

## Monthly Funding Information July 2019

Below is a list of current grants and funding opportunities primarily for Voluntary & Community Sector Groups and Organisations, Charities and Social Enterprises.

**Where the Grant title includes an asterisk (\*), Local Authorities and other partner organisations may also be eligible to apply for the funding.**

This information can also be accessed via the Leicestershire Communities [website](#) .

Please note that Leicestershire County Council has a contract with [Voluntary Action LeicesterShire](#) (VAL) to provide support to voluntary and community sector organisations in Leicestershire, including help with identifying and securing funding. If you are a VCS organisation who is seeking to apply for funding, or bid for contracts, please contact VAL's Sector Support Team for assistance, advice and guidance. You can also sign up for further e-bulletins from VAL, including, news, information, events, funding opportunities and job vacancies. More details can be seen on the VAL [website](#).

**Please use the links in the table below to go directly to the relevant section:**

<a href="#">Funding for projects which support Adults (including older people, veterans and with disabilities)</a>	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
<a href="#">SHIRE Community Grant</a>	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2019
<a href="#">Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust - Removing Barriers to Family Life</a>	18 <sup>th</sup> July 2019
<a href="#">Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust's - Positive Pathways Programme</a>	Open/6 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019
<a href="#">Carers Innovation Fund - Opening Soon</a>	
<a href="#">Funding for projects which support Young People (including young people with disabilities)</a>	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
<a href="#">SHIRE Community Grant</a>	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2019
<a href="#">Nesta - EdTech Innovation Fund</a>	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2019
<a href="#">Anti-Knife Crime Community Fund</a>	24 <sup>th</sup> July 2019
<a href="#">Inter Faith Youth Trust – Small Grant Programme</a>	23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2019

<a href="#"><u>Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes</u></a>	
Grant Fund	Closest Deadline
<a href="#"><u>Govt. - Whole House Retrofit Innovation Competition *</u></a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2019
<a href="#"><u>Nesta Challenges – Tech to Connect Challenge</u></a>	7 <sup>th</sup> Aug 2019
<a href="#"><u>Lloyds Bank Foundation – Enable Grant</u></a>	31 <sup>st</sup> Aug 2019
<a href="#"><u>UK Theatres - Small Grants Scheme</u></a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept 2019
<a href="#"><u>Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund</u></a>	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019
<a href="#"><u>Carnegie UK Trust - Engaging Libraries *</u></a>	25 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019
<a href="#"><u>SHIRE Recycling Grants</u></a>	27 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019
<a href="#"><u>National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage Horizon Awards</u></a>	11 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019
<a href="#"><u>Nationwide Building Society Community Grants</u></a>	21 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2019
<a href="#"><u>SHIRE Community Climate Change grant</u></a>	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2019
<a href="#"><u>Architectural Heritage Fund -Transforming Places Through Heritage</u></a>	Open
<a href="#"><u>British Cycling - Places to Ride Grants Programme *</u></a>	Open till 2021
<a href="#"><u>Department for Digital, Culture, Media &amp; Sport - Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme</u></a>	Open
<a href="#"><u>Support available for organisations interested in social investment</u></a>	

## Funding for projects which support Adults

### [SHIRE Community Grant](#)

Eligible organisations, including charities, community groups, social enterprises and Town/Parish Councils, can access grants of up to £10,000 and/or smaller grants of up to £3,000 for community-based projects and activities that are specifically focused on supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities.

Leicestershire County Council are particularly interested in funding new and innovative projects that will:

- improve the lives, health and wellbeing of vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and communities in Leicestershire
- provide early intervention and prevention-based solutions which help to reduce demand on Council and other public services
- complement existing services already being delivered

**There are three remaining deadlines for applications for 2019-20:**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September**

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November**

## **Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust - Removing Barriers to Family Life**

The Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust has launched a £7.5M programme to award grants to Armed Forces Charities or Community Interest Companies or Armed Forces Units working with Armed Forces Families. The programme is about supporting Armed Forces Families facing challenges. Large grants will help to address substantial challenges; providing funding for transformative ideas. Medium grants will support projects that make a proven difference to Armed Forces Families and will support existing work.

The programme will award grants to projects which will be of practical benefit to Armed Forces Families. The focus of the project should be on supporting the family; rather than serving personnel or veterans.

