THE NEWCASTLE FUND
Round 10 Prospectus (2020/21)

The Council’s discretionary Grant Fund
for Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations
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OTHER USEFUL DOCUMENTS:

The Newcastle Future Needs Assessment
how the city identifies its priorities

Newcastle Intelligence Online
A source of information, survey results and maps from the Council and our partners. It is used to created the Newcastle Future needs Assessment (NFNA)

GaN Canny 2018
Views of the VCS in Gateshead and Newcastle

Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service

The Newcastle Compact
A working agreement between public and voluntary sector organisations in the city

Newcastle Fund
Annual Report 2017/18
A more detailed assessment of the Fund’s recent achievements

Newcastle Fund Position Statement
April 2017
The council’s intentions for the Newcastle Fund following consultation feedback from the VCS in 2016 and 2017

This document is available online at www.newcastle.gov.uk
The Newcastle Fund has played a vital part in supporting community-based initiatives in partnership with the voluntary and community sector over the past 8 years. It has provided support to some of our most vulnerable residents, supported local action that has enabled residents to take pride in the places they live, helped to improve individual and community wellbeing, and has brought people and communities together to achieve positive change. It has also given people routes into employment through volunteering opportunities.

We continue to be inspired by the spirit of the communities in our city and are committed to continuing the Fund as a key part of our community wealth building

However, there is no doubt that austerity imposed by Government and the disproportionate cuts Newcastle City Council has faced is having a huge impact on the services that the council is able to provide for local residents. Our medium-term financial plan 2019-20 to 2021-22 therefore included the tough decision to review the level of funding for the Fund from 2020-21; our consultation on this runs from 13 May 2019 to 10 June 2019.

In these tough times, we remain committed to two things – protecting the most vulnerable in our city from the worst effects of these cuts, and investing in our city to build confidence in the future. We will continue to be guided in the tough decisions we have to make, by our values of fairness, inclusion and social justice.

Joyce McCarty
Deputy Leader of the Council
Why this Prospectus matters to you

This Prospectus gives important information about the Newcastle Fund – the Council’s primary grant-giving programme available to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. We want to make sure that applying to the Fund is as simple as possible for organisations of all sizes, resources and abilities. It is important to read this Prospectus carefully if you are considering applying to the Newcastle Fund as it will help you to understand how your organisation’s activity fits in with Fund priorities.

This prospectus explains:

- the aims of the Fund and the priority outcomes it seeks to achieve
- how we measure impact
- how to apply and what you should consider when planning your application
- how much funding is available

For more information, support or advice on the Newcastle Fund, please contact with the Newcastle Fund team using the contact details at the end of this document.
SECTION ONE

About the Fund

What is the Newcastle Fund?

The Newcastle Fund is the Council’s primary discretionary grant fund for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations. It was introduced in 2011 and replaced a number of different grant aid programmes across the Council.

The Fund provides grants to VCS organisations based in the City for project-specific running costs or core costs that enable residents to build sustainable community resources. Eligible organisations can apply for up to £50,000 per year over 1, 2 or 3 years to pilot, expand or diversify important community activity that responds to local need and improves the lives of people in Newcastle.

You can find information on Newcastle Fund awards and outcomes on the Newcastle Fund page of the Council’s website.
What is a discretionary grant?

The Council defines a grant award as a gift of funds for a specified purpose. This activity is defined by the recipient in their application, and not by the funder. Grant giving is distinct from contracting, where the Council purchases goods or services to meet an identified specification.

A discretionary grant is awarded based on the eligibility and merit of the application. The Newcastle Fund evaluates applications through annual competitive rounds, awarding grants to recipients who most successfully meet its criteria.

In awarding a grant, the Council subsidises a service or activity that it considers necessary, but which cannot otherwise generate enough income to cover its costs. The Newcastle Fund is limited to VCS organisations and is outside the scope of VAT.

Grants are ideal for supporting research and development, building organisational capacity, or developing new activities which over time could become self-sustaining. Grants are also widely used to cover or contribute toward the core operating costs of VCS organisations such as salaries and overheads.
About Newcastle upon Tyne

Our Newcastle is a great city, one that never stands still. A city that makes history and shapes the future.

