Northumberland
Community Hub Investment Fund
Grant Criteria

Through the allocation of grants to emerging and existing community assets, we will seek to:

- Build new partnerships, relationships and physical hub facilities that are located in the community, shaped by the community and providing local opportunities delivered by the community; safeguarding community use spaces.

- Deliver a comprehensive, flexible and dynamic programme of provision that is responsive and supportive of the needs and priorities of the community.

- Share insights, data and learning to help measure impact, demonstrate value and inform future actions.

We expect to deliver 8 revenue grants and 9 capital grants

Grants will be awarded to Organisations/Community Hubs which help develop community-led asset approaches that will focus on:

- **Enhancing and stretching our existing assets, partnerships and opportunities to deliver more:**
  - The modernisation and refurbishment of community facilities and spaces to deliver community hub activities; enhancing and safeguarding spaces for community use
  - Supporting the growth and improvements in collaborative partnerships and consortiums that are driving Community Hub activities and delivering better outcomes for residents across Northumberland
  - Developing greater capability and capacity across our VCS landscape, through the enhancement of knowledge, skills and competence that drives collaboration, fosters greater local partnership working

- **Design and delivery of new physical hubs as interactive community spaces which help build capacity and are innovative and transformational for all the community:**
  - Development of new community hub spaces that provide an open accessible and dynamic service in those localities with greatest need.
  - Consultation and engagement activities and data analytics services that help find relationships in local datasets and visualise the drivers of poverty and community need. Helping to analyse identify and engage the people most impacted or in need.
  - The design and delivery of programmes that address existing and emerging needs through creative, collaborative and impactful approaches, which can be sustained by the communities themselves.

- **Development of digital connected infrastructures and approaches that are inclusive, accessible, responsive and future focused:**
  - Provision of local digital solutions that provide accessibility to community hub activities and opportunities and in doing so extends the reach and membership of community hubs. A single point of access for all Community Hub Activity
  - Development of modern, intuitive and digitally connected systems and infrastructures that record all community hub activity, evidence engagement, measures impact and social return on investment.
  - Coproduction of digital engagement and consultation activities that help influence and shape future decisions, actions and delivery

We are particularly interested in how this might support:

Residents who are out of work:
- Providing community led accessible, holistic provision for both information advice and guidance along with physical and remote/online activities to encourage people to explore and test their confidence and capability with support.
- Provide more community-based spaces, so that community provision can be delivered within communities addressing barriers to engagement.
- We will use our Community Hubs as opportunities for work experience, Kick Start placements and Apprenticeships.

In work, low-income residents:
- The Hubs will provide programmes which support residents to engage with learning and development opportunities to fit their circumstance and ability through a range of digital and on-site activities.
- Use our community hub partnerships to drive forward Good Work Pledge Initiatives
- Offer access to financial wellbeing services and support within community hubs
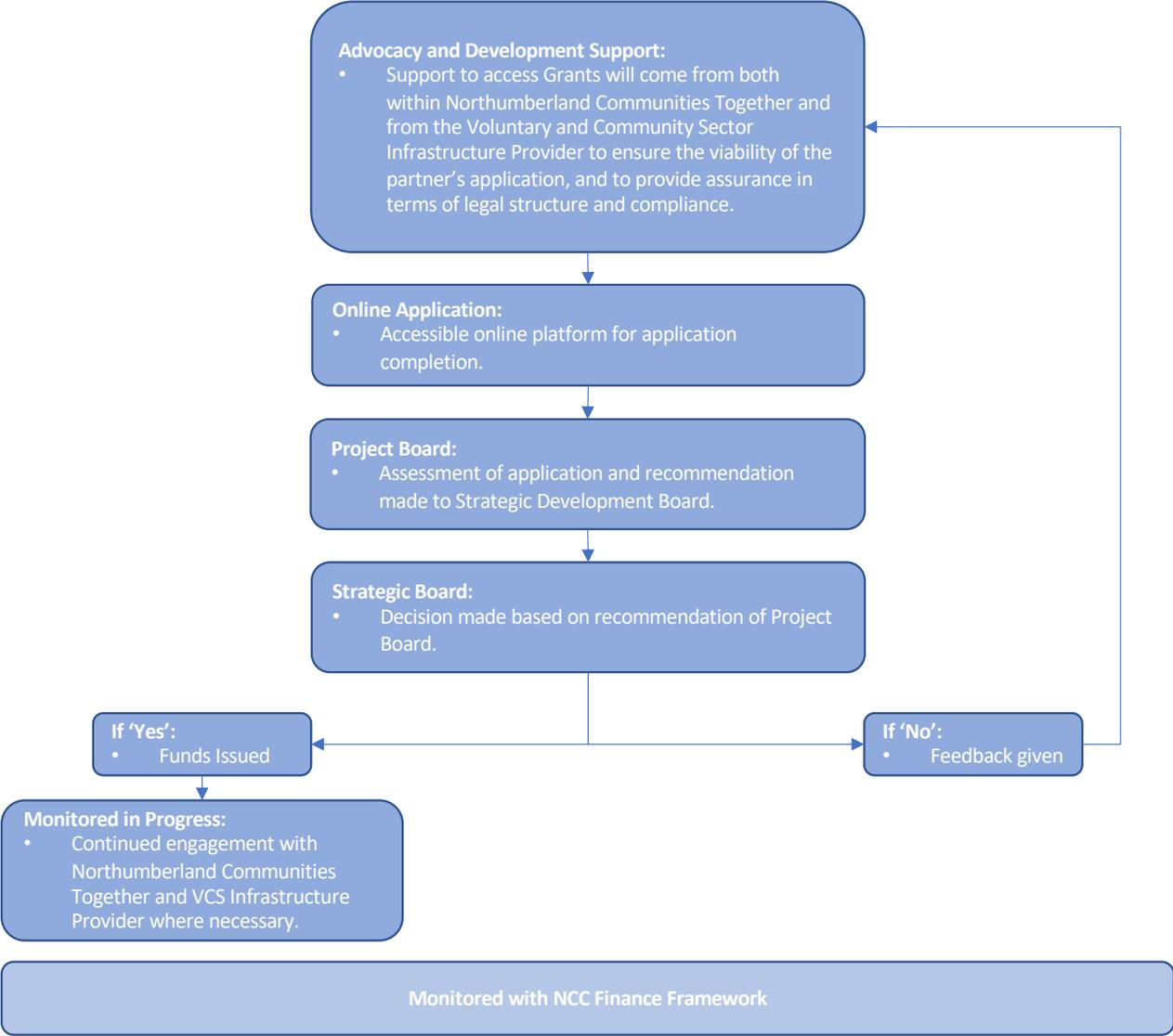
Individuals with low skills:
- The Community Hub programme will make links to local education offers and training provision though referral and engaging on site in the community.
- The co-location of community support options and service delivery will help facilitate identification and referral between community partners
- The Community Hubs will provide a diverse and multi generational programme of delivery which will be used to inspire and engage individuals to seek out further development and learning opportunities.

