

London Borough of Merton's Civic Pride Investing in Neighborhoods and Community Climate Action Funds 2024

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the key dates for the Civic Pride Investing in Neighborhoods and Community Climate Action Funds?

- Bidding Round is due to open week commencing 30th September 2024 and will be open for 5 weeks.
- Bid Assessments – Early November 2024 to early January 2025
- Formal Decision – February/March 2025
- Grant Agreements– March 2025 onwards (*Please note, grant agreements may take up to 6 months*)
- Project delivery – dependent on each bidder's project plan as long as the project is capable of being started before 31st March 2026

2. Who can apply for the funds?

- The funds are open for London Borough of Merton based projects from organisations who can bid for grant funding, and any local resident with an idea that can be delivered by an identified delivery partner. For the Community Climate Action Fund, the delivery partner cannot be the council.

3. What projects are eligible for funding?

- As part of our requirements and assessment criteria:
 - We look for proposals that would directly result in fantastic outcomes for Merton's neighbourhoods addressing the demands that development such as new houses and flats place on our areas.
 - The proposal must be consistent with the [London Borough of Merton Council Plan 2023-26 – "Building a Better Merton Together"](#) delivering the council's main ambition of rebuilding pride in Merton, supported by three strategic objectives namely:
 1. Nurturing civic pride
 2. Building a sustainable future
 3. Creating a borough of sport.
 - The proposal must be an appropriate use of the funds and should not have any unacceptable financial implications (either capital or ongoing revenue funding) on the council or any other body.
 - Have the approval of all parties with a legal interest in the land, asset of service that is subject of the bid.
 - For projects that have previously received council funding, please refer to question 6 on the Frequently Asked Questions sheet.
 - For the Community Climate Action Fund, you will need to identify a delivery partner if you cannot deliver the project yourself. Have the support of the organisation that the bidder represents.
- Also, please refer to our webpage, www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/funding/civic-pride/neighbourhood where you can find the full list of assessment criteria and examples of previous successful bids.

4. How do I apply and where do I access the application form from?

- Please refer to our webpage, www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/funding/civic-pride/neighbourhood where you can find our informative webinar that takes you through a step-by-step application process.

- The application form will go live on our website when the bidding round opens this autumn. In the meantime, you can find a Word document version on our website to help you develop your application.
- 5. How long do I have to apply?**
- The Community Climate Action Fund bidding round will open in autumn 2024 and you will have 5 weeks to submit your application.
- 6. I applied last year for the Community Climate Action Fund 2023 and was successful, can I apply again this year?**
- Yes, you can. For projects that have previously received council funding, you will need to demonstrate the value of the project, other funding streams that have been pursued, any match-funding and show a long-term funding plan without council funding. There is a non-exhaustive list of match funding opportunities on our website.
- 7. Will I be able to bid for the Community Climate Action Fund next year?**
- Yes, there is funding in place for another bidding round for the Community Climate Action Fund for 2025.
- 8. What happens if I don't have a delivery partner at the application stage?**
- For the Community Climate Action Fund, at the application stage, if you don't have one yet, that is ok. However, they will need to be identified by early 2025 as we will need an agreement with them if your bid is successful. The delivery partner cannot be the council.
- 9. Who can I contact if I still have questions on the application process?**
- Please contact the council either via email at neighbourhoodfund@merton.gov.uk or call us on 020 8545 3197.
- 10. How much can I bid for?**
- To help make the funding go further and to be shared across as many Merton-based projects, estimated costs of the proposal should aim to be over £20,000 and no more than £70,000.
- 11. Can I submit more than one application to the upcoming bidding round?**
- Yes, you can. You will need to complete a separate application for each bid.
- 12. Do I need match funding?**
- All bids should try to secure or maximise match funding opportunities. This helps to make the funding go further and to be shared across as many Merton-based projects. There is a non-exhaustive list of match funding opportunities on our website, www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/funding/civic-pride/neighbourhood
- 13. Do you provide feedback on unsuccessful applications?**
- We will tell you when we are due to decide and send you a link to the Cabinet report. After the decision is confirmed, we will email you to tell you whether your application was successful or not. Reasons for our recommended decision for each bid will be summarised in the Cabinet report.
 - If you would like further feedback, you are welcome to contact us via email at neighbourhoodfund@merton.gov.uk or call us on 020 8545 3197.
- 14. If my application was rejected last year, can I reapply this year?**
- Yes, you can. You can either apply with a different project this year or reapply with last year's, ensuring you have addressed any issues summarised in last year's Cabinet report. Please [follow the link](#) to access the Cabinet report for the 2023 bids.
 - If you would like further feedback, please refer to question 13.
- 15. Can we apply for staffing costs?**

- You can apply for the costs of staff time spent on the project that you wish to be funded for the duration of the funding period.

16. What are the funding periods for the funds?

- Our funding periods typically last a year (for 2024 bids we expect many of the funding periods to expire in March 2026 and the associated projects finished by then), however, in some instances, we can support projects across two years (to March 2027 for 2024 bids) provided the projects are started in the first year (April 2025 to March 2026).

17. Do you fund equipment or building work?

- Yes.

18. What accompanying information do I have to submit, and how?

- Please refer to our webpage, www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/funding/civic-pride/neighbourhood where you can find our informative webinar that takes you through extra documents you may need to submit as part of your application.
- If you need to supply any accompanying information as part of your application, please email this to Neighbourhoodfund@merton.gov.uk
- Please attach the PDF copy of the bid in your email and state the following about the application:
 1. Reference Number
 2. The date it was submitted.
 3. Who submitted it (if not you, then explain who you are and that you have the authority to submit bidding information on behalf of the bidder)