



ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Adur & Worthing Councils

Connected Communities Grant Fund

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the connected communities grant fund?

From 2026 four grants - the Adur Community Grant, Community Transport Grant, Worthing Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Neighbourhood Fund and income from textile recycling in Adur - will now be pooled into the Connected Communities Grant Fund. This means voluntary, community and social enterprise groups (VCSE) will only have to apply once for council funding.

What money is available in the 2026 funding round?

Area	Amount available
Worthing Coastal East	£39,873.27
Worthing Coastal West	£20,730.94
Worthing North	£12,845.89
Worthing North East	£10,000.00
Worthing North West	£0.00
Adur: Lancing & Sompting	£12,664.00
Adur: Shoreham	£12,664.00
Adur: Southwick & Fishersgate	£12,664.00

The Worthing North West Area (Castle, Northbrook and Durrington wards) does not have money available for the 2026 funding round as less than £10,000 is available in the pot from the Worthing CIL Neighbourhood Fund. The CIL Neighbourhood Fund is made up of money collected from CIL liable developments. The money previously allocated to the 'Community Transport Grant' has been chosen to be made available to the Worthing North East Area, as this area has had significantly lower amounts of money made available for community groups over recent years.

Why do some areas have a bigger pot of money than others?

The amount of money available in Worthing primarily depends on the amount of development starting construction following the grant of planning consent within Worthing, which is liable for CIL. CIL is collected on liable developments (such as new houses) and the larger the amount of development in an area, generally speaking, the higher the level of CIL receipts. It should be noted that CIL is paid in instalments upon commencement of development so it may be some time following the granting of planning permission that CIL funds are made available. 15% of all the CIL receipts Worthing Borough Council receives in a CIL area must be allocated to the local community projects, such as through the Connected Communities Grant Fund.

Information on the amount of CIL funds collected each year is reported in our annual Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS):

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/planning-policy/worthing/worthing-developer-contributions/developer-contributions-data-worthing/#infrastructure-funding-statement>

How do I know what area my project is in?

Following on from the success of the Worthing CIL Neighbourhood Fund, both Adur and Worthing will be split up into 'areas' which will have differing amounts of funding available each year. In the absence of parishes and neighbourhood plans, which is the case in Worthing, the CIL Regulations allow the council to design its own bespoke definition of what constitutes a local neighbourhood area for the purpose of allocating the CIL Neighbourhood Fund. Since 2023, the CIL Neighbourhood funding is allocated based on 'CIL areas' (groupings of wards) where the development takes place.

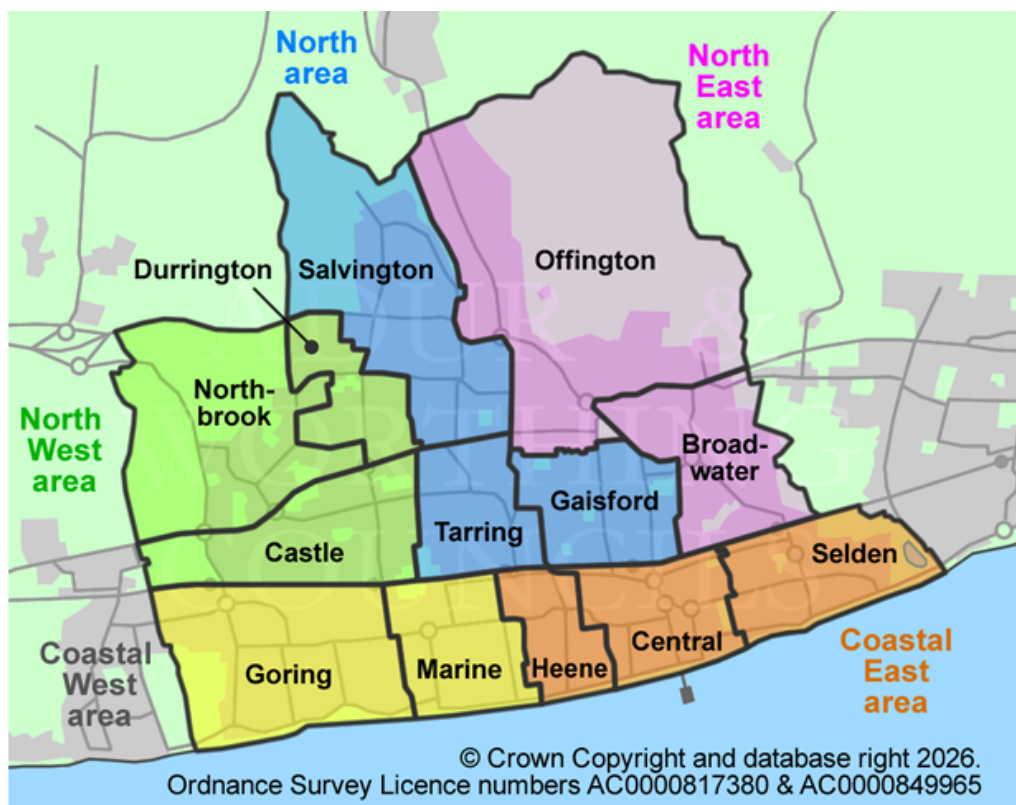
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The aggregated groups of Wards which form the Worthing 'areas' are set out below:

