

## **Community Hub Investment Fund**

### **Summarised guide specific to Village Halls – Tracey Morgan**

- Through allocation of grants to emerging and current village hall projects which meet the application criteria, CHIF grants will seek to:
- Build new partnerships, relationships and physical hub facilities (use rooms) that are located in the Village Halls, shaped by the community and providing local opportunities delivered by the community, so safeguarding community use spaces.
- Run services/sessions that are responsive and supportive of the needs and priorities of the community.
- Share experiences, insights, data and learning to help measure the impact/success of the grant .

**The Village Hall project application must describe how it will meet the above points.**

### **Applications should focus their project idea on the following options;**

- The modernisation and refurbishment of community facilities and spaces to deliver activities; enhancing and safeguarding spaces for current and future community use.
- Supporting the growth and improvements in partnerships and consortiums that enhance Village Hall activities/projects .
- Strengthening Village Halls, through the enhancement perhaps of individuals knowledge, skills and competence that develops into working with other people and partnerships.
- Design and delivery of new spaces which encourage hall users to mix with each other , this should allow the village halls to do more to provide services which support expressed community needs .
- Development of digital connected infrastructures (this could be broadband, mobile telecom and apps) and approaches that are inclusive, accessible, responsive and future focused:

Digital projects that are accessible to all Village Hall users

Digital systems that can be used to record Village Hall activities and show how it brings people together in a sustainable space.

Digital projects that are used for consultation and to inform future projects.

- (Examples of ideas could be broadband, tutors to support ICT learning of Village Hall users who could then support others when the tutor has left, so sustainable, a room could be refurbished with digital equipment for the public to use so they are not digitally excluded. Online homework clubs for kids and snacks afterwards, There could be tech tea parties to encourage Village Hall users to see and touch/ play with tech and hopefully see the benefits, Training for producing an online and printed Village Hall newspaper could enhance Village Hall users skills and knowledge and encourage others to use the facilities)

I would perhaps set these out in bullet-points to make it easier to read – so like this perhaps;

Examples of ideas could be;

- provision of broadband
- tutors to support ICT learning of Village Hall users who could then support others when the tutor has left (so sustainable)
- refurbishment of a room with digital equipment for the public to use (so they are not digitally excluded)
- online homework clubs for kids and snacks afterwards,
- techy tea parties to encourage Village Hall users to see and touch/ play with tech and hopefully see the benefits
- training for producing an online and printed Village Hall newspaper could enhance Village Hall users skills and knowledge and encourage others to use the facilities

## **Grant applications will be assessed against the following criteria**

**You must write in your application how your project meets the criteria.**

### **Community**

- Explain how you will engage your community in this project, and how you have worked to understand community need .
- 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/results of this work for your community?

### **Collaboration/Partnerships**

- How will you engage other partner organisations in your local community? (this could be parish councils, schools, businesses, health organisations, churches, farmers groups etc )
- How does this differ from your existing partnerships and what you've done before?
- How will you prioritise local provision/organisations as partners in deliverables (either in activity or capital expenditure)?

### **Cost**

- How much will the scheme of works or activities cost. What impact will this have on your community?
- Are you able to match fund this against other funding sources such as grants/ donations or offer/seek any in-kind contributions from within your organisation or partner networks? (in kind contributions could be volunteer time donated equipment and services donated.

### **Compliance**

- Share insights/case studies, agreed data/statistics and learning to help measure impact and value of the grant to inform future actions.
- Contribute to monitoring requirements of the grant.
- Demonstrate the amount of Square Metres safeguarded for community use. (measure the room/s that will be used)
- 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 project? How does your proposal support the provision of local digital solutions to problems raised by the community ?
- How accessible are your project activities and opportunities ?
- How can more people become involved in your digital project ?
- How will you , share insights, data and learning to help measure impact, demonstrate value and inform future actions.

## Grant applications and Notifications

### 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 the last Monday of the month. 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. If an application is not accepted, feedback will be given. 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](mailto:Mark.Robertson@northumberland.gov.uk)**