This programme will be delivered in two strands:

- Medium Strand: Grants of between £30,000-£100,000 to support existing or new projects that meet a clear need for Armed Forces Families.
- Large Strand: Grants between £100,001- £300,000 with some exceptional projects potentially receiving up to £500,000. Projects will need to be able to show that they will have a transformative effect, and that the changes they achieve will be sustainable.

**The deadline for applications to the medium strand is 12 September 2019.**

**The deadline for applications to the large strand is 18 July 2019.**

## **Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust's - Positive Pathways Programme**

One-off grants are available to Armed Forces charities for projects and activities that support the mental health and wellbeing of veterans in the UK.

The £9 million Positive Pathways Programme is one of two funding programmes that form the Trust's Veterans' Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund. The Fund, which launched in 2018, is provided by the UK Government and aims to give veterans more choice and control over their own personal recovery journeys; enabling them to take part in activities that are personally meaningful, while receiving good support with their mental health and wellbeing needs.

The Positive Pathways Programme offers fixed one-year grants of £35,000 or two-year grants of £70,000 to registered charities or Community Interest Companies (CICs) that are primarily supporting past and present members of the Armed Forces and their families.

Funding can be used towards the costs of activity-based projects (such as sports, arts or outdoor activities) that will have a positive impact on the mental health and wellbeing of veterans throughout the UK. The Trust will prioritise applications from small and local (rather than national) organisations, and those whose projects are led or partly led by veterans.

Applicants will need to demonstrate:

- That veterans really want to take part and will be active participants in the activity being proposed.
- How the activity being offered will help to improve mental wellbeing.
- That they are prepared to work with other organisations that can help connect the work into wider pathways of support.

Successful applicants under the Positive Pathways Programme will be supported by larger organisations, which have already been awarded grants under the Fund's Strategic Pathways Programme, to help connect their work with wider networks that support veterans' mental health.

Applications are assessed on a rolling basis.

**Applications submitted by 6 September 2019 will receive a decision by the end of November 2019.**

### **[Carers Innovation Fund - Opening Soon](#)**

A multi-million fund investing in new projects to improve carers' wellbeing is soon to open to applications. Provided by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), the Carers Innovation Fund will invest in innovative ways of supporting unpaid carers, outside of mainstream health and care services. The Fund aims to support accessible, carer-friendly communities and public services and also seeks to provide evidence on effective interventions to support carers.

The funding will be used to improve support across England and help build more carer-friendly communities. Projects will be expected to show a positive effect on:

- carers' health and wellbeing;
- carers' ability to manage work alongside caring responsibilities;
- carers' ability to take a break from their caring role;
- reducing loneliness and social isolation.

Applicants will need to demonstrate that their idea is a fresh approach that is better than existing provision, will benefit the local community and can be expanded and replicated.

The total budget of the programme is £5 million. Organisations are invited to bid for up to £500,000. Applications will be sought from organisations in England, from a mix of sectors. The voluntary sector, charities, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and commercial organisations can all bid for funding to prove their concept, with the aim of securing longer term funding from other sources.

**Stage one applications, via expression of interest, are expected to open before the end of June 2019.**

## **Funding for projects which support Young People**

### **SHIRE Community Grant**

Eligible organisations, including charities, community groups, social enterprises and Town/Parish Councils, can access grants of up to £10,000 and/or smaller grants of up to £3,000 for community-based projects and activities that are specifically focused on supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people and communities.

Leicestershire County Council are particularly interested in funding new and innovative projects that will:

- improve the lives, health and wellbeing of vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals and communities in Leicestershire
- provide early intervention and prevention-based solutions which help to reduce demand on Council and other public services
- complement existing services already being delivered

**There are three remaining deadlines for applications for 2019-20:**

**Monday 8th July**

**Monday 9th September**

**Monday 11th November**

### **Nesta - EdTech Innovation Fund**

Nesta is offering grants of £100,000 to organisations in the UK to support more effective use of education technology in England.

Nesta is working in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE) to help schools and colleges in England make more effective use of technology. The first stage of this £4.6m partnership is the EdTech Innovation Fund.

The EdTech Innovation Fund will support up to 20 organisations to improve, evaluate and grow the reach of digital tools across four challenge areas:

- Formative assessment
- Essay marking
- Parental engagement
- Timetabling

Grants will be awarded to projects that support:

- Improvement - improving and testing early-stage products that want to grow their reach and impact
- Implementation - supporting products to expand their reach to more schools, colleges and students
- Evidence - supporting organisations to build the evidence base for what works in the four challenge areas.

