



MANSFIELD DISTRICT PRIDE IN PLACE - IMPACT FUND 2025 – 2027

COMMUNITY SPARKS CAPITAL GRANT

APPLICANT GUIDANCE NOTES

February 2026

About the fund

The Pride in Place Impact Fund was established by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as part of its £5 billion Pride in Place Programme. Its aim is to invest directly in local neighbourhoods by March 2027, helping to restore pride in the places people call home.

The Fund provides £150 million to up to 95 locations across England, Scotland and Wales, offering immediate support for visible improvements to high streets, public spaces and assets of community value – to help build strong, resilient, prosperous and inclusive communities.

Each successful place will receive £1.5 million over two years to deliver early improvements to the places and spaces that matter most to local communities, ensuring they reflect the pride residents feel in their local areas.

The programme is locally led, with improvements shaped by local priorities and context. It encourages community-driven change, recognising the importance of lived experience and the strong connections people have with the places they care about.

Purpose of the Fund

Mansfield District Council has been awarded £1.5 million from the Government's Pride in Place Impact Fund (2025–27) to deliver 3 main objectives focussing on **immediate /visible improvements** to places:

- Community spaces – Investing in community facilities gives local people greater control over the spaces that matter to them. Refurbishing or taking ownership of underused but valued buildings enables communities to create welcoming places for connection, support, and shared activity.
- Public spaces – Enhancing the physical environment helps communities feel safer, more connected, and prouder of where they live. Improvements to green areas, play and leisure facilities, and thoughtful design features such as seating, signage and public art make spaces more inclusive and inviting.



- High street and town centre revitalisation – Revitalising high streets makes them more attractive and welcoming, encouraging people to come together and boosting local pride. Improvements to buildings, streets and public spaces support footfall, help small businesses thrive and create opportunities for social and cultural activity.

In order to allocate the funding in line with these objectives, Mansfield District Council is launching a call for applications. We are inviting applications from organisations that have a plan to invest in long term improvements to community buildings or spaces, public places or high street revitalisation. Proposals should:

- Tell us what problem you're trying to solve.
- Be clear about what activities you would like the Impact Fund to pay for.
- Tell us how you intend to deliver your project.
- Talk to your ward councillors and/or Members of Parliament (*please note this is advisable but will not form part of the assessment criteria*).
- Deliver measurable outputs aligned with Pride in Place Impact Fund.

2. Who Can Apply

The PiP-IF Community Sparks Grants invites applications for **up to £50,000** to support smaller-scale capital improvements that deliver **immediate and visible impact** in local communities.

We are particularly keen to hear from **small and grassroots community organisations**. You do not need to apply for the maximum amount — there is no minimum grant value, and requests of any size are welcome and equally valued.

Projects will be assessed on their impact and value, not the size of the grant requested. Please apply for the amount that reflects:

- What you need
- What you can realistically deliver
- What you can confidently manage

You can apply for a grant provided that:

- Your organisation belongs to one of the below categories with a constitution/ written set of rules for the organisation.
 - local authorities
 - parish/town councils
 - registered charities
 - CICs / social enterprises



- Community and voluntary organisations with a constitution
- not-for-profit constituted groups
- public-sector organisations (for community outcomes only)
- higher and further education institutions (for community outcomes only)
- You have a bank account in your groups name and can confirm your financial control procedures and where required, how these align with government guidance such as the 'guidance on financial controls for charities, November 2024'
- you have a set of accounts and make these available for inspection.
- your group can run the activity and complete the form. The contact for the grant and the person signing the form must be a member of the group or its management committee.
- your activities begin and costs are incurred after receipt of the grant. we will consider activities that have commenced after September 2025, as eligible for funding under exceptional circumstances.
- your group or activity is open to everyone. If your activity is not open to everyone, you need to tell us why and the Assessment Panel will decide if your application is eligible.
- your proposed project is based in Mansfield district, with local people involved in the project.

