



Grass Roots Sports Grants – Guidance and FAQs for Grant Applications

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council want to support existing grass roots sports clubs in our borough.

Community sport is more than just the game; it's an investment in the health, resilience, and future of our communities. Sport promotes healthy living, it has the power to bring people together, fostering relationships, and transforming lives for the better.

Sports clubs are the backbone of local communities, providing opportunities for residents to be active. The sector has faced significant challenges over the last four years but has remained a vital source of support for local communities, the council therefore wants to provide investment into local sports clubs.

The programme will aim to achieve the following broad objectives:

- Provide sustainability by ensuring our clubs have fit for purpose facilities to remain in existence for many years to come.
- To increase participation in sport, improving the mental and physical health of participants.
- Work with clubs operating in deprived areas to boost participation in these places.
- To deliver improved access to sport facilities for women and girls (100% equal access), and other under-represented groups, to increase participation in these groups.

How much can I apply for?

We will award grants up to the value of £25,000, applicants requesting a grant of £15,000 and upwards of this amount will need to firstly fill out an expression of interest, should this be successful applicants will be invited towards a full submission.

We are willing to consider grants above £25,000 but see these as an exception rather than the norm, Applicants whose bids fall into this category **MUST** speak to the grants team first.

Are we eligible to apply for funding?

You must be a voluntary grass roots sports club operating in Redcar and Cleveland and be recognised by a National Governing Body, for example Football Association, England Athletics, British Cycling etc.

Are there any restrictions for groups?

Your group must have its own bank account, which must be in the same name as the application. Your governing body/board must have a minimum of three members.

You must be operating in, and benefitting, one or more of the communities of Redcar and Cleveland.

Will you fund football only projects?

We anticipate this fund to be oversubscribed. We will accept bids from football clubs but would need to see evidence of wider community involvement, strong partnership funding to be in place and how this will attract under represented groups. There must also be a clear strategic need i.e. project recommended for support through the Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) or have strong NGB support.

Are there any items or groups you won't fund?

Although our funding approach is flexible, there are some things we simply don't cover:

- Facilities that are not available for community use
- Kit
- Projects intended for private gain.
- Projects outside Redcar and Cleveland
- Retrospective funding (for works that have already started or been completed)
- Routine maintenance and repairs
- Facility hires.
- For-profit businesses
- Statutory authorities
- Schools
- Places of worships
- Community groups without an independent bank account
- Activities promoting religious or political beliefs.
- Services commenced or goods ordered prior to Grants being awarded.

We will accept bids from sports clubs based on a school site where the club can evidence adequate security of tenure or demonstrate how the project will benefit the local community. The school site must also be open to the public.

Please be aware this funding is for sports clubs only and not wider organisations providing physical activity.

Gardening, motorsports, and rifle sports will not be eligible to apply through this process.

How long does the application decision process take?

We aim to process applications within an eight-week period (from receipt to decision). Our grants fund is an open call, so there is no deadline or cut-off date for submissions. We will aim to have regular panel meetings to make decisions on making the award and turning the grants around.

Please be aware we do anticipate a high volume of applications so there may be times when these timescales are slightly delayed. If your request is for a higher amount your application may take longer to process as we may need additional information.

What does the process look like?

1. Submission

Please fill out your application form or expression of interest if you are interested in applying for a higher amount.

Any groups wanting to apply for larger amounts are strongly advised to have a conversation with us first to avoid carrying out unnecessary work.

A confirmation email will be sent to you after submission.

We recommend you read the terms and conditions and familiarise yourself with these before you begin your application.

2. Assessment and Decision

Your application will be assessed by a funding panel, as mentioned previously this will be a rolling process with grants assessed on a regular basis.

3. Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be contacted via email.

We will send you an award agreement and online bank details form for your completion, after which, payment will be made. The award agreement may contain certain terms and conditions that must be satisfied prior to the funding being paid out.

At the end of the grant period, we will ask you to submit a progress report. Any further funding is contingent on this.

Can I apply for more than one grant?

You cannot apply for a grant more than once within any 12-month period, once you are outside of this window you may reapply however previous applications/ funding will be taken into consideration during the decision-making process.

How will I know if my application has been received?

A member of the grant team will email you with confirmation the application has been received.

How is VAT incorporated into the costs?

If your organisation is registered for and can reclaim VAT, any Grant awarded will be exclusive of VAT. If your organisation is unable to reclaim VAT, Grants awarded will be inclusive of VAT.

Will you need to see additional information?

Where appropriate, applicants will need to provide evidence of their land tenure, usually ownership (freehold) or a lease with at least 10 years un-expired at the time of application.

A grant approval given in advance of other decisions required from the Council does not imply that any other form of consent by the Council will be forthcoming, such as Planning Permission, Building Regulations approval or Community Infrastructure Levy bids.

Some applications will need to be supported with additional documentation so that an accurate and complete understanding of the proposal is provided. The amount of information and supporting documentation to be provided will be proportionate to the project, namely its size, complexity, and cost, and this can be discussed with the Grants Team.

The Council reserves the right to request a copy of any applying organisation's policies, accounts or constitution prior to an application being assessed or funding being released to a successful applicant.

For any building works we may also request before and after photographs, please be aware the above isn't an exhaustive list and we may request information not mentioned above if we feel this is needed to support a decision on your application.

What are the payment terms?

The payment process differs per grant. For capital projects, no payments will be released until copy invoices/receipts are produced and may be calculated on a percentage basis of the invoices provided as per stated in the offer letter.

Outcome / Offer Letters

Successful applicants will receive an offer letter setting out any special conditions, outcomes, and the period during which the service/project needs to be completed and the grant offer claimed. Offers are valid for 4 weeks, and after this period the offer will expire.

If any service/project fails to meet any of the conditions contained in the grant offer letter or the agreed targets/outputs, then consideration will be given to the grant offer being withdrawn and any grant monies already paid being recovered together with any interest applicable.

Due to the number and volume of applications we won't be able to provide detailed feedback or individual response.

What are examples of projects you would provide funding for?

- Extensions to existing facilities that will benefit prospective new audiences.
- Purchase of maintenance machinery to allow a club to prepare pitches, cricket wickets, bowling greens etc.

How can I speak to a member of staff?

Please email sports.grants@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk with your question and a member of the grants team will be in touch. We will acknowledge receipt of your email, however due to the number of applications we are dealing with it might not be possible to answer you straight away. We will endeavour to respond within 5 working days, depending upon the complexity of your request.