**Your Fund Surrey – Frequently Asked Questions**

**How much can I bid for?**

The minimum bid is £10K but there is no upper limit.

**I only need a few hundred pounds, can I apply?**

The minimum amount of funding an organisation can apply for is £10,000. Information about many other, smaller funds and charity grants can be found on the [council website](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/voluntary-community-and-faith-sector/funding).

**I don’t know how much my project might cost, does that matter?**

When pinning your idea on the Your Fund Surrey map on Commonplace, you don’t need to know the specific amount your project might cost or how much funding you would be interested in. You will be asked for an indication of which range it might fit into, but this is not a commitment or something you are tied into.

**Is there any help available in developing a business case?**

We want you to have ownership of your project, however there is support and guidance available:

* We recommend sharing your idea within your local community to see what different skills and expertise people have and if there is anyone that can support or contribute to your project.
* You could also [contact your local County Councillor](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgFindMember.aspx) to get their advice or feedback on your idea.
* [Social Value Market Place](https://socialvalue.supplytosurrey.co.uk/about/) - Browse specific, one-time requests for help from charities across Surrey. Find an opportunity to donate your time, space or resources.
* [Goodsted](https://www.goodsted.com/group/surrey/ck807bhak0u3n0128ksucn3m0) - Allows you to browse local community initiatives which need your help. Join their team to work collaboratively to help make good things happen.
* Finally, you can contact the Your Fund Surrey Team who will be able to provide advice and guidance around developing your project idea, via yourfund@surreycc.gov.uk

**I think I have a great idea, but I’m not confident it can be done – who should I speak to?**

If you have an idea that you think could become a project to improve your local area you can speak to your [local County Councillor](https://mycouncil.surreycc.gov.uk/mgFindMember.aspx) who will be able to give you feedback on your idea and point you in the right direction of support and guidance to help develop it.

**I don’t have a big project idea but I really want to get involved and help – how can I do this?**

You should look on the Your Fund Surrey Commonplace map [insert link] to see the ideas that have been put forward and are being developed in your area, and how you might be able to get involved.

**Can you use this money to fill potholes please?**

This money has been ring fenced by the council for creating innovative capital investments. Filling potholes is a statutory requirement for the council, and is funded through the annual revenue budget. We allocated around £4.43m a year to fix more than 50,000 potholes and other road defects. [You can report a pothole or damaged road online](https://www9.surreycc.gov.uk/HighwayIssue/whatistheissue.aspx?&code=potcw)

**How can the council afford to spend £100m?**

This is part of Surrey County Council’s Medium-Term Financial Strategy, announced in 2020/21, with a fully costed capital programme of well over £1bn over five years.

The £100m Your Fund Surrey allocation is designed to help empower communities to deliver big, place-changing projects that local areas need and will improve opportunities and quality of life for residents. This is particularly important as communities recover from the impact of COVID-19 over the coming years.

**My idea is going to have ongoing running costs – can this still be delivered through Your Fund Surrey?**

The fund is for capital funding. Revenue funding costs, such as running and maintenance of your project cannot be covered by this fund.

As part of your project idea you could think about how any ongoing costs associated could be covered – is there something you could introduce that would generate revenue like a café for example? Or if it’s part of an existing organisation or building (like a school or charity), would any additional running costs be able to be met through existing budgets?

**Why can’t we get money for running costs?**

This fund is for capital funding only. Capital funding is money to purchase or improve a building, equipment, infrastructure or software. Running costs unfortunately don’t fit into this category however [other funds are available](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/voluntary-community-and-faith-sector/funding) that could provide this.

**Are there lots of forms to fill out?**

Our aim is to keep the application process as simple as we can. The Your Fund Surrey Map only requires you to fill out a few simple overview questions. In February when the application opens you will be asked to fill out a formal initial idea submission, this will provide slightly more detail about you and your idea. If we think your idea has potential, we will invite you to provide some greater detail around how you might manage and look after your project

All the assessment and monitoring in the background will be done by our specialist project team.

Guidance documents on how to complete these forms will be made available.

**How should I show the local support for my project?**

Place your idea on the Your Fund Surrey Commonplace map *(live on 16 November)* where people can like to express their support, or offer further suggestions relating to your idea.

We also encourage you to use your own networks and social media to share your idea with a wider audience. We will help promote any Your Fund Surrey content on the Council’s social media channels that can reach hundreds of thousands of people, if you use the hashtags #YourFundSurrey or #MakeItHappen

**What do you mean by communities?**

That’s not up to us to define, but it can be thought of as the local area you identify with – your town, your village, your road – or those support networks or groups you feel you belong to, such as charities, community organisations, even your book group or local football team.

**Do we need to look for other funding that sits alongside your funding?**

It’s not compulsory to look for other funding as part of your project or required for a bid to be successful. As outlined above, Your Fund Surrey cannot support revenue costs, however if you feel it would strengthen your project or help it to be delivered, we would encourage and support bidders to explore other pots of funding that could compliment this Fund.  Details of [other funds are available](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/voluntary-community-and-faith-sector/funding)that could sit alongside Your Fund Surrey funding.

**I am a member of a faith group, can I apply?**

Yes, however your proposed idea would need to have a wider, secular positive community impact.

**I am a business, can I apply?**

Yes, however, we will assess each proposal as they come in and it will have to comply with legislation around State Aid. This will be established during full application stage, although the Your Fund Surrey team can advise

You will be asked in the full application form to provide details of any grant funding your organisation has received over the last 3 years (including the amount of funding, reason for the funding and where you obtained said funding). We will then use this information to ensure no State Aid legislation is breached if you were to be awarded funding from Your Fund Surrey.

**What happens if my bid is unsuccessful?**

Feedback will be provided to all applicants. Based on this feedback and wider consultation you would be able to reapply.

Please contact the project team at yourfund@surreycc.gov.uk with any further questions about Your Fund Surrey, or get talking to your local councillor, community group or neighbours to help you develop your idea further.