Applications must be submitted in the name of a corporate body which may include schools, charities or private companies.

Organisations can be from outside the UK, but products must be applicable to the English education system.

This fund will support up to 20 organisations with grants of up to £100,000 for a period of 18 months.

**Applications should be submitted by the deadline 15 July 2019.**

### **Anti-Knife Crime Community Fund**

The Fund, which is one of the commitments outlined in the government's Serious Violence Strategy published in April 2018, was set up to support community projects delivered by voluntary sector organisations which tackle knife crime.

The Fund is intended to help communities to respond to the challenges around knife crime, and in particular support activities to prevent young people from engaging in knife related offending.

Such impact should include provision of support through prevention and early intervention, and provision of immediate, emergency support and conflict mediation and after care. All applications must demonstrate that they respond to the challenges of tackling knife crime within local communities.

Applications should be for funding for single projects of up to a maximum of £30,000. Organisations should begin to deliver projects without delay and must be completed and delivered by 30 March 2020.

Bids will need to demonstrate a previous proven history of delivering anti-knife crime work, especially to young people, and will be assessed on the basis of the extent to which they demonstrate a proven track record of an organisation's ability to deliver knife crime interventions in work with children and young people.

**The deadline for applications is 24 July 2019.**

## Inter Faith Youth Trust – Small Grant Programme

Small grants are available for young people to run events or projects connected with Inter Faith Week 2019.

Grants of up to £800 will be awarded to proposals for inter-faith activities by children and young people from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and other faiths and those of no formal faith in understanding and co-operation. The age range for young people is 11-25 years.

Projects should take place during Inter Faith Week 2019 (10 – 17 November).

The aims of Inter Faith Week are to:

- Strengthen good inter faith relations at all levels.
- Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK, in particular celebrating and building on the contribution which their members make to their neighbourhoods and to wider society.
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs.

Priority will be given to projects which:

- Actively involve young people in planning, running, and evaluation of the project.
- Promote positive action i.e. young people from different backgrounds coming together to address shared problems like improving green spaces.
- Are run by non-statutory organisations, such as youth clubs, scout/guide groups, local voluntary and community organisations.

Grants can provide part-funding. Grants are not available for converting young people to a different faith.

**The deadline for applications is Friday 23 August 2019.**

## **Funding for projects which support broader community outcomes**

### **Govt. - Whole House Retrofit Innovation Competition \***

Businesses, public and third sector organisations can now apply for funding to carry out projects to reduce the cost of retrofitting domestic properties in the UK.

The government is calling for applications to a new competition to help accelerate a reduction in the cost of retrofitting domestic properties in the UK to the same standard as new builds. The Whole House Retrofit (WHR) Innovation Competition will support the government's ambition of halving the cost of completing this work by 2030.

Approximately £9.4 million will be available for a limited number of projects which demonstrate a cost reduction trajectory for whole house retrofit. A maximum of £4.7 million will be available for each project.

Successful projects will focus on upgrading social housing properties, given the comparative uniformity of the dwellings, and the ability to procure at scale. However, credible alternative proposals may also be considered.

Eligible project expenditure may include:

- personnel costs: researchers, technicians and other supporting staff;
- instruments and equipment;
- buildings and land;
- contractual research, knowledge and patents; and
- materials, supplies and similar products, incurred directly as a result of the project.

Bids are welcomed from any UK organisation or consortium which can meet the expected outputs; including SMEs, large enterprises, academic, financial, research, public and third sector organisations.

**The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 5pm on 1 August 2019.**

**Full bids should be submitted by 5pm on 15 August 2019.**

**Projects must be completed by March 2021.**



## [Nesta Challenges – Tech to Connect Challenge \(support for projects using tech to reduce isolation\)](#)

Nesta Challenges is inviting applications from charities, social enterprises and social ventures in England to its Tech to Connect Challenge, which offers £1 million to help civil society organisations to develop tech-based solutions to reduce social isolation.

Funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the fund consists of £500,000 worth of business support from Nesta Challenges and £500,000 in grant funding.