3. How much funding is available?

The total budget available is £500,000. Funding allocations will be guided by the guidance and the expectations of the Fund which stresses that certain types of projects that can and should be led by the Council. Importantly, the Fund is also guided by feedback gathered through public consultation and community engagement, reflecting the priorities identified as most important by local communities. As a result, specific portions of the funding may be ring-fenced for agreed priorities, such as improvements to the town centre.

All projects put forward for this programme will be subject to the same funding rules and assessment criteria — designed to ensure transparency and fairness covering both community organisations and public sector organisations.

The PiP-IF Community Sparks Grants invites grant applications upto £50,000 for smaller scale capital improvements, that create immediate and visible impact.



All outputs must be delivered by 31 March 2027 to be considered as part of the assessment.

4. What We Can Fund (Capital Only)

The programme can only fund **capital** improvements, that create **immediate / visible improvements**.

Capital funding is directed towards long-term investments enhancing an organisation's capacity, infrastructure or assets. It aims to create lasting value. These can be seen in refurbishment projects, construction, new build or significant, long-term renewal improvements to existing facilities.

Eligible capital expenditure includes:

- refurbishment of community buildings
- upgrades to playgrounds, parks, green or public spaces
- accessibility improvements (paths, lighting, signage)
- high-street/town-centre physical enhancements
- repurposing underused buildings
- creation of new community facilities
- environmental improvements (planting, biodiversity, sustainable design)
- equipment permanently installed in a public/community asset

Examples of activities that could be supported by the PIP-IF programme are shown below. This is not an exhaustive list but intended to provide guidance on the kind of activities that are likely to be eligible. Other activities that meet its objectives can also be eligible and will be determined by the local authority in consultation with its stakeholders.

Objective	Indicative Activities
<p>Community spaces</p> <p>The focus of this objective is buildings and indoor spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing funding to a community group to take ownership of a disused asset - providing funding to refurbish or improve an asset already in community ownership - funding to refurbish or improve assets owned by public bodies for community activity - funding to create, improve or refurbish maker spaces - funding to create or improve art galleries, theatres, museums, libraries, cultural or heritage sites, sports facilities



	- creating or expanding on existing community assets to promote community cohesion
<p>Public spaces</p> <p>The focus of this objective is outdoor recreation spaces.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creating or improving parks or community gardens, particularly in areas with poor quality parks and gardens - improvements to a canal towpath, riverside walk or other leisure space - creating or refurbishing play areas and sports pitches/courts, installing outdoor gym equipment - providing new or replacing street furniture, repainting of public spaces, creating new shaded areas such as new shelters for bus stops, improved lighting and adaptations to reduce crime and the fear of crime - public art that reflects local culture and history, creating trails and installing new signs to help with wayfinding - creating and refurbishing footpaths, cycle ways and shared use paths - creating or refurbishing a pavilion or bandstand to support cultural, heritage, sporting and creative events - provision of public toilets or improvements to existing facilities, including providing Changing Places toilets
<p>High street and town centre revitalisation</p> <p>The focus of this objective is regenerating high streets and local shopping areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improving street surfaces, street furniture, repainting of public spaces, creating new shaded areas such as new shelters for bus stops, improved lighting, measures to reduce the fear of crime, cycleways and shared paths - grants to bring disused premises back into commercial use - provision of public toilets or improvements to existing facilities, including providing Changing Places toilets - providing infrastructure that supports street markets

The following costs are not eligible for support:

- any costs that are considered to be revenue costs in line with standard local authority accounting practice (such as staffing, ongoing running costs, events, marketing)
- costs associated with activity that took place before September 2025
- paid for lobbying, entertaining, petitioning or challenging decisions, which means using the Fund to lobby (via an external firm or in-house staff) in order to undertake activities intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, government or political activity including the receipt of funding; or attempting to influence legislative or regulatory action.
- payments for activities of a party political or exclusively religious nature



- VAT reclaimable from HMRC. Irrecoverable VAT is an eligible cost under the Pride in Place Impact Fund
- gifts, or payments for gifts or donations
- statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties
- payments for works or activities which the lead local authority, project deliverer, end beneficiary, or any member of their partnership has a statutory duty to undertake, or that are fully funded by other sources
- contingencies and contingent liabilities
- dividends
- bad debts, costs resulting from the deferral of payments to creditors, or winding up a company
- expenses in respect of litigation, unfair dismissal or other compensation
- costs incurred by individuals in setting up and contributing towards private pension schemes

5. Funding Details & Deadlines

The application window is open now and will close at **4pm on Sunday 29th March 2026**. To ensure the investment reaches the areas where it will have the most meaningful effect, Mansfield District Council will use cross-directorate panels to review bids. All funded projects must be completed and evidenced by **31st March 2027**.