- Coastal East: Heene, Central and Selden
- Coastal West: Marine and Goring
- North West: Northbrook, Castle and Durrington
- North: Tarring, Gaisford and Salvington
- North East: Broadwater and Offington

Communities Grant areas in Worthing showing which wards are in which area:

Note that the Worthing areas exclude any area covered by the South Downs National Park Authority.



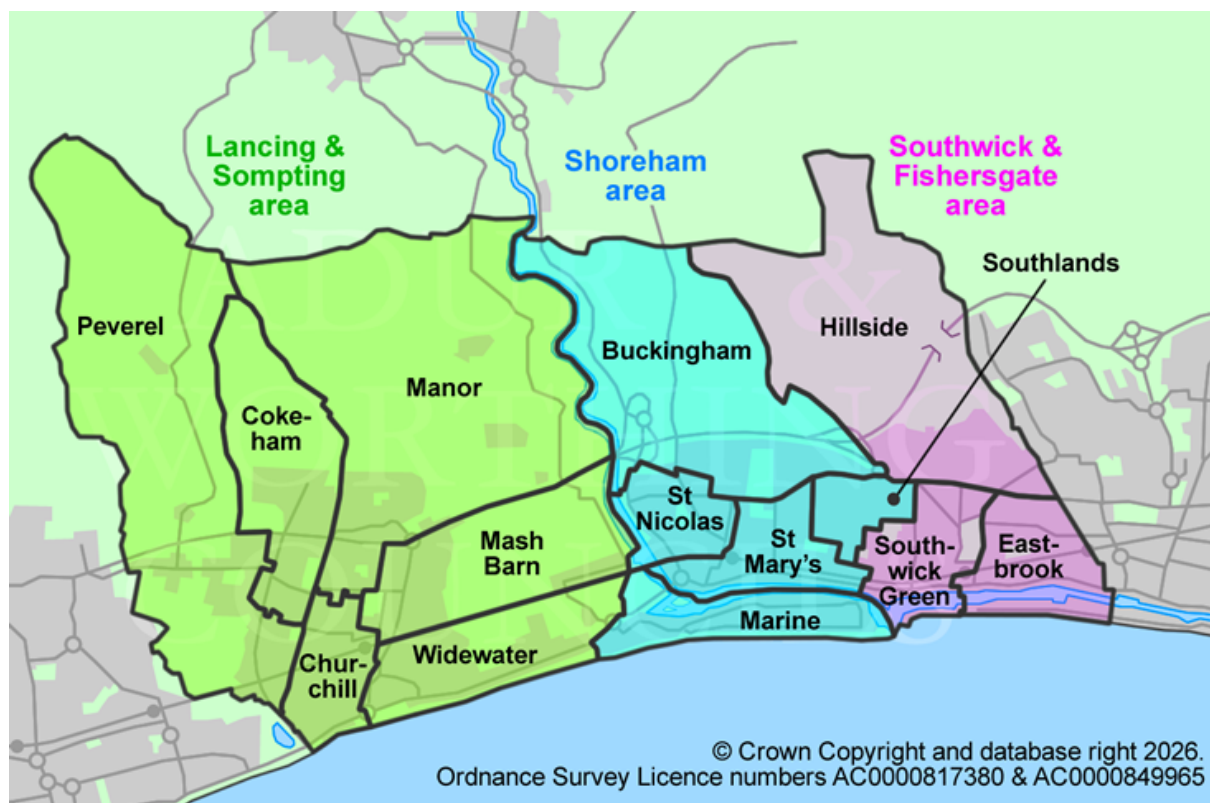
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In order to align the same approach as for Worthing, the Adur 'areas' are set out below which clearly defined three separate geographical regions for groups to apply to depending on where their project is taking place:

- Lancing & Sompting: Churchill, Cokeham, Manor, Mash Barn, Peverel, Widewater
- Shoreham: Buckingham, Marine, St Mary's, St Nicolas, Southlands
- Southwick & Fishersgate: Eastbrook, Hillside, Southwick Green

Communities Grant areas in Adur showing which wards are in which area:

Note that the Adur areas exclude any area covered by the South Downs National Park Authority.



