

Large Group Grants

Information and Guidelines

IMPORTANT – Start planning well before you will need any money. Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust (SFCT) cannot pay a grant retrospectively. Please contact SFCT and apply well ahead of committing to spending any money. It is essential that applicants await the decision of SFCT before commencing the project.

Aims and Objectives of the Large Group Grant

Grants over £25,000.00

The Large Group grant scheme is designed to assist charities and community groups (constituted and not for profit organisations with charitable aims) to undertake projects to improve the quality of life and life chances of residents within the Stratherrick and Foyers Community Council area.

Eligibility

Applicants must supply:

- A written signed constitution or governing document. This must include a dissolution clause.
- An annual income of less than £250,000.
- A minimum of three members on their management committee or board.
- A Bank Account in the name of the group operated by at least two unrelated signatories.
- Provided a Completion Report for any previous grant from SFCT.
- Minutes from previous AGMs (unless this is a new group).
- A set of Annual Accounts.
- Copy of most recent bank statement.

What SFCT will not fund

- Groups whose grant request is advancement of religion or politics (including requests to support the core activities of religious or political groups).
- Groups whose grant request is to fulfil a statutory responsibility.
- Groups with a purpose averse to SFCT and/or our funders interests or is likely to bring SFCT and/or funders into disrepute.
- Groups that are anti-renewable energy/wind farm.
- Projects that involve retrospective funding (costs incurred before a funding decision is made).
- VAT costs that can be recovered.
- Groups who have not provided a completion report for any previous grants awarded by SFCT.
- Groups whose annual income in the current or previous financial year is over £250k.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Groups with fewer than 3 members on their management committee or board. • Groups who do not have two unrelated bank signatories. • Groups who do not have a constitution or governing document, that includes a dissolution clause. • Groups who will then distribute the funds as grants, bursaries, or loans. • Projects that do not benefit people in the Stratherrick and Foyers area. • Groups other than not-for-profit groups.
When can an application be made?	<p>Applications can be submitted on any date throughout the year. Once received they are held until the next grant application deadline.</p> <p>There are four advertised grant deadlines each year and these are published on the SFCT website.</p> <p>Incomplete forms or applications requiring further information will be returned to you requesting more detail.</p> <p><i>Please see important notice at the beginning of this document.</i></p>
Do I have to wait for SFCT to make a decision before the project can start?	<p>Yes, you must not proceed with your project until SFCT has made a decision on your application.</p> <p>All grant deadlines are published on the SFCT website.</p> <p>Please apply for your grant as early as possible to avoid any delays in processing your application.</p>
How are decisions made?	<p>SFCT Directors sit as a panel to decide how funds should be allocated.</p> <p>Once assessors are satisfied that all the criteria have been met, the application form, documentation, and assessment form will be sent to SSE for comment/approval.</p> <p>If approved the final assessment is completed by SFCT assessors and presented to the Board for approval.</p> <p>The final decision is made by SFCT Board.</p>
When are decisions made?	<p>Decisions will be advised as soon as possible. However, it is impossible to say how quickly these can be given as the assessment requires input from SEE over which SFCT have no control. It is also possible that, due to the complicated nature of large grants, a decision may take longer than the usual grant cycle.</p>
What can my group apply for?	<p>Grants can be awarded under the following main headings:</p> <p>Education and Lifelong Learning:</p>

