



OXFORDSHIRE STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND

FUNDING CRITERIA AND ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST

Introduction:

- The Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Fund (the Fund) is being provided by the Oxfordshire Partnership
- Its delivery is being overseen by the Oxfordshire Stronger Communities Alliance (OSCA)
- The Fund is being managed and delivered by GrantScape
- All grant agreements will be with Oxfordshire County Council, the fundholder for the programme

Fund Overview:

- The Fund has around £220,000 available
- There will be one funding round, with a deadline for all applications of 12 noon on 11th January 2011
- Decisions will be announced within two months of the closing deadline, and details will be available on GrantScape's website: www.grantscape.org.uk
- 57% of the Fund will be used to support eligible capital projects
- Grants will be available for amounts between £3,000 and £20,000
- Match funding for projects is not required
- Grants from the Fund can be used to match fund other funding bids and/or grant awards from other bodies

Eligible Applicants:

- Grants will be available to not-for-profit and non profit-distributing organisations based in Oxfordshire, including:
 - Voluntary, community and faith groups, parish and town councils
 - Oxfordshire-based branches of national charities
 - Social enterprises (including credit unions, co-operatives, social firms, community owned enterprises, community interest companies and development trusts) provided that any profits made are reinvested to sustain and further their mission for positive change and are not distributed
- Applicants need to have a written constitution, a set of rules, or a governing document
- Applicants need to have a bank or building society account with a minimum of two signatories in place before applying for a grant (groups needing advice on how to do this should contact GrantScape in the first instance)

Eligible Projects:

- Grants will be available for projects to be delivered within the county boundaries of Oxfordshire, that:
 - Enable local solutions to local issues, and/or
 - Provide new solutions to ongoing problems, and/or
 - Reduce inequalities and break the cycle of deprivation

- Projects will need to:
 - Provide something new or different from mainstream services; or
 - Enable the applicant group to add value to mainstream services by doing more, or doing things differently. This could include making changes to existing activities or structures to respond to changed circumstances.

Required Outcomes:

Projects will need to deliver one or more of the following outcomes:

- Improvements to people's health and well-being
- Job creation and/or improvements to people's skills
- Improvements to people's involvement and engagement in their communities (for instance by increasing their participation in local decision-making)
- Improvements to the physical environment
- Improvements to people's access to services

(Examples of eligible projects are available on GrantScape's website)

Prioritising Projects for Grant Awards:

- Eligible applications will be assessed by an independent Grant Panel, which will be made up of OSCA members with specialist local knowledge
- The Panel will prioritise projects that show evidence of need and/or community support and/or user involvement, and that:
 - Support vulnerable and/or deprived communities (people, groups or places); and/or
 - Address proposals identified in local community-led plans; and/or
 - Help to meet relevant targets, or address issues identified in: "Oxfordshire 2030 – A partnership plan for improving quality of life in Oxfordshire"

Other Factors that will be Considered:

In assessing grant applications, the Grant Panel will also consider:

- The ability of the applicant group to deliver their project
- How the work will be continued, or facilities will be maintained, after the project has been completed
- Any opportunities that the project will provide for volunteer involvement
- The project's value for money, including the extent of any in-kind contributions

Project Exclusions:

- Grants will not be available for projects that have already been completed

Other Conditions:

- Unless otherwise agreed by the Grant Panel, projects must be completed within twelve months of a grant being awarded - this means that all funding and any necessary consents will need to be in place to meet this deadline

Number of Applications and Grants Permitted:

- Each organisation is restricted to one application to and one grant from the Fund