Who can apply for the Connected Communities Grant Fund?

Grants will be awarded to not-for-profit organisations, working for the benefit of Adur and Worthing. To apply, your group does not have to be a registered charity but you do need;

- A constitution or set of governing rules
- Accounts or records of expenditure
- To be able to sign a UK Subsidy Form, which details the grants receivable by your group over a 3 year period
- A bank account; or a partner organisation willing to hold the money for you
- To deliver the project/activity within the geographical areas where funding is available, within the district of Adur or the Borough of Worthing. Groups must be able to evidence the local need for a project in the area to which they are applying

- To have suitable and relevant policies (such as safeguarding or insurance) to run your project
- To be ready! You'll need to complete the project and have spent the money within twelve months of receiving the grant - therefore you should have all the necessary permissions in place to deliver your project

What types of projects can be funded?

Communities have the freedom and power to spend the money on a wide range of things, in consultation with the local residents. Local project proposals seeking support from this fund, can therefore cover a broad range of project types. This might include projects such as:

- Community facilities and buildings
- Open space, play and leisure facilities
- Accessibility improvements
- Environmental and biodiversity projects
- Heritage and cultural infrastructure
- Encouraging community cohesion
- Delivering public art

There are some projects which we cannot fund:

- Projects that cannot demonstrate they will have a clear benefit to the residents or communities in the geographical area in which the application is made
- Groups that discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, disability, age, or sexual orientation
- Retrospective funding for activities that have already taken place
- Projects which only benefit animals
- Political activities
- Projects which relate solely to religious purposes - unless it has a wider community benefit
- One-off events - unless it can be demonstrated that there will be a lasting impact on the local community

Are there specific types of projects which the Council are looking to fund in 2026?

We want to continue supporting and celebrating the great work of the voluntary and community sector as we launch the Connected Communities Grant Fund programme. The Council is interested in projects which meet the following criteria:

- **Focus on young people** - this could include:
 - Providing services for children and young people
 - Working to support young people in getting involved in activities and/or collaborating with other local residents/community groups
 - Learning new skills
 - Provide spaces for young people (including access to support services)
- **Climate resilience** - this could include:
 - Projects which help our communities and local environment respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change
 - Projects which involve climate and environmental action
 - Projects which provide benefits to places that could be impacted by a changing climate
- **Direct benefit to residents and/or the environment of the geographical area to which you are applying**
 - Applicants should provide evidence of clear local need and direct benefits to the geographical area to which they are applying
- **Provides evidence of a lasting impact on residents and/or the environment**
 - The impact of the project should be felt by local residents and/or the environment beyond just the initial use of the funds

What about projects that impact more than one area? Which 'pot' should we apply to?

Groups who apply to the Connected Communities Grant Fund must be already working in Adur & Worthing.

If your project has a base location (for example, where people meet for your project), then you should apply for the area which the location is in. The expectation is that projects which receive funding in 2026 will be delivering projects in the areas which have funding available (i.e. all areas of Adur and Worthing apart from the Worthing North West).

However, if your project has no specific location, or has multiple locations across different areas, then you should think about which area will have the biggest positive impact from your project. Is there one area where your group works more intensely? Can you provide evidence that your project will have a positive impact on the residents in that area?

Can I apply for an Area even if our group doesn't currently operate in those wards/parishes?

Yes, the Council would encourage groups to consider if there is the potential for them to begin operating in other parts of the district/borough, particularly if it could involve partnering with another organisation to run a project.

The assessment panel will be looking for groups to demonstrate in their application form that they can show where in the district/borough their project will be having a positive impact. How will it impact the residents/users of that area?

For example, if your group usually operates in the Worthing North Area but you are looking to expand the project to a new part of the borough, can you partner with another organisation in the Worthing Coastal East area to run the project in those wards?