	<p>To provide assistance with projects that allow residents within the SFCC area to access learning new skills or qualifications at any age, whether or be in the locality of Stratherrick and Foyers or out-with the local area.</p> <p>Transport: To help provide affordable transport options for residents of the SFCC area, both within and out-with the local boundaries.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing: To help support intellectual and recreational activities that contribute to the physical health and emotional stability of local people and to encourage lifestyle improvements and give residents of the SFCC area a better quality of life.</p> <p>Heritage and Culture: To help in the promotion and preservation of the SFCC area's history and unique way of life.</p> <p>Environment: To support projects that aim to preserve and improve all aspects of the local environment for future generations.</p> <p>Regeneration/Housing: To encourage the continual growth of a family-based community by supporting local housing initiatives and regeneration, and improved opportunities of employment.</p>
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Application Guidelines	<p>Section 1 – About your group/organisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure the main contact is familiar with both the workings of the group/organisation and the grant proposal or application. This person may be contacted for a short telephone interview and should be available in the six weeks following the next grant submission deadline. • Applications from constituted groups/organisations only will be considered. The name of your group/organisation should be the name written on your constitution, or governing document. You must send us a copy of your signed constitutions along with your application. • Your group/organisation type will be the legal status of your organisation, e.g., a company limited by guarantee, a charity, SCIO etc. • You do not have to be a registered charity. However, if you are, please supply your Charity Number. <p>Section 2 – Financial information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of your most recent annual accounts must be included with your application. These should be signed by a member of your group/organisation's management team. We will be unable to process your application if these are not submitted or are out of date. • Groups/organisations who have not yet completed one year in full existence must provide a projection of income and expenditure for the first year of operation. This is an outline of where you anticipate receiving funding from, and what this will be spent on. Please include evidence of secured or pledged funding and details of your
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	<p>group/organisation's income and expenditure (not just what relates to this application).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please tell us the difference in money coming in and going out in your last year's accounts. Please also include any unrestricted reserves you have and if these cannot be used for the project you are applying for. (Unrestricted reserves are general funds held by the organisation, as opposed to restricted reserves, that will have been provided by a funder or donor for a particular project or purpose). <p>Section 3 – Grant Application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please describe your project in as much detail as possible, including its background, overall aims, and the activities involved. • Your project should address a current need or gap in community provision. • Please provide evidence that the community supports your project. • Please provide an accurate list of all costs and VAT involved in the project, work, service or items for which you are applying. If the grant requested does not cover all the costs, you should make clear which costs it will cover or go towards and demonstrate how you intend to meet the other costs to ensure the project will go ahead. • Let us know where any other funding for this project is coming from. For example, local fundraising or other grants. Please indicate whether the funding has been received or pledged. If you are awaiting a decision on a funding application, please let us know when you expect to hear the outcome. • If your project is time specific, please make sure your application is submitted in plenty of time to receive a decision before the project takes place. • If your project requires planning permission, we will require formal evidence that the correct permissions are in place before a grant can be issued. • The group/organisation bank account name should give the exact name in which your account is held. We expect this to be the same name as your group/organisation, as shown on your constitution. If it is not, we may not be able to award you a grant. We cannot deposit funds into bank accounts in the name of an individual. • We expect groups/organisations to have at least two unrelated signatories to authorise payments/cheques from the bank account. If this is not the case, we may not be able to award you a grant. • Remember to include details of a referee who should be someone who knows about your planned project and is independent of you. Please ask the referee to make sure he or she is happy to act in this role and be contacted by SFCT. <p>Section 4 – Checklist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety is our key priority. Please provide evidence that you have considered the safety implications of your project if applicable by supplying us with documentation to show the correct policies are in place, e.g., Child Protection/Vulnerable Adults policy, or insurance certificates or licences.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please do not provide your original constitution as we will not be able to return it to you. A scanned copy is acceptable. • We require competitive quotations for equipment, vehicles, or refurbishment work. Please supply at least two competitive quotations for work between £1000 and £10,000, and at least three for work above £10,000. If this is not possible or appropriate, please let us know why not. • We are happy to accept any business plans, drawings or photographs or other documents to support your application.
Are there any other rules?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One application of over £25,000 per group is permitted each year. • All sections of the Grant Application Form must be completed. A separate sheet with additional information may be included. • Incomplete applications will be returned. • Please do not write 'see attached' on any part of the form as a substitute for information. However, you may include other documents with which to support and supplement your application. • The Grant Application form must be accompanied by formal evidence that the project is supported by the wider community. This may include, but not limited to, a local survey; community ballot; public meetings and/or letters of support. • Please round all figures up to the nearest pound. • As with all SFCT grants, previous recipients of grant must return a Grant Completion form for their last grant to be eligible to apply again. • You will have one year to spend the grant after which any unspent funds must be returned. • If your project repeats annually, you must submit a fresh application each year. • Applicants may apply for one-off projects that run over two or three years, for example an employee. Payment will be made at stages over the duration of the project provided an interim report is provided when requested.
Stratherrick & Foyers Community Trust Funding	<p>SFCT uses funds it receives from renewable energy companies to support a range of community and individual grant schemes. This grant scheme is supported by funds from the community benefit money received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SSE and Greencoat UK Stronelaig windfarm • SSE Dunmaglass windfarm • SSE Glendoe Hydroelectric scheme • Greencoat UK Wind Corriegarth windfarm • Green Highland Allt Luaidhe (228) Limited Knockie Hydroelectric scheme • Easter Aberchalder Partnerships wind turbine.
Publicity and general Data Protection regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please remember that if you are awarded a grant from SFCT, your name and the amount you received will be made available on the SFCT website. • This information is made public to demonstrate how funds are being used and to encourage other applicants to use the grant scheme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please check the SFCT Privacy Policy on the SFCT website at www.stratherrickcommunity.org.uk
Further help	<p>If you need help to fill out the application form, please contact:</p> <p>SFCT Funding and Development Officer: funding@sfctrust.org.uk</p>