

May 2023

Ward Community Funding Policy



Leicester
City Council

1. What is Ward Community funding?

Each ward has been allocated a yearly budget of £18,000 which can be used to support activities, events and projects that bring benefits to that ward. This guidance explains how individuals, groups, and organisations can apply for Ward Community funding, how funding decisions are made, and what applicants can expect during the application process.

Elected Members support a wide a range of activities, events and projects. Elected Members also have the flexibility to make local arrangements for their ward to set limits on how much funding can be allocated to each application.

2. What will not be funded?

Ward Community funding **cannot** be used for the following:

- Staffing, except temporary staff or specialist staff brought in to do a specific and short-term piece of work (for up to a maximum of 12 months)
- Full costs of infrastructure, running costs or capital investment
- Recoverable VAT – Ward Funding cannot be awarded for monies that will be reclaimed back as recoverable VAT by the applicant / organisation
- Any liability arising out of illegality or negligence
- Any form of gambling (except small fundraising activities e.g., raffle, tombola)
- Exclusively religious activity
- Political activity
- Applications where previously awarded funds have not been accounted for with an evaluation and evidence of expenditure
- An event or activity which has already taken place e.g. an application that is submitted after the activity, event, or project has taken place (Retrospective Application).

3. Who can make a Ward Community Funding application?

- Applications will be considered that are made by individuals, community groups, voluntary organisations, statutory agencies, and partners, that live, work, or have any other interest in the ward.
- Applicants will be considered for funding, for more than one activity, event or project in the same or concurrent financial year, provided that they are different.
- Applications can be made to a maximum of three wards, for which applicants must be able to demonstrate benefits spanning across all the wards.
- Elected Members are not permitted to submit funding applications and must declare any interest in applications submitted where applicable.

4. How to make an application?

Applications should be submitted using the Council's Web application form. [Please click here to access the application form.](#)

All sections of the form must be completed.

Having the following information available in advance will assist you when completing the application form:

- Number of people attending from the ward(s)
- Number of people attending from outside the ward(s)
- Number of Volunteers involved
- Date of the event/activity/project
- Previous funding received in the past five years
- Audited accounts (where applicable)
- DBS information, if working with unsupervised children (under 16) or vulnerable people
- Risk Assessment
- Public Liability Insurance (where required)
- Full breakdown of your expenditure, including costs
- Full Bank Account details
- Name and contact details, including date of birth, of the person responsible for the finances.

Please note that you may be required to provide additional information, or clarify information submitted in your application, as part of the application and assessment process.

5. When to apply?

You should submit your application as soon as possible – especially if it is for an activity, event or project that will take place at a specific time during the year.

Remember that funding cannot be made for activities, events or projects that have already taken place (i.e. retrospectively) so it is vital you submit your application in time.

Applications above £500

(Where the total amount requested from one or more wards is above £500)

Applications are considered at a Budget Meeting by the Elected Members, three times a year. The deadlines for submission for funding consideration are:

31st January

31st May

30th September

(In very exceptional circumstances Elected Members may use their discretion to consider an application before the deadline dates)

