

-Annex A

Grant Round Name:

COVID-19 safe reopening of Community Venues and Spaces

Total Grant Round Value/ Decision Criteria:

The total value for the grant round will be dependent on the quality and spread of applications received. It is envisaged that the total amount funded will be between £200K and £300K.

Targeted areas for Grant Round

Kent County Council wish to support the safe reopening and adaptation of community spaces and venues in the geography of Kent County Council.

Applications are welcomed from those venues or spaces that will be offering their facilities to community groups which will provide support to those that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic or individuals themselves. Additionally, bids would be welcomed from Parish Councils that may be able help support the reopening of their local community spaces in a COVID safe way.

Rationale for Grant Round:

Many community venues have been forced to close during the COVID-19 pandemic as sites were unable to operate in a way that met COVID-19 safe guidelines. While some larger, more established venues may have been able to reopen, many venues will have been unable to afford the adaptations and measures required to protect both the staff and visitors to the site. National estimates report that approximately 86% of community spaces have remained closed throughout the pandemic.

As many activities and services restart in line with easing of social distancing, there is a need for community venues to reopen in a COVID-19 safe way to accommodate the various sessions that would take place in said space. For some, the availability of these services depends entirely on having the space to deliver them.

In addition, there is a number of communities spaces that would normally be used by individuals in the community such as parks, beaches and outdoor play areas which may not have reopened or may benefit from additional adaptations to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

This funding is designed to provide additional support to community venues and community spaces, helping them to reopen and offer their community space in a way that will contribute towards the prevention of COVID-19 outbreaks. Furthermore, the funding can be used to provide additional resources for those spaces that may have reopened to increase their COVID-19 safety measures.

It is envisaged that, with venues re-opening, there can be a larger offering of effective engagement sessions with various population groups that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

In the same way, it is felt that by increasing measures of safety in community spaces or increasing the number open for use, it will reduce the risk of overcrowding and increase health protection measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Key outcomes that applicants should demonstrate in their application are as follows;

- Increased awareness and understanding of COVID-19 safe delivery within a community space or venue.
- Evidence that the funding will enable the community space to be utilised by community groups or individuals to help support those that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.
- Evidence the funding will go towards sustainable solutions/adaptions that will enable the venue to reopen in a safe way or improve the delivery of those already open.
- Provide a wider community benefit such as an increase in positive wellbeing, reducing social isolation or anxiety, creating new networks for local residents.

Funding cannot be used to support adaptations that are already in situ and therefore must go towards future expenditure. Applications will only be accepted from not-for-profits and charity organisations.

KCC are committed to support an equitable spread of funding across the county.

Grant Round Timeline

The grant round will be open for 8 weeks, however bids will be reviewed as and when they are received. Funding will be allocated over this period on a first come first serve basis. The timeline listed below is indicative and may be subject to change.

Grant Round Launched	19 th July 2021
Grant Evaluation and Outcome Notification	Ongoing throughout period grant scheme is open
Grant Round Closes	13 th September 2021
Projects to Commence	Schemes to start within 6 weeks of confirmation of funding, or sooner where possible