Our city is growing, with 21,000 new homes and 14,000 new jobs expected by 2030. In fact, we’re one of the fastest growing cities in the UK. We continue to be ambitious for our city and want it to be fair, prosperous, and vibrant. We have beautiful green spaces, a thriving arts and cultural scene, dynamic businesses, great universities, a popular retail centre, and a proactive VCS.

However, as with other cities, we know that there are still too many people finding it hard to get by, facing inequality and disadvantage. Too many who have yet to see the quality of life improve and share in and benefit from the opportunities that the city offers. Because the city’s people are its greatest asset, their loss of opportunity affects us all. We’re working hard to improve that.

- **We are a growing city:** There are approximately 293,700 people living in Newcastle, up from 289,800 in 2014. This is forecast to grow to be as much as 327,000 by 2039.

- **We are a young city:** 59,700 people (20.3% of the population) are aged 15-24 - this unusually high proportion reflects the number of students living in the city. 42,300 (14.4% of the population) are aged 65 and over.

- **We are a diverse city:** 13.4% were born outside of the UK and 5.9% of households have no people who speak English as their main language. We are a City of Sanctuary, welcoming people who have sought sanctuary for many years.

- **We are a city with mixed wellbeing:** 79.6% of people report their health to be very good or good. 18.7% have a long-term health problem or disability that affects their day-to-day life to some degree.

- **We are a city with areas of significant deprivation:** we live in the 53rd (out of 326) most deprived local authority area in the country - an improvement from 40th in 2010. While 23% of people in Newcastle live in the 10% most deprived UK areas, around 12% live in the 10% least deprived areas nationally. There are 56,619 children and young people, over 2,500 are supported by Children’s Social Care and 9,283 (23.2%) are eligible for Free School Meals.

- **We are a city with mixed qualification levels:** 35.4% of young people achieved ‘good’ GCSEs (grades 5-9) in 2017, below the England average of 42.6%. 9% of people aged 16-64 in Newcastle have no qualifications, this compares with 9.6% in the North East and 7.7% for Great Britain.
• **We are a city where unemployment has reduced significantly** but remains too high: The unemployment rate has fallen to 6.9%, down from double-digit levels three years ago. However, this still means 10,100 residents are unemployed, and we remain significantly above the national average of 4.8%. Employment levels differ between age groups; 36.4% of people aged 16-24 are employed, 75.7% of people aged 25-49 are employed, 43.3% of people aged 50 and over are employed. 6.8% of young people are not in education, employment or training, lower than the England average of 7.1%. 18.4% jobs are not paid the National Living Wage, down from 21.1% in 2016. The average weekly wage of people who live in Newcastle has increased from £484.00 in 2014 to £535.50 in 2017 but remains lower than the UK average of £552.70.

• **We are a city with a variety of housing options**: There are over 131,000 occupied households in Newcastle. There are a higher proportion of flats and a lower proportion of detached properties compared to England and Wales. Approximately nearly 50,000 of these households own their own property, over 6,000 rent from a housing association and over 19,000 rent from a private landlord. Our arm’s length management organisation, Your Homes Newcastle (YHN), manages nearly 26,000 homes.

• **We are a green city**: There are 3,700 streets covering 12 million square metres, 1,000km of roads and 2,000km of pavements. 55% of the city is green space and 89% of people live within 300m of public green space. 57.9% of residents use a park or green space once a month. 76% of residents are satisfied with their local area.


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**Newcastle Intelligence Online**

'Newcastle Intelligence Online' is the Council's innovative information resource and provides, instant, online access to information, data, survey results and maps from both the council and our partners. It is used to create the Newcastle Future Needs Assessment (NFNA). The information is available by different themes and includes: population, employment, health and wellbeing, environment, communities and children and young people. A summary of the data can be found at [https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/our-city/statistics-and-intelligence](https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/our-city/statistics-and-intelligence)
Making a difference in 2020/21

The Fund’s role in building the strengths of people and communities

Newcastle has faced disproportionate Government cuts of more than twice the national average since 2010. By 2020-21 we will be in the tenth year of austerity. Over the period to 2022, the Council will have had to save a staggering £327 million due to Government cuts and increasing cost pressures. The difficult decision was made to identify the Newcastle Fund as a contributor to these savings, and the Council launched a consultation on 13 May 2019 on what these savings may look like. You can find details of this consultation on the Council’s Let’s Talk page. Following the consultation period, information about the available budget for Newcastle Fund grants in 2020-21 will be published on the Newcastle Fund web page on the Council’s website.

