

Greater Together Foundation Community Resilience Fund 2023/24

Guidance Notes

1. Introduction

Building on the great success of the Resilience Fund 2022 to provide grants to organisations offering support to Great Places customers and the local community with the cost-of-living crisis, Great Places is pleased to launch the Resilience Fund 2023.

With a budget of £100k, the Greater Together Foundation Resilience Fund will distribute grants on a commissioning basis with Community and Partnership Managers managing the allocation of funds for their region. The Community and Partnership Managers will help to identify community organisations that are eligible for the fund and provide guidance with their application if required. Grants of up to £10,000 will be made available to organisations that can clearly demonstrate support with the following themes:

- Economic hardship; to include access to fuel, furniture, food.
- Economically Inactive; people in need of support to remove barriers to training and employment.
- Financial Resilience; to include budgeting, income maximisation, debt advice, debt management, access to available credit, numeracy courses.
- Health and Wellbeing (social prescribing) access to services and activities that support peoples physical and mental health.
- Digital Inclusion; to include training, access to data and devices and smart technologies.

2. Overall purpose of the Community Resilience Programme

To provide financial support to community groups, charities and social enterprises to implement or enhance their provision to support Great Places customers and the local community with the above themes.

Support those organisations that are best placed to react quickly to the needs of the local community and have the greatest impact.

Support customers and community partners with a focus on affordability and anti-poverty interventions that enable customers become more financially resilient, sustain their tenancies and prioritise their rent payments.

3. Key Great Places principles

Our guiding principles are to support our priority neighbourhoods and customers to access help in alignment with key Local Authority action plans and strategies whilst helping meet our key Service Delivery Framework principles.

Great Places wishes to fund a range of services and activities and has set out our criteria in these guidance notes which should be viewed in conjunction with the application form.

4. Geographical locations

Great Places is a traditional social landlord with homes ostensibly across the Northwest, South Yorkshire and Cheshire East. We target our resources towards the neighbourhoods where we have significant stock levels and where we can have a greater impact for our customers and the local community.

Organisations applying to this fund do not have to be based within these boundaries but must be realistically able to deliver locally or have a physical presence. Therefore priority may be given to applications from organisations working in areas where Great Places has a particular concentration of stock.

5. Eligibility Criteria

We wish to support a wide range of groups and charitable organisations. The following is a specific list of organisations that are eligible for the fund.

Size of Grants	Up to £10,000
Types of organisations eligible	Constituted Voluntary and Community groups with their own bank account
	Registered and Exempt Charities
	Community Interest Companies
	Not for profit companies and or Social Enterprise with a different recognised legal entity
	Statutory or non-statutory organisations
Project Timescale	<u>12 months</u> after award date

All organisations must have

Annual accounts, i.e., a summary of your financial activity. If you are a small organisation, this may be produced by your board and doesn't have to be done by an accountant. Alternatively, a projected income and expenditure document if a new group or organisation.

At least 2 unrelated bank account signatories.

Safeguarding procedures in place.

6. Outcomes

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate outcomes which will be achievable during the project and to outline how these will be measured. The outcomes should be clearly stated for example:

- Number of people supported to access fuel, furniture, and food.
- Number of Economically Inactive people helped to remove barriers to training and employment and evidence of progress made.
- Number of people accessing services that provide support with the following: budgeting, income maximisation, debt advice, debt management, access to available credit, numeracy courses (Multiply)

- Number of people accessing services and activities that support peoples physical and mental health.
- Number of people supported to access digital training, equipment, and data, and smart technologies.

7. Evidence of Need

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they know there is a need for the project/service/activity and who has been consulted with where applicable. Examples of evidence of need are:

- Office for National Statistics (ONS) data stating low skill level.
- ONS data stating below average earnings.
- DWP data stating high levels of economically inactive.
- Census data stating high levels of deprivation.
- Local government skills audit

8. How to apply

Applicants need to complete the online [application form here](#).

Applications received after the deadline of Sunday 5th November will **not be** accepted.

9. Service Level Agreement (SLA)

A Service Level Agreement will be drawn up for all projects regardless of the amount awarded.

The SLA will specify roles and responsibilities, with clear outcomes and a claw back clause if service delivery fails to meet the agreed objectives.

No payment will be made until the SLA is signed by both parties.

10. Monitoring and Evaluation

Community and Partnership Managers will meet with those organisations that are selected for funding to assess their capability of delivering on the project.

Community and Partnership Managers where required will meet with organisations funded to monitor their progress against the agreed objectives.

Community and Partnership Managers will complete a central monitoring sheet of those organisations that are funded. The monitoring sheet will include when the SLA is signed, the grant payment made, and received and brief notes of monitoring visits made.

Community and Partnership Managers will conduct 2 monitoring contacts. Contact can be via Teams, phone, email or in person. At least one contact must result in the completion of the monitoring form.

11. Service Escalation

Community and Partnership Managers will be responsible for resolving any issues regarding service delivery as stated and agreed in the Service Level Agreement. Where the issue is not able to be

resolved this will be escalated to the Community Investment Manager. If the matter is still not able to be resolved there will be a further and final escalation to the Head of Community Investment.