Mayor's Opportunity Fund Webinar: Round 2

Supporting community-led places and spaces



point north

Community Foundation North East

North East Combined Authority



Zoom-keeping

- Please make sure your mic is on mute
- Webinar is recorded
- Make the most of the chat function, introduce yourself, ask questions and share thoughts

Plan for today

- About Point North
- About the Mayor's Opportunity Fund
- Eligible locations
- Who can apply and what does the fund cover?
- Application process
- Q&A



point north

Community Foundation North East

North East Combined Authority

Making a difference every day

£70.9m

awarded to communities since 1995

£5.7m

awarded to communities between 1 April 2024 and 30 March 2025

987,004

lives enriched between 1 April 2024 and 30 March 2025



point north Community Foundation

North East Combined Authority

Fighting Poverty & Enriching Lives

- We are an independent grant making charity and member of national body of UKCFs
- IVAR flexible funder accredited
- We raise funds and get grants out to local charities, community groups and people
- Based in County Durham for County Durham, Tees Valley and the wider North East

About the Mayor's Opportunity Fund

- £1million package delivered over two years; one round delivered earlier this year and another two next year.
- Commitment to a **fairer North East** through creating opportunity and ensuring the North East is a **cohesive**, **inclusive** and **resilient** region, where everyone thrives and has the opportunity to contribute to the region's success



point north
Community Foundation North East
NE North East Combined Authority

About the Mayor's Opportunity Fund (cont.)

- The second round of funding is worth **£225,000**
- **Grant size:** Between £5,000 and £10,000
- Supporting community-led places and spaces within high streets or physical community hubs that meet people's **essential daily needs** and help to **connect people** to **opportunity**, **improve skills**, **digital access** and **health outcomes**, and reduce **child poverty**.

Key information

Enriching lives of local people

Apply by 7 July 2025

County Durham

Between £5,000 and £10,000

September 2025 decision time

Enriching Lives

point north

Community Foundation North East

North East Combined Authority

Location

- North East Combined Authority area
- Point North covers Country Durham only
- North East Community Foundation covers the other areas
- You can only apply to one



point north
Community Foundation North East
North East Combined Authority



Priority neighbourhoods

- Bishop Auckland South
- Blackhall
- Coundon North
- Easington & Hawthorn
- Horden
- Murton North & Parkside
- Newton Aycliffe West
- Peterlee East
- Shildon
- Shotton and Haswell
- Spennymoor East & Ferryhill West
- Stanley South

What will the fund support?

The fund can support projects that **maintain**, **increase** or **develop** new activity that contributes to:

Connecting people and communities to support services such as benefits or financial advice, grassroots business support, health services, skills provision, and employment and digital inclusion support.

Reducing the day-to-day effects of poverty on people's lives by providing access to foundational goods and services such as social supermarkets, community cafes, affordable food, meals or clothes.





point north

Community Foundation North East

North East Combined Authority

What do we mean by small charities and community organisations?

- Must have charitable aims and annual income under £500,000
- Registered charities
- Community/voluntary groups that have a constitution
- Social enterprises (CICs, companies limited by guarantee) that are registered with the appropriate body and have at least 50% income from trade/services.

point north
Community Foundation North East
NE North East Combined Authority

Safeguarding

- Safeguarding policy with a named officer/lead
- In date and in the name of your organisation (if you're part of a national, you need to have a policy in your local branch name)
- Signpost to organisations offering support available



point north
Community Foundation North East
North East Combined Authority

What does the fund cover?

- Core running costs linked to the fund's aims
- Specific project costs
- Equipment and capital costs for buildings (must clearly support fund aims)









point north | Community Foundation North East | North East Combined Authority

What does the fund not cover?

- Building or buying premises or land rights
- Contingency funding
- Deficit or retrospective funding
- Direct replacement of statutory or public funding
- Feasibility studies or initial community consultations
- For profit or commercial elements of charitable organisation
- Fundraising activities



point north
Community Foundation North East
NE North East Combined Authority

Monitoring

You will need to monitor and report against one or more of the following intended benefits of the grant:

- Increased partnership working
- Increased provision of services
- Increased number of beneficiaries supported
- Increased workforce at your organisation

You will also need to provide case studies and may need to take part in publicity and visits by the Mayor and/or NECA and Point North staff. We'll be visiting around 10% of groups that receive funding in this round.



point north
Community Foundation North East
NE North East Combined Authority



How to apply?

- Visit our website
- Read our full grant guidelines
- Complete our application form via our website
- **Decision:** September 2025
- **Grants paid and activities begin:** October 2025

Pointnorth.org.uk/grants

Visit our website to apply

Any questions?



point north
Community Foundation North East
NE North East Combined Authority

Contact details

Point North

Sophie@pointnorth.org.uk
0191 378 6340
www.tinyurl.com/PointNorthBookACall

North East Community Foundation

0191 222 0945





Thank you!

point north
Community Foundation North East
NE North East Combined Authority