To minimise the impact of these cuts and protect the City’s most vulnerable people, we need to work closely with our communities. Now more than ever, the Newcastle Fund’s role in sustaining community initiatives must be to empower residents to nurture and harness each other’s strengths and skills by working in partnership.

Everyone has something to offer and a part to play in building their community, and the Fund can unite people to contribute through a common project, activity or goal. Where people work together to make best use of their community’s assets, they can maximise the Fund’s resource to build skills, confidence, networks and optimism and make a difference for people in our city who face disadvantage and inequality.

A key focus of the Newcastle Fund is therefore enabling asset based practice and building social value. You can find out more about the priority outcome areas for the Fund and these ways of working in Section 2.

Working collaboratively with the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)

The VCS has a powerful role to play in improving the lives and wellbeing of people in Newcastle. VCS organisations are deeply committed to the communities they serve and are well placed to anticipate and respond to the changing needs of residents and harness the assets and resources of their local communities for lasting impact.

We know that working in collaboration with the VCS and harnessing the energy in our communities will help us to meet the many challenges faced by the city. We know that as the landscape for local government changes and we become directly
responsible for fewer services, our role in bringing together partners and working with the VCS will be more important than ever.

The Newcastle Compact and the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group

The Newcastle Compact is an agreement between the public sector and the VCS in the city. It is overseen by the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group (VSLG), a strategic group of VCS organisations, Council and Clinical Commissioning Group representatives. The Newcastle Compact identifies a set of shared principles for working together and records the commitment of all parties to constructive, cooperative relationships with each other. These commitments concern 5 main themes:

- Allocating resources efficiently
- Promoting equality, community cohesion and social inclusion
- Consulting and involving the VCS, service users and governance bodies
- Promoting and supporting volunteering
- Managing changes to services

The Newcastle Fund is committed to following these principles and promoting them to applicant organisations.

For more information on the Newcastle Compact, visit The Newcastle Compact

Newcastle Asian Arts & Music
Shaping the Newcastle Fund

We want the Newcastle Fund to respond to the changing needs of the people it supports. To do this, we need to make sure that City residents, VCS organisations, stakeholders and regional funders get the opportunity to inform the shape and purpose of the Fund. We will continue to seek feedback and input on how the Fund can be developed, through engagement at Newcastle Fund events, the Council’s Let’s Talk online consultation forum, and open channels of communication with the Newcastle Fund team. Find out more about how to get involved in discussions about the Fund’s future in section six of this prospectus.

Expert advice, guidance and practical support for VCS organisations strengthens the capacity of the sector, and so we continue to invest in specialist infrastructure support to underpin VCS activity in Newcastle. This important resource also enables the sector to represent their experience through one voice. NCVS, together with the Voluntary Sector Liaison Group and the views of Newcastle residents, have an important role in informing the future of the Fund.

Social Value

The Newcastle Fund promotes the Council’s Commitment to Social Value, supporting projects which contribute to the things that residents say are important to them, like sustainable employment, a decent place to live, and equal access to quality services.

This year, the Fund has introduced categories that link individual project outcomes with the Council’s wider framework for Social Value impact. This will help us better understand the many and varied ways that the Fund’s priority outcomes deliver Social Value. You can read more about outcome categories in section three of this prospectus.

You can read more about how the Council delivers Social value through the goods, works and services it funds on our Social Value web pages.
SECTION TWO
The Fund’s aims and priorities

3 priorities

- Individual resilience
- Community resilience
- Wellbeing and health

To create a lasting impact on how we live

And tackle disadvantage and inequality
Statement of Core Purpose

The Newcastle Fund exists to support the voluntary and community sector to harness the energy and assets that exist in our communities and unlock (often untapped) potential to improve wellbeing and reduce inequalities.

By assets we mean “any factor or resource which enhances the ability of individuals, communities and populations to maintain and sustain health and wellbeing. These assets can operate at the level of the individual, family or community as protective and promoting factors to buffer against life’s stresses.”