- Maximum grant: **£50,000**
- Match funding: optional but encouraged

How will applications be assessed and who will make the decision on which projects are funded?

Applications will be scored against the assessment framework and reviewed by the Programme Delivery Board. The ultimate responsibility sits with Mansfield District Council as the accountable body for the funding. Whilst this is a competitive bidding process, a mix of competition and commissioning may take place. Depending on the applications received, Mansfield District Council reserves the right to commission projects directly and/or invite applicants to collaborate where there is a clear rationale for doing so. Ensuring a coherent set of projects is central to the Council's successful delivery of the overall programme.



All projects will be considered against their alignment with the objectives of the programme, ability to deliver Impact Fund metrics, how well the project responds to identified challenges, the ability of the applicant to complete funded activities by March 2027, value for money, likely impact and sustainability of the proposal once Impact Fund ceases, and the location where proposed work will be undertaken.

The level of information provided for the application should be proportionate to the size and complexity of the project proposed.

An assessment framework is a below:

Criterion	Description	Weight
1. Strategic alignment	Alignment with Pride in Place priority themes and objectives. Contribution to regeneration, community benefit, pride in place.	25%
2. Community Impact	Response to identified local challenges and community priorities. Member and stakeholder engagement, including demonstrable engagement with the MP, Councillors, and local communities. Alignment with PIP impact metrics Evidence of transformational benefit for beneficiaries Evidence of sustainability beyond March 2027.	25%
3. Deliverability	Feasibility; readiness. Land/planning issues. Applicant's track record and capacity/ capability to manage the project; realistic timeline (pre-March 2027); Risk assessment; confidence that the project can be delivered within timescales and budget.	25%
4. Value for Money	Clear and realistic costs; appropriate quotes; match funding; long terms sustainability of the asset demonstrable value for money.	25%
TOTAL		100%

Scoring Key:

0 – Not addressed; 1 – Very weak; 2 – Weak; 3 – Satisfactory; 4 – Strong



6. Documentation Required

As well as completing the application for, all applicants must also attach:

- governing document
- details of organisational financial controls
- evidence of land ownership or lease agreements/ usage rights
- Specifications of items to be purchases (if applicable)
- Quotes or cost estimates
- project plan / drawings if relevant
- annual accounts (or financial summary for new groups)
- proof of match funding (if applicable)

Key requirements

- Funding must be used only for the approved capital items.
- All Impact Fund funding **must be spent**, including monitoring and reporting, by **31st March 2027**. This deadline is non-negotiable.
- Proposals must deliver and evidence **at least one Impact Fund output and provide at least one measurement** to show the impact of the proposal.
- Proposals must follow Mansfield District Council's procurement, spending, and monitoring rules (help will be provided to successful applicants).
- Any changes to budget, scope or timeline require written approval.
- No grant funding may be used for revenue costs (staffing, ongoing running costs, events).
- The council may reclaim funding if terms are breached or the project is not delivered.

Financial Requirements

- Grants will typically be paid in instalments - 50% upfront, 50% on completion). (evidence of payment and monitoring form will be required).
- Evidence of spend (invoices, receipts, bank statements) and monitoring information must be provided.
- Procurement must follow Mansfield District Council's procurement thresholds.

Monitoring & Reporting

Successful applicants will be expected to provide regular reports on progress and to collate evidence to support these reports. Evidence required will be both financial (receipts, invoices, remittances, etc) and Output/Outcome focused (e.g. Before and



after photos, measurements of areas improved and surveys on perception following intervention).