Can I reapply for the Connected Communities Grant Fund the next time if I have previously applied?

Any group can apply in the 2026 funding round, regardless of whether or not you have received grant funding from Adur and Worthing Councils.

However, if you are successful in this funding round, you will be restricted from applying again in the 2027 funding round. This is to help ensure that the fund remains open and accessible to all groups, and stops groups becoming reliant on this source of funding to deliver their projects.

Can we put in more than one bid at a time?

We recommend that you prioritise one project which you need funded.

This allows fairer access to the funds for other groups and smaller projects. This will also avoid different bids which are dependent on each other.

Can the Council help with bid writing?

No, we don't currently have an in-house resource to support community groups with bid-writing.

You may be able to find third sector organisations who could assist with bid writing.

Can groups collaborate to bid for a project?

Yes, it is encouraged that groups work together to deliver a project.

The application form can only be completed by the 'lead' organisation, but it should be made clear in the form that the project is being delivered in collaboration with another group. By partnering with another organisation it may allow groups who are not eligible to apply on their own to help deliver a project using the funds.

Can an umbrella group apply for multiple groups or can the groups apply individually?

The groups can apply individually, provided they meet the criteria. It is likely that the umbrella organisation will cover the criteria such as bank account, constitution etc.

An umbrella group could also apply on behalf of the smaller groups, if needed.

Is there anything we can do to help our bid look 'stronger'?

The Council are keen to see groups who are running projects that they have developed with the beneficiaries of the project. For example, if your project is to work with young people, have you spoken to those young people about how you might design your project so that it will have the biggest impact?

Can churches or religious organisations apply for this fund?

The Connected Communities Grant Fund cannot be used to fund projects which relate solely to religious purposes.

However, if the project has a wider community benefit, then the group could apply.

Can groups who are based outside of Adur and Worthing apply?

Yes, however your group MUST be delivering a project within Adur or Worthing and the project you wish to receive funding for must be delivered in one of the areas with money available this funding round.

What will happen to any unspent funds from this funding round?

Only funds which have been sourced from the Worthing CIL Neighbourhood Fund can roll forward. However, given the limited funding available in 2026 and the expected requests for funding likely to exceed this, we expect the full money available to be allocated.

How will funds be allocated across different types of projects?

Funds will be allocated according to the evaluations which are undertaken by the assessment panel for each application. A copy of the evaluation form will be available on the website along with the application form. All projects are assessed and scored, with the relevant area assessment panel

making recommendations on which projects should be approved. This must then be signed off by the relevant Cabinet Member.

Could the assessment panel approve funding for a lower amount than was asked for? Particularly in areas where there is less funding available?

Yes, however it is likely that the assessment panel will have to consider how it will affect the delivery of your project.

Can ‘match funding’ include “in kind” contributions i.e. volunteering hours?

Yes, this should be included on the application form.

Volunteering time is valued between £10 and £20 per hour based on whether the role is non professional or professional, and a detailed report on this can be found here;

https://www.powertochange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Value_of_Volunteering_Working_Paper_Final.pdf

You can find more salary information here for costing up roles;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/scale-up-going-rates-for-eligible-occupations/scale-up-going-rates-for-eligible-occupations>

If two groups submit applications for different projects, but they work together on certain projects, would that count against them when their applications are evaluated?

As long as the projects are different, then it would not count negatively. We encourage groups to collaborate on projects.

What happens if two groups want to run a joint project but are from different areas?

We recommend that you name one organisation/group as the lead organisation, who will complete the application form. They will then apply for their area and the application will be evaluated against other applications in that area.

Can the maintenance costs be incorporated into the project costs when submitting an application?

No, as this funding is for one-off project costs and there is no commitment to ongoing maintenance costs.

Where capital assets are purchased such as buildings, computers etc., the asset should remain a benefit to the community for its useful economic life.

Where can I find fundraising resources?

Free fundraising training is available on the Community Works website. Scroll to the bottom of the page to see the whole list of upcoming training:

<https://www.communityworks.org.uk/events/how-to-find-funders/>

A list of general funds and funders can be found on:

- Community Works website:
<https://www.communityworks.org.uk/help-guidance/funding-and-income/#latest-funding>
- and on the Adur & Worthing Council website:
<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/grants-online-resource/>

Who can I speak to at the Council if I have questions?

Regarding questions on the Connected Communities Grant Fund, please contact:

- neighbourhood@adur-worthing.gov.uk