Applicants will be asked to detail a problem related to social isolation in England and their idea for how technology can help to address it. The solutions can be direct ('this is how we plan to change the interactions between people') or indirect (this is how we plan to improve the service we offer people face-to-face).

After an initial assessment, 7 finalists will be invited to follow a programme of guided support over 5 months. During this time, they will conduct further user research, design and develop a prototype and a plan for its implementation, then develop a working prototype of the technology.

**Submissions to the Tech to Connect prize close on Wednesday 7th August 2019.**

## [Lloyds Bank Foundation – Enable Grant](#)

Lloyds Bank Foundation's Enable Grants provide opportunities for charities to develop or trial new approaches to service delivery, so they can become more effective in their work.

Charities can apply for funding for activities which improve their capability in areas such as business development and planning, monitoring, leadership and governance and communications. An Enable grant can put a charity in a stronger position to deliver services and attract more volunteers, funding and support.

Grants of up to a total of £15,000 across one or two years are available.

The fund is open to registered charities with income between £25,000 and £1 million, who work to support people aged 17+ who are facing one or more of their specified complex social problems.

Closing date for **applications 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019.**

## **UK Theatres - Small Grants Scheme**

Capital-improvement grants of up to £5,000 are available to charities and not-for-profit groups that run theatres in the UK.

Provided by the Theatres Trust and supported by funding from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and the Charles Michael Holloway Trust, the UK Theatres Small Grants Scheme offers grants for projects that:

- Address urgent building repairs.
- Improve operational viability.
- Introduce environmental improvements.
- Enhance physical accessibility.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they run a regular theatre programme of professional, community and/or amateur work, presenting no less than 30 performances a year, and that the funded improvements will add value to the organisation's work in the local community.

**The next deadline for applications is 2 September 2019 (midday).**

## **Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund**

Grants of between £20,000 and £120,000 are available to museums and galleries in the UK for time-limited projects that demonstrate the significance, distinctiveness and power of collections to people.

The Fund, provided by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and administered by the Museums Association (MA), awards nearly £1.2 million per year to around 10 to 16 high-quality projects, focusing on collections that are typically held by accredited museums or a partnership of museums and other organisations.

Eligible projects can be up to three years in duration and must:

- Work with an existing collection or collections to improve understanding of them and increase their use; and
- Through that collections work, involve, inspire and have value for people, communities and audiences.

Projects are expected to be innovative, outward-looking and seek change, in the context and scale of the museum. This might include leading practice that influences the whole sector or creating a replicable model of working for the applicant organisation itself.

Grants can be used towards a wide range of engagement activities outside the scope of an organisation's core resources including co-curation, research, digitisation, conservation, documentation and exhibition costs.

**The next deadline for applications is 11 September 2019.**

## **Carnegie UK Trust - Engaging Libraries** \*

Engaging Libraries Phase 2 will support public libraries to run public engagement activities on research within the themes of health, society and culture. It will help to facilitate partnerships between public libraries and researchers, and spark people's curiosity around topics that are relevant or interesting to them.

The programme is a partnership between the Carnegie UK Trust, Wellcome and the Wolfson Foundation, and will offer funding to deliver a public engagement project on research in health, society and culture

Funding is available as follows:

- £12k – £25k if you are applying as a single library service
- £12k – £50k if you are submitting a joint application

The programme is aiming to support around 20 projects. It expects projects to begin from November 2019 and to spend 3-6 months further developing and refining their idea, with activities to be completed by May 2021.

**Applications close on 25 September 2019.**

## **SHIRE Recycling Grants**

Leicestershire County Council is committed to minimising the amount of waste that is thrown away. In order to help achieve this, the Council is offering up to £3,000 in the form of SHIRE Recycling Grants.

These grants will be available for eligible community-based organisations to deliver local waste prevention, recycling and composting projects and activities.

We are particularly interested in funding new and innovative projects that will:

- Reduce household waste, divert waste from disposal and optimise levels of recycling and composting in a cost-effective way.
- Reduce the amount of waste produced in Leicestershire by waste reduction, reuse and recycling and encouraging resourcefulness through repairing, refurbishing, repurposing, sharing, swapping and composting.
- Enable residents and communities to get involved in waste related initiatives and support permanent changes in individual behaviours.

**The next closing date for applications is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

## National Lottery Heritage Fund - Heritage Horizon Awards

Large-scale grants are available over the next three years for ambitious heritage projects that will bring about positive changes and benefits to people, places and the wider heritage sector in the UK.