Full reporting, monitoring and evaluation information will be provided to successful applicants. As a summary, successful applicants must:

- sign a funding agreement
- provide quarterly progress updates
- provide evidence of expenditure and monitoring data
- participate in evaluation - a final evaluation report must be submitted.
- Allow site visits and audits as necessary

Asset Requirements

- Capital assets funded must have at least **5 years left on their lease** from the date of the funding application or be owned outright by the applicant organisation.
- Capital assets funded must be maintained for at least **5 years from the date of the funding agreement**.
- Assets may not be sold, leased or repurposed without council approval.

Publicity

- Branding and publicity requirements, including the use of official logos, are mandatory.
- Projects must acknowledge the UK Government and Mansfield District Council in communications and signage.

How to Apply

- A copy of the application form alongside these guidance notes can be downloaded from the MCVS website <https://www.mansfieldcvs.org/>
- Applications should be submitted electronically to info@mansfieldcvs.org by **4pm on Sunday 29th March 2026**
- Deadlines will be published on the Mansfield District Council website.
- Should you require any clarification regarding completion of this form, please contact info@mansfieldcvs.org



Pride in Place Impact Fund: Metrics (outputs)

Code	Metric	Unit of Measurement	Notes
PiPIF1	Number of facilities and premises created or improved	Number of facilities or premises	<p>This metric covers any and all facilities and premises that can be supported by the PIP-IF. It includes public parks and outdoor spaces, improved commercial and community buildings, sports facilities and heritage and cultural venues.</p> <p>The amount of space created or improved should be counted under the relevant metrics e.g. if a project improves a community centre report that as one under this metric and report the amount of space improved under PiPIF3.</p> <p>Outdoor spaces and buildings used together e.g. a sports pitch and a club house should be counted as one under this metric.</p> <p>Improvement means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating a better space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities.</p>
PiPIF2	Amount of commercial space created or improved	Square metres (M2)	<p>The amount of new commercial floorspace completed or improved. Commercial space includes, but is not limited to retail, hospitality, office and industrial space.</p> <p>Improvement means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating a better space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities.</p> <p>Commercial space that is ancillary to the main use of the premises can also be counted, for example a café area in a community centre or sports club but should not be reported under PiPIF5.</p>
PiPIF 3	Amount of community, culture, sports, or heritage space created or improved	Square metres (M2)	<p>This metric should be used to report the space created or improved in buildings reported under PiPIF1, commercial space should be reported under PiP-IF 2.</p> <p>Structures that might not normally be considered buildings e.g. band stands or covered seating areas in parks may also be counted under this</p>



			<p>metric.</p> <p>Improvement means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating a better space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities.</p>
PiPIF4	Amount of green or blue space created or improved	Square metres (M2)	<p>Green or blue space means any vegetated land, or water including public gardens, playing fields, children’s play areas, woods and other natural areas, grassed areas, cemeteries, allotments, as well as green corridors like paths. It does not include paved spaces between or around buildings; for this, see PiPIF5.</p> <p>Improved means adding, renovating or repairing facilities and landscaping. It does not include maintenance of existing greenspace, such as grass cutting, pruning, and cleaning.</p>
PiPIF5	Amount of public realm created or improved	Square metres (M2)	<p>Public realm means the spaces between and around buildings that are publicly accessible, including squares, courtyards and streets.</p> <p>Improved means adding, renovating or repairing features with the aim of creating better public space and excludes routine cleaning and maintenance.</p> <p>This metric should not be used for parks and green/blue space, which should be reported under PiPIF4.</p>
PiPIF6	Number of green retrofits to non-residential buildings and or facilities.	Number of buildings	<p>The installation of measures designed to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and facilities. This can include, but is not limited to, improved insulation or glazing, installing more efficient heating systems, the installation of solar, wind or hydro electricity generation and the installation of alternative fuel charging points for vehicles.</p> <p>Only report improvements to existing buildings or facilities, installation of green technologies to new buildings and facilities should not be reported under this metric.</p> <p>Count each building or facility once regardless of the number of technologies installed.</p>