Source: Morgan, 2009 cited in I&DeA, 2010
Key priorities

We want VCS organisations to use the skills, local knowledge and expertise of individuals and communities to make positive and lasting changes which result in the following priority outcome areas:

**Building Community Resilience**
For example, by:
- Creating a richer environment and more robust economy
- Developing local people and making best use of local assets
- Enabling people to be active in improving their health and wellbeing
- Supporting the cultural vibrancy of our city through socially inclusive action

**Improving Individual Resilience**
For example, by:
- Preventing loss of independence and minimising need for higher cost interventions
- Reducing loneliness and isolation
- Helping people to regain confidence and connect with their communities
- Protecting the wellbeing of vulnerable people or people who have long term conditions

**Improving wellbeing and health**
For example, by:
- Building wellbeing and health literacy so that people can take control over and improve their own wellbeing and health
- Enabling young people to have a good start in life
- Helping people access the foundations for stability – an income, somewhere to live, freedom from excessive debt, and employment opportunities
Asset based ways of working and building on the strengths of our communities

Community strength is made by active people. Their interests, skills and connections can be used to build resources that enhance the lives of others. These resources, or assets, can be a community project, a safe place to meet, an initiative that encourages inclusive activity, or local action that allows residents to take pride in the place they live.

The Newcastle Fund can support VCS organisations to recognise and develop the unique talents of their residents and communities, harnessing the power of their assets to make the biggest impact. We can also encourage organisations to use this 'asset-based' approach to engage with other VCS organisations to share skills and knowledge through practical partnership so that they can maximise their reach and sustainability.

We recognise that asset based approaches are not a prescriptive set of actions, but forms of relationship building that represent the unique dynamics of our diverse communities. A successful asset based approach can:

- meet needs and nurture the strengths and resources of people and communities.

- Enhance the protective factors that support wellbeing, health and the coping abilities of individuals and communities - even when faced with adverse life circumstances.

- Bring together people and communities to achieve positive change using their own knowledge, skills and lived experience.

- Connect people and organisations across communities.

- Create the conditions for communities and individuals to do things for themselves, in ways which mean people can get help when they need it.

We are committed to working with VCS organisations to build their experience of asset based practice, to unlock the potential of communities and individuals to take control, identify their own opportunities and interests and take action to improve outcomes.
Connecting the VCS to build capacity

The Newcastle Fund supports many different VCS organisations across the city. We want to encourage organisations to share their expertise and experience to help to build thriving networks of collaboration.

The Council is proud to commission specialist infrastructure support to support the voluntary and community sector to be more resilient and sustainable. This important resource gives expert advice and guidance to organisations of all sizes and interests, enabling them to establish, grow and diversify in a challenging climate. A key focus of our VCS infrastructure support is building success through collaborative working, and the specialist knowledge of support providers enables organisations to develop lasting partnerships that are stronger together.

The Newcastle Fund is committed to recognising collaborative working by:

• creating conditions that facilitate collaboration between projects and organisations
• considering skills sharing and collaboration in the assessment process
• helping VCS organisations understand asset based ways of working
• understanding and responding to the capacity and development needs of VCS organisations in relation to Newcastle Fund processes

You can find out more about VCS infrastructure support services through the contact details in section six of this prospectus.
SECTION THREE

Understanding Impact

Measuring the impact of Newcastle Fund investment

Identifying and measuring outcomes helps us to understand the difference that projects make and the impact of Newcastle Fund investment. It can also help us learn from and improve what we do.

The Fund’s priority outcomes for Newcastle are broad and encompass the diversity of VCS activity in the City. We want to build individuals’ and community resilience, and improve mental health and wellbeing, and we recognise that there are many ways to achieve this. We ask VCS organisations to consider how their own activity can contribute to these priority outcomes and encourage them to identify the ways their project will impact on the people it serves. It is important that organisations can confidently demonstrate their impact in ways that are meaningful to their project, so we ask applicants to tell us how they will measure this success.