In its first year (2020–2021), the Heritage Horizon Awards has a total funding pot of £50 million.

Individual grants of a minimum of £5 million each are available for non-profit organisations and partnerships led by non-profit organisations to support projects that will reflect the ethos behind the scheme – "Backing big ideas, unlocking possibilities" – by being transformative, innovative and collaborative

All kinds of heritage projects are eligible. Heritage can be anything from the past that is valued and should be passed on to future generations and could include:

- Oral history: people's memories and experiences.
- Cultural traditions, such as stories, festivals, crafts, music and dance.
- Nature, for example, habitats, species, and geology.
- Natural and designed landscapes, such as parks and gardens.
- Community archaeology.
- Historic buildings, monuments, and environments.
- Collections of objects, books or documents in museums, libraries or archives.
- Histories of people and communities or places and events.
- The heritage of languages and dialects.
- Places and objects linked to the UK's industrial, maritime and transport history.

Projects that focus on the National Lottery Heritage Fund's current strategic priorities (landscapes and nature, and heritage at risk) will be considered favorably.

**The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 11 October 2019.**

## Nationwide Building Society Community Grants

The Nationwide Community Grants programme awards grants of up to £50,000 to local housing projects that will strengthen local communities by supporting the most vulnerable by:

- Preventing people from losing their home
- Helping people into a home
- Supporting people to thrive within the home environment

Charities, Community Land Trusts and housing co-operatives can apply for grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 to make a change in their local area.

Eligible costs include:

- Core costs of up to 20% of the requested grant amount – including running and facility costs, office equipment, supplies, any travel and accommodation, printing etc. (this does not include staff costs).
- Staff and volunteer costs for the lead partner
- Small-scale capital costs - including one-off expenses for equipment or fixed assets such as computer hardware or perishable capital that are required for the delivery of a project, such as paint, paintbrushes and gardening equipment.
- Activity costs - that help to facilitate projects or activities, but that fall outside of capital, staffing & volunteering costs; such as catering or insurance.
- Development and capacity building costs – to support organisational sustainability; such as staff/volunteer training, external consultancy fees.
- Building works and refurbishment costs where they are essential to the successful delivery of the project.

To discuss your application please talk to your local [Community Foundation](#).

**Fund open from 21st October nationally / 22nd November in Leicestershire**

### **SHIRE Community Climate Change Grant**

Voluntary and Community Groups and organisations are being encouraged to apply to help them to reduce their carbon emissions by improving their community buildings.

The grant fund is for community projects in Leicestershire (not Leicester City or Rutland) that help to improve the energy efficiency of community buildings and make local environmental changes to help reduce carbon emissions.

A maximum grant of £5,000 per applicant is available for projects in any one financial year. Grants are available for:

- EPC's (Energy Performance Certificate) or DEC's (Display Energy Certificate) of community buildings
- Installation of energy efficiency measures such as new heating systems, roof or cavity wall insulation or low energy lighting
- Installation of renewable energy systems

**The first closing date for applications is Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019**

## Architectural Heritage Fund - Transforming Places Through Heritage Programme

This programme supports projects that will contribute to the transformation of high streets and town centres in England, helping them become thriving places, strengthening local communities and encouraging local economies to prosper. It is part of a wider initiative to revive heritage high streets in England, alongside Historic England's High Streets Heritage Action Zones. Together, these programmes form part of the Future High Streets Fund, administered by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Their programme is for individual heritage buildings in, or transferring to, community ownership. They will support charities and social enterprises to develop projects with the potential to bring new life to high streets by creating alternative uses for redundant or underused historic buildings in town centres.

The AHF can provide grants to help with assessing the viability of a project, or to help fund development costs or to match funds raised through Crowdfunding and Community Shares. It will also provide a small number of capital (delivery) grants for Transformational Projects.

The dates for the opening of initial grant applications are as follows:

- **Project Viability Grants:** up to £15,000, for early viability and feasibility work, open for applications from **1st July 2019**
- **Project Development Grants:** up to £100,000, for capital project development costs, open for applications from **1st July 2019**
- **Crowdfunding Challenge Grants:** up to £25,000, to match fund crowdfunding campaigns, open for applications from **1st July 2019**
- **Transformational Project Grants:** up to £350,000, for transformational capital projects, open for project enquiries from **29th July 2019**
- **Community Shares Booster Grants:** further info to be announced.