Young people not in education, employment or training:
- The Community Hubs programme will provide opportunity for work placements, traineeships, internships and apprenticeships.
- Community led provision will focus on building skills and capacity linking opportunities with local employers, volunteering opportunities and progression pathways.
- Community Hubs will provide a programme of community and employer led events that promote opportunity, facilitate volunteering and support local mentorship.

Grant Application Process:

Advocacy and Development Support:
- Support to access Grants will come from both within Northumberland Communities Together and from the Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Provider to ensure the viability of the partner's application, and to provide assurance in terms of legal structure and compliance.

Online Application:
- Accessible online platform for application completion.

Project Board:
- Assessment of application and recommendation made to Strategic Development Board.

Strategic Board:
- Decision made based on recommendation of Project Board.

If 'Yes':
- Funds Issued

If 'No':
- Feedback given

Monitored in Progress:
- Continued engagement with Northumberland Communities Together and VCS Infrastructure Provider where necessary.

Monitored with NCC Finance Framework

Grant applications will be assessed for impact against the following criteria:

Community
- Explain how you will engage your community in this project, and how you have worked to understand community need within your proposal.
- How many members of your community do you expect to engage as a result of the funded work?
- What do you envisage as the outcomes of this work for your community?

Collaboration
- How will you engage other partner organisations in your local community?
- How does this differ from your existing partnerships and what you've done before?
- How will you prioritise local provision as partners in deliverables (either in activity or capital expenditure)?

Cost
- How much will the scheme of works or activities cost and what impact will this have on your community?
- Are you able to match fund this against other funding sources, or offer/seek any in-kind contributions from within your organisation or partner networks?

Compliance
- Share insights, data and learning to help measure impact, demonstrate value and inform future actions.
- Contribute proactively to any monitoring requirements of the grant.
- Demonstrate the amount of Square Metres safeguarded for community use.
- Ensure that any alterations or activities undertaken as a recipient of the grant will meet any necessary approvals (e.g. building compliance, risk assessments etc.)

Carbon
- If your application includes capital expenditure on the building, have you considered the environmental impact of these improvements? Have you considered green alternatives? Are there ways you can contribute to Northumberland County Council's aim to achieve a carbon neutral Northumberland by 2030?

Connectivity
- What is your digital offer? How does your proposal support the provision of local digital solutions that provide accessibility to community hub activities and opportunities and in doing so extend the reach and membership of community hubs? Share insights, data and learning to help measure impact, demonstrate value and inform future actions.

Application Information

- How much can be applied for?

  - We anticipate that average grants will be of a value of up to £10,000. Should you anticipate your proposal being in excess of that, please contact us to discuss. The grant will be paid up front and must be spent within 12 months of notification of award.

- When can applications be made?

  - Applications can be made at any time, with Panel meetings taking place on a monthly rolling basis. The programme will end in December 2022.

- How will the decision be notified?

  - All applicants will be contacted by the Programme and Projects Manager in writing. If successful, an Acceptance Form and Bank Details Form will be enclosed, together with a statement of conditions. No payment will be made until all relevant paperwork has been submitted. Payments will be made in advance via BACS transfer.

  - Applications that do not succeed may be resubmitted at a subsequent round but must use a new application form.. All issues raised in respect of a rejected application must be addressed in resubmission.

The application form can be found here: https://forms.office.com/r/5BbTH0tCK5

If you require further advice, or support accessing the application, please contact the Programme and Projects Manager: Mark.Robertson@northumberland.gov.uk