We want to develop ways to understand the collective impact of Newcastle Fund investment whilst supporting the innovative approaches that projects take to achieve it, so we are piloting an outcomes framework that complements individual project impact reporting and enables us to understand more about the types of outcomes achieved through the Fund. This framework also supports the Council’s wider commitment to Social Value in Newcastle and gives us a better understanding of how Newcastle Fund priorities can be shaped to deliver Social Value to residents.

Newcastle Fund Outcome Categories

Building Community Resilience
- Creating a stronger sense of community
- Developing a better place to live
- Developing untapped strengths and skills in local people
- Supporting the cultural vibrancy of Newcastle

Improving Individual Resilience
- Improving skills for local people
- Improving employability for local people
- Vulnerable people helped to live independently
- People are more connected to their communities

Improving Wellbeing and Health
- Improving people’s understanding and control over their own health and wellbeing
- Improving access to the foundations for a stable life (somewhere to live, financial inclusion and employment opportunities)
- Enabling young people to have a good start in life
How we monitor project outcomes

Performance

Grants given through the Newcastle Fund are a gift of funds for a purpose specified by the recipient. Activities, outputs and outcomes to be achieved are defined by the recipient in their application, rather than by the Council.

To enable better understanding of the collective impact of the projects we fund, we have also introduced an outcomes framework to complement those defined by individual projects. This framework helps us link outcomes self-defined by projects to give a bigger picture of the scale of outcomes achieved through the Fund.

In return for grant funding, projects are required to submit performance information relating to their project. This includes information on how the grant has been used, the number of beneficiaries supported and the communities in which they live, as well as information on the outcomes they defined in their application.

For each outcome defined in the application, we ask recipients to describe how much they have delivered, how well it has been delivered, and what difference it has made. We also like to understand impact through case studies and testimonials from people supported through the project. This can be a great way for projects to show us the achievements that matter most to them.

We monitor project performance by checking this information against the activities, outputs and outcomes described in project applications. However, we know that things don’t always go to plan, and some change may be natural for projects as they grow. We will always seek to work with organisations to understand any difficulties or challenges they may be facing in delivering the outcomes specified in their application.

We want our impact measurements to be flexible and achievable for all funded projects. We encourage organisations to be realistic about what they can deliver when making their application to the Fund. For instance, we prioritise projects that can deliver outcomes in a way that reflects the entire journey of a person they support, not just the number of beneficiaries that they can reach.

The frequency for returning performance information depends on the amount of the overall grant provided: Annual performance monitoring reports are required for grants up to £9,999, 6-monthly reports for grants between £10,000 and £29,999, quarterly performance monitoring reports for grants of £30,000 and over. The frequency for
returning performance information changed in 2017-18 following feedback received through our Newcastle Fund engagement and consultation activity undertaken in 2016 and 2017. The newly revised thresholds seek to adopt a more proportionate approach to performance monitoring which better balance risks and the reporting burdens on grant recipients, and particularly smaller and medium sized VCS groups. In raising the thresholds, we have also generated capacity for richer conversations with VCS organisations on their delivery and outcomes.

Policies and Procedures

Projects are required have in place satisfactory health & safety and safeguarding policies to be eligible for grant funding. Grant recipients are required to submit copies of these to the Council before payment is made. During the course of the grant we ask you to self-assess the way that your team and service users understand and implement these policies. On occasion, we may also visit your project to verify what you’ve told us.
Identifying Impact

1. Who do you want to help? What challenges are they facing?

2. What will you do? Who will you do it with?

3. How do you know it will work? What evidence do you have?

4. How will you know it’s working? What will you measure? How will you demonstrate it to others?

5. How do these impacts fit with the Fund’s priority outcomes?
Understanding funding opportunities across the city

Information on projects that have received grant funding through the Newcastle Fund is available on the Council’s Newcastle Fund website. In 2018, we published our second Newcastle Fund Annual Report 2017-18 which sets out detail on the variety and scope of funded projects, and is a useful tool for understanding the impact they have had across the city.

We recognise that understanding the wider funding landscape will help us and other funders in grant making decisions, so we can see where funding may overlap or where there are gaps, as well as which causes are well-supported and which ones are not. We will continue to explore opportunities for collaboration with other grant funders to shape more informed, evidence-based and strategic grant making. When applying to the Newcastle Fund, we will ask organisations whether they consent to their application being shared with other funders who may be able to support the project, should the Newcastle Fund not be able to support the application.