### **Which areas will be eligible?**

The programme will focus on places where strategic regeneration programmes are planned or are already underway. This includes Heritage Action Zones or places that have secured funding through the Future High Streets Fund. Historic building projects located within other area-based regeneration programmes, such as Townscape Heritage areas or where an applicant can demonstrate a significant community-led strategic approach is in place, will also be considered. Projects should not be standalone but sit within a wider initiative to regenerate and bring a new purpose to the immediate surrounding area.

***Please note that this grant cannot be used to fund the same work that is being grant-aided through a Future High Streets Fund or High Streets Heritage Action Zone programme. These strands of funding cannot partner each other but will fund projects that are complementary. These strands of funding may separately fund different stages of one project.***

## **British Cycling - Places to Ride Grants Programme \***

British Cycling's Placed to Ride is a grant funding programme for the development of new, or the improvement of existing, cycling facilities across England.

The programme will fund the development of multi-use facilities to engage with a broad spectrum of cyclists and to encourage people who have never cycled before to get on their bikes. Applications can also be made to improve existing cycling facilities and support opportunities to ride in communities across England.

Small grants of between £1,000 and £50,000 are available. It is expected that the average grant will be much less than £50,000. Larger grants of up to £500,000 are available for larger projects. A total of £15 million is available for the three-year grants programme.

Examples of projects that might be funded include:

- New cycling facilities.
- Improvements to existing cycling facilities, such as lighting, fencing, workshop space or toilets.
- Learn to ride areas.
- Combined and co-located schemes with various cycling facility types available.
- Equipment such as bicycles, specialised bicycles, storage facilities, data-tracking monitors, coaching equipment, etc.
- Cycling kit and equipment.
- Training equipment.
- Cycle storage.
- Other items that can support innovative solutions to getting more people riding bikes, e.g., using technology.

Applications will be accepted from not-for-profit organisations located in England, including clubs, local authorities, community organisations, education establishments and charitable organisations.

**Applications can be submitted at any time until 15 January 2021, when the programme ends.**

**Decisions will be made every 12 weeks.**

## **Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport - Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme**

Full fibre broadband connections offer the fastest and most reliable speeds available and, as part of the government commitment to a vision of a full fibre Britain, in March 2018 they announced the £67m Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme. Gigabit vouchers can be used by small businesses and the local communities surrounding them to contribute to the installation cost of a gigabit-capable connection.

Businesses can claim up to £2,500 against the cost of connection either individually or as part of a group project. Residents can benefit from the scheme with a voucher worth £500 as part of a group project.

From May 2019, premises in the harder-to-reach places in the UK may be eligible for additional funding.

As part of the Government's Rural Gigabit Connectivity programme, business and residents in some of the hardest-to-reach places in the UK are eligible for additional funding towards the cost of installing gigabit-capable broadband to their premises when part of a group project.

Rural premises with broadband speeds of less than 30Mbps can use vouchers worth up to £3,500 for each small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs), and up to £1,500 per residential premise. to support the cost of installing new gigabit-capable connections. This is subject to the eligibility rules.

### **No closing dates advertised**

### **Support available for organisations interested in social investment**

Social investment is a financial enablement tool which enables organisations to focus on organisational development and long-term sustainability. It can be used for buildings, infrastructure, IT, equipment, cashflow, enabling and retaining contracts and trading activities, kicking start new services/ projects or strategic positioning. Grant funding alone is not a viable source of sustainable business funding! A good place to start to find out more about social investment is the Good Finance [website](#)

Don't be put off by the fear of having to repay a loan when you first start exploring social enterprise and investment. Going on the investment readiness and social investment journey is beneficial in that it will help you to think about the direction your organisation will take and where income will be generated. It will therefore help you to develop a business mind-set. The journey is just as important as the end goal.

You are not obliged to take out a loan when developing social enterprise business models, but it is likely that you will need it if you are successful!

If you are interested in accessing support to develop and grow through enterprise and investment, you can contact:

[VAL Sector Support Helpline](#)

0116 2575050

[helpline@valonline.org.uk](mailto:helpline@valonline.org.uk)

[CASE](#)

0116 222 5010

[enquiries@case.coop](mailto:enquiries@case.coop)