details of requirements will be confirmed in your Grant Funding Agreement.

Planning permission

Although full planning permission is not required at the time of application, the applicant must be able to demonstrate that they have conducted research or spoken to the local authority planning department to ensure that planning requirements are fully understood and that the project can be completed within the funding deadlines. This must be clearly explained in each application and applicants should consider whether they may be better placed applying for a later round of funding with consideration of planning timescales.

Quotes

Successful applicants must seek quotes for any purchases of individual goods or services as follows:

- up to £9,999 (Inc. VAT) - one quote as applicable
- £10,000 - £49,999 (inc. VAT) - three quotes ensuring that at least one quote is from a local supplier.

All grant activity must be compliant with the Procurement Act 2023.

Payment terms

Will be agreed in the Grant Funding Agreement, however for this grant scheme payment terms will be:

1. For total grant funding up to £10,000 – 100% grant payment up front
2. For total grant funding of £10,001 - £20,000 – 80% grant payment upfront, 20% upon completion

If a project costs less than initial quotes you must notify us immediately.

If a project costs more than originally quoted, it is the responsibility of the recipient to fund any extra costs.

To receive payment, a completed supplier BACS form must be returned. This will be provided to successful applicants along with the Grant Funding Agreement. All suppliers need to be set up on our payment systems, before payments can be made / invoices received. Thus, a timely return is recommended as not to delay payment.

How can I apply?

Please send your completed Dudley Neighbourhood Board Pride in Place Community Grants Application form to prideinplace@dudley.gov.uk by 5pm on Friday 3rd July 2026.

Further information

The Dudley Neighbourhood Board will be holding a Community Grants Launch event on Friday 5th June at DY1 where you can meet members of the Board, ask questions and get helpful guidance for applications. To register and secure a place at the Launch event please book a space at:

<https://DudleyPiPPcommunitygrantscheme.eventbrite.com>



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An additional online drop-in session will also be held w/c 8th June. Dates, times and how to register will be available on the Regenerating Dudley website:

<https://www.regeneratingdudley.org.uk/pride-in-place>