For more information on the range of funding available for VCS organisations in Newcastle contact the Council’s VCS Infrastructure Service provider, Newcastle CVS.

Additionally, each ward in Newcastle has funding available for projects that benefit the local community – to find out more visit our Ward Funding web page.

Finally, the Newcastle Fund has launched a small pledge fund as part of Tyneside Crowd, a crowdfunding platform. The Newcastle Fund – Small Pledges for Big Impact provides smaller, speedy pledges to VCS projects in Newcastle that engage local communities in improving their own and others’ wellbeing. Projects can be for people, buildings or spaces – as long as they add real value to their communities.
SECTION FOUR

Applying to the Fund: What you need to know

How to apply

Applications are made via the Flexigrant online platform. For more information and guidance, visit the Rocket Science website.

Who can apply?

The Newcastle Fund is available to constituted VCS organisations, a registered charity or a social enterprise. Your application’s project must take place in Newcastle and benefit Newcastle residents. Full information on eligibility can be found on the Newcastle Fund website.

How much is available?

Consultation on the total amount available for new grants in 2020-21 was launched on 13 May 2019. Following the consultation period, the total amount of budget available for new grants in 2020-21 will be published on the Newcastle Fund web page.

How much can I apply for?

Up to £50,000 per year, for up to three years. This is designed to provide the appropriate level of support for pilot, expanding or established projects and flexibly respond to match funding. If you are applying for more than one year of funding, you must clearly explain why your project requires it, showing anticipated improvements over the course of your project and consecutive reduction in the amounts of funding requested.

Can I apply to the Fund as part of a partnership?

Yes. If you are planning to deliver a project with other eligible organisations, you can submit a joint application. We actively encourage collaborative applications that consider the entire journey of a beneficiary and create maximum impact in the community.
How are Newcastle Fund grants paid?

In line with the Newcastle Compact, grants up to £4,999 will be paid in one instalment, grants between £5,000 and £9,999 will be paid in two instalments and grants of £10,000 and over will be paid in four instalments. The Council makes these payment installments in advance.

Paying in advance demonstrates the Council’s continued support for the VCS and its SMEs in particular. Paying in advance seeks to achieve a number of benefits for recipients in receipt of grant monies, including:

- Improving the cash flow of grant recipients
- Creating opportunities for investment in growth, and therefore contributing to economic growth in the city
- Reducing grant recipients interest costs

Apart from its priority outcomes, what will the Fund consider when assessing my application?

We want the money we award to be as effective and efficient as possible, so we assess projects against a regional map of existing service provision. This way, we can see where projects may be duplicating something that is already commissioned or receiving funding from the council, or spot opportunities for collaboration between organisations.

We also consider how you will make your project sustainable; do you involve the skills and resources of your community in your activity? How does this reduce your reliance on financial support?

We look for projects that offer skills or activity to support other VCS organisations in their area. This can be as simple as meeting to share information, signposting service users, swapping expertise between staff, or regularly delivering activity together.

We have published the weighting of assessment criteria in our guidance document.
I’m not confident about my bid-writing skills… how can I get help to make my application?

We recognise that organisations have different strengths and skills, and that applying for funding can be daunting. If you are having difficulty in applying to the Fund, contact our team using the details at the back of this Prospectus and we will do our best to help.

The Newcastle Fund aims to make the application process more accessible by:

- Making our application form easy to understand and use
- Taking language and writing barriers into account when assessing applications

We will publicise any events or support sessions on bid writing for the Fund on our Newcastle Fund website. We also signpost applicants to the Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service (NCVS) who offer specialist support, including funding applications.

You can find out more about support for funding applications here:

If I’m unsuccessful, can I apply again?