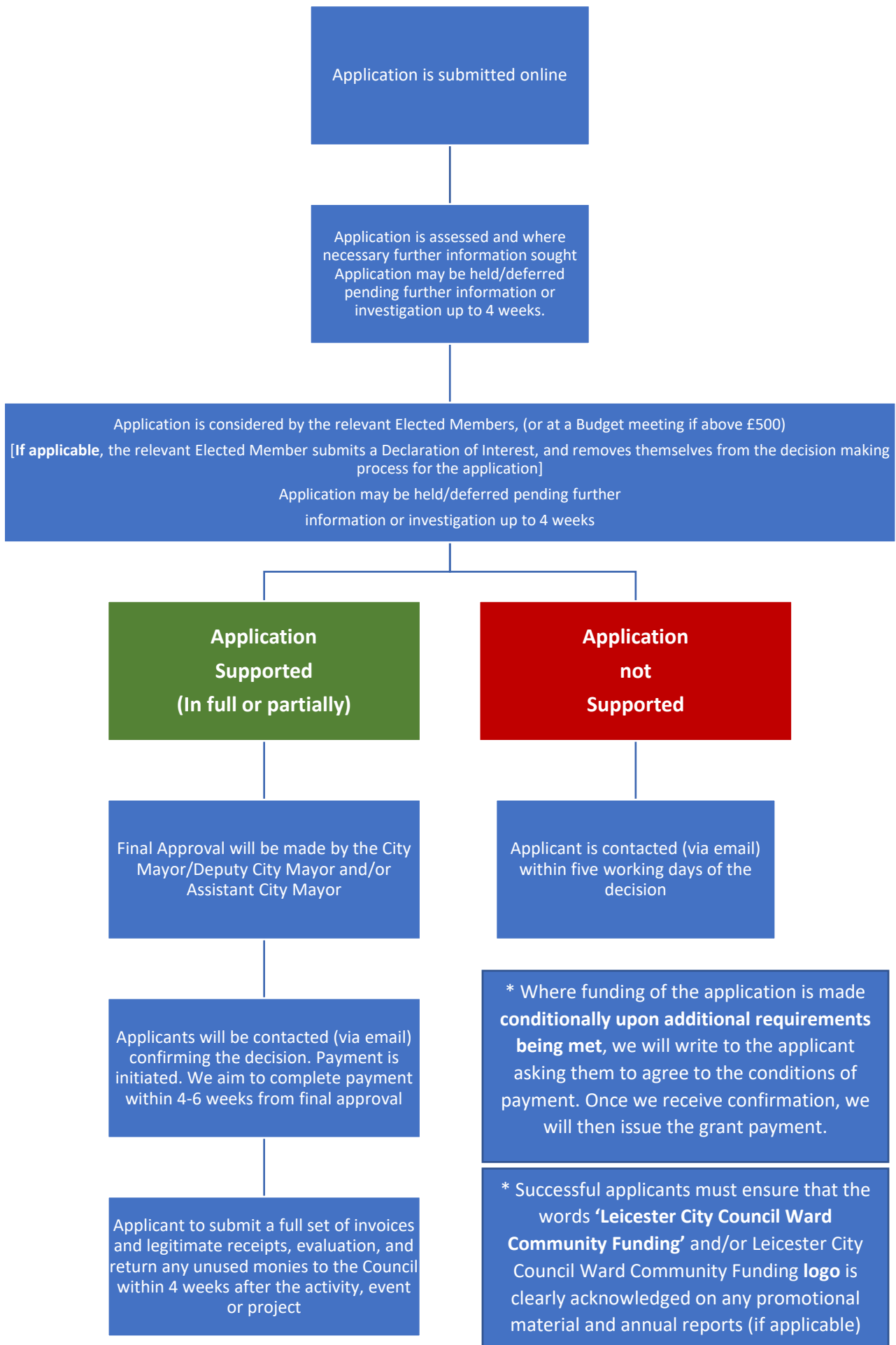
It can take up to 6-8 weeks after the submission deadline for decisions to be made. This is to allow sufficient time to make further enquiries relating to the application, if necessary, and to provide an opportunity for the Elected Members to carefully consider the applications before a final decision is made.

Applications up to and including £500

(Where the total amount requested from one or more wards is up to and including £500)

Applications up to and including £500 may be considered by Elected Members at any time during the year. Please note this will also follow the same process overleaf and can take up to 6-8 weeks to process.

6. Application process



7. Funding conditions for successful applications

- Funding must only be used for the purpose for which it was awarded, as set out in your application and/or any other agreed conditions approved in writing.
- Full evaluation and proof of expenditure should be submitted within four weeks from the end of the activity, event or project, or as outlined in the outcome email.
- The Council may reject applications for any future funding and/or require you to repay funding and return items purchased with Ward funding if:
 - You do not use the funding for the purpose for which it was issued or for a purpose which it cannot be used.
 - Your organisation closes, or sells, or transfers, or ceases to carry out the activity, event or project.
 - You significantly change the activity, event or project for which the funding was given without our prior written approval.
 - You have given false or misleading information to us.
 - Full evaluation and proof of expenditure (only legitimate receipts are acceptable) has not been submitted at the end of your activity.
- You must acknowledge the funding we give you in your publicity and other similar literature (where appropriate).
- Funding must not be used for activities, events or projects that would bring the Council into disrepute.
- The Council shall not be responsible for liability to third parties, for any debts or liabilities you incur or that are incurred through any act or omission by you. Any such debts or liabilities shall be your entire responsibility.
- The Council shall not be responsible for the omission of undertaking, and implementing a full risk assessment, and the implementation of the control measures, this is your entire responsibility.
- The Council shall not be responsible for the purchase of the Public Liability insurance, where required this is your entire responsibility.
- **Safeguarding** – where the activity, event or project falls within the definition of a regulated activity relating to children and/or to vulnerable adults, the group/organisation shall ensure that all individuals engaged in the activity, event or project are:
 - Subject to a valid enhanced disclosure check undertaken through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) including a check against the adults' barred list or the children's barred list, as appropriate; and
 - Shall not employ or use the services of any person who is barred from, or whose previous conduct or records indicate that they would not be suitable to carry out Regulated Activity or who may otherwise present a risk to users.
 - A Risk Assessment should be completed for your activity, event or project, and where applicable public liability insurance must be obtained.

8. Where can I get further information?

More information about Ward Community Funding and the application process can be found on the [Ward Community](#) pages on the Council's website.

Alternatively, if you need further help or advice on completing the form, please contact the Council's Ward Engagement Team:

By Phone: **0116 454 1940**

By Email: [**community.meetings@leicester.gov.uk**](mailto:community.meetings@leicester.gov.uk)

If you require support to access the web application form please feel free to visit any of our [libraries and multi-service centers](#) where we will be able to assist you to contact the Ward Engagement Team or take you to the appropriate area online using the Council's free public access computers.