Yes. Competition is strong for the Fund and we simply don’t have the funds to support every great project that we assess. If we don’t fund your project, it doesn’t mean that we think it is not good enough – it just means that other projects scored higher or were a better fit for our criteria this time. Ask for feedback on your application, take a closer look at the projects we did fund and keep developing your project idea to apply again.
As the city’s needs change, so do some of our application questions, but we will always ask you about…

Your organisation:
- How you meet eligibility criteria
- The people, skills and experience in your workforce
- How you use community assets
- How you work together with other community organisations

Your project:
- What you will do, for whom and why
- How you know your project is needed
- How your project will meet the Fund’s priority outcomes
- How you will measure your achievements
- The main risks facing your project
- How you will continue the project after the grant

Your budget and resources:
- How much money you need
- What you’ll spend it on
- How much funding you’ve secured (£ and in kind)
- How you could scale up or down
Application process and key dates

The Fund **opens** to applications **06 JUN 2019**

The Fund’s application window **closes** **21 AUG 2019**

**Assessment** Process:
Officers use a scoring matrix to evaluate how projects contribute to the Fund’s priorities and offer value for money.

The Newcastle Fund Panel consider assessment outcomes and make recommendations of grant awards to the Council’s Cabinet. **18 NOV 2019**

Awards are **announced** to applicants and public **w/c 02 DEC 2019**
Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR)

Some organisations awarded a grant from the Newcastle Fund are entitled to Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR), which helps them save on business rates. If you are eligible for DRR, we will write to you and let you know the amount you are entitled to and propose a further deduction should you wish to take the remaining business rates amount off your grant at source. If you would like more information on eligibility, contact the Council’s Business Rates Team using the details at the end of this Prospectus.

State Aid

The Council is obliged to comply with relevant State Aid regulations in relation to grant funding as the provision of State Aid is not permissible unless it falls under one of a number of potential exemptions. It is expected that in most cases the grant awards to be made through the Newcastle Fund would fall within the ‘De Minimis’ exemption. This allows for aid to be provided where the total amount of aid given by any public body to an organisation does not exceed €200,000 (around £170,000) over any rolling 3-year period.

If you have already received such public funding provided under De Minimis provisions from any public body within the last 3 years you will need to highlight this and confirm the amounts over such a period in your application. If this is the case reductions may have to be made to the amount of grant that can be offered to ensure that it does not exceed the state aid permitted. You will also be asked to provide a formal declaration, by letter or email, that the amount to be provided when combined with any other De Minimis aid you have already received over the last 3 fiscal years does not exceed the stated maximum permitted.

Further information about state aid is available from www.gov.uk/guidance/state-aid
SECTION FIVE

Definitions

Discretionary Grant Fund

The Newcastle Fund is available for projects and services that support the needs of Newcastle’s residents, but are not suitable for the council’s larger scale commissioned services. Awards are made at the council’s discretion, and enable communities to develop and deliver change, despite significant cuts to public spending and changes to the welfare system.

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)

In the context of this Prospectus, the VCS includes constituted third-sector organisations with a community base such as, registered charities, social enterprises and community interest companies.

Communities of Interest

Groups of people who share one or more characteristics that influence the way they live. These characteristics are often protected under the Equality Act 2010, and include age, race, gender, sexual orientation and disability.

Resilience

The ability of individuals or communities to manage or cope with challenges or changes that affect the way they live. Resilient communities often use local skills and resources to help themselves.

Asset based working

The principle of asset based working is a positive one. Instead of simply focusing on the problems people have, or the gaps in skills and services in an area, we should also value the knowledge, capacity, connections and potential that can be harnessed to strengthen it. These assets can be defined as any factor or resource which enhances the ability of individuals or communities to maintain and sustain health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities. (Morgan and Ziglio 2007)
SECTION SIX

Contact Information

Get in touch

There are many ways you can talk to us, whether you want to find out more about the work of the Fund or tell us about the issues affecting your organisation and the people you support. You can take part in our regular engagement events, contribute to online consultations, request a visit to your project, or just give us a call to let us know what’s on your mind – We’d love to hear from you.

Visit the Council’s website, Facebook and twitter feeds to see when the next event is happening.

In line with the Newcastle Compact, we will work to resolve disputes using the Council’s complaints procedure. Visit www.newcastle.gov.uk for more information.

Contact information

Newcastle Fund Team

newcastlefund@newcastle.gov.uk 01912116031

Other useful contacts

Communities Team
Caroline.collinson@newcastle.gov.uk 01912773625

Business Rates Team
business.rates@newcastle.gov.uk 01912787878

Ward Funding
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Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service
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