



Funded by
UK Government

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FUND
2025/2026**

Completed project application forms must be emailed to:

grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

The closing date for applications is Thursday 1st May 2025 at 5pm.

Please refer to the associated guidance when completing this application form.

All projects must be completed by 28th February 2026

AMOUNT OF GRANT REQUESTED

TYPE OF GRANT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE	SELECT ONE
*Small grant	Up to £4950	To assist with any barriers to sustaining your group. For development of smaller projects.	<input type="checkbox"/>
*Community ownership/Community Asset Transfer (CAT)/ Community empowerment	Up to £15,000	For groups who are taking ownership of land or assets. To support groups going through CAT or who have successfully achieved this, as well as supporting groups who are taking the lease of an asset. To support groups to achieve the priorities identified within their place plans or Community Action Plans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

*** only one type of grant can be selected**

SECTION 1 – ORGANISATION DETAILS

a	Organisation Name	Ayr Sea Cadets & Royal Marines Cadets
b	Organisation Address	Foresters Hall, 46 New Rd, Ayr, KA8 8EX
c	Website	https://www.sea-cadets.org/ayr
d	Type of organisation (voluntary organisation, charity, CIC, Ltd. by guarantee, SCIO, unincorporated)	Charity - Unincorporated



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	association etc. or private sector)	
e	If a charity or Limited Company please include your number	SC030257
f	Is your organisation VAT registered?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g	Does your group/organisation have a bank account?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> In progress <input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 2 – CONTACT DETAILS

The contacts below will be required to read the guidance notes and consent to being contacted by the council officers managing this fund including for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

	Contacts	Lead Contact	Secondary Contact
a	Name		
b	Position in Organisation		
c	Contact E-mail		
d	Contact Telephone Number		

SECTION 3 – PROJECT DETAILS

a	Project Title	Cadets & Community: Growing Together
b	<p>Ayr Sea Cadets and Royal Marines Cadets is a well-established youth development charity, proudly serving the Ayrshire community for nearly 85 years. We use waterborne adventure and structured learning to help young people build confidence, acquire life skills, and realise their potential. At the heart of our mission is inclusion — we believe all young people, regardless of background or ability, should have access to high-quality, character-building experiences.</p> <p>Our unit currently supports over 40 cadets aged 10–18, guided by more than 20 dedicated adult volunteers who collectively contribute over 100 hours per week. Many of our cadets have additional</p>	



support needs, including autism, ADHD, dyslexia and dyspraxia. We work tirelessly to provide them with a safe, structured environment where they can thrive.

We combine traditional values with modern teaching: through outdoor adventure and hands-on learning, cadets develop vital skills such as resilience, discipline, teamwork and leadership. Our programme includes training in first aid, water safety, seamanship, and leadership — and it offers nationally recognised qualifications such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, CREST Awards from the British Science Association, and Young Leader credentials. These accreditations not only build confidence but also improve employability and school engagement.

A New Chapter for the Community: Foresters Hall

This year, we secured ownership of Foresters Hall (eight months ahead of schedule). This acquisition marked a pivotal moment for our organisation, enabling us to create a permanent base for our activities and a multi-use hub for the wider community.

Since taking possession, we have:

- Invested over £25,000 in capital improvements
- Installed new accessible facilities, including a disabled toilet
- Fully equipped a new community kitchen
- Replaced entry doors to improve security
- Completed extensive painting and refurbishment
- Delivered over 1,000 volunteer hours to bring the hall into usable condition

The result is a vibrant space that now hosts evening training sessions, weekend events, and is increasingly in demand from local groups, charities, and community users. However, to meet rising demand and ensure long-term viability, we now need to build upon this foundation.

What We Need — and Why

We are seeking support from the Community Empowerment Fund to purchase key infrastructure that will maximise the hall's flexibility, appeal and capacity to serve. These items are critical in helping us achieve our next phase of development:

1. 100–120 Folding Chairs on Trolleys

These will replace an ad-hoc mix of stackable seating, enabling us to:

- Improve storage efficiency and clear floor space for activities
- Accommodate larger groups for community events
- Donate excess chairs to smaller local groups in need

2. Secure Storage Units

Providing secure lockers or storage areas for regular hall users will:

- Encourage more groups to use the space with confidence



- Improve organisational efficiency for multi-user scheduling
- Make the space more attractive for shared use by community projects

3. Replacement Flooring

Much of the current flooring is patchwork or temporary. We intend to install:

- Durable, uniform flooring in key areas to enhance aesthetics and safety
- Hygienic, professional-grade flooring in the kitchen
- Flooring suitable for both high-traffic and activity-based use

4. Roof Insulation Replacement

Now that roof repairs are complete, we must replace damaged insulation:

- To improve thermal efficiency and reduce heating bills
- To minimise our environmental impact and support carbon reduction targets

5. PA and Sound System

This is a frequent request from potential users. A sound system will:

- Increase hall hire appeal for public meetings, performances and community events
- Allow us to host inclusive events for all age groups, including those with hearing impairments
- Support our own cadet presentations, ceremonies and public showcases

A Platform for Long-Term Impact

These investments are part of a longer-term vision, with further capital works — including fire door upgrades, window replacement, and hall floor refurbishment — planned in a future application to the National Lottery Community Fund.

With improved facilities, we aim to:

- **Increase** youth participation by at least 25%, particularly reaching young people not currently engaged in structured activities
- **Expand** community use during daytime hours and weekends, offering space for health groups, charities, training courses and social events
- **Build** financial sustainability through responsible hall hire while keeping prices accessible for non-profit groups
- **Support** intergenerational engagement, enabling people of all ages to contribute to and benefit from this space
-

We believe Foresters Hall can become a model community venue — one that serves as both a launchpad for youth potential and a welcoming resource for all members of the community.

We thank the Community Empowerment Fund for considering our application and welcome any opportunity to discuss how our work aligns with your goals for sustainable, inclusive community development.



c	<p>What community will this project be delivered in and what communities will benefit?</p> <p>The town of Ayr and wider South Ayrshire, as well as specifically North Ayr ward. Clyde South District Sea Cadets.</p>
d	<p>If your project will require maintenance in future years how will your organisation achieve/fund this?</p> <p>This is achieved in various ways. Subscription Payments from Cadets Rental Income Fundraising Activities throughout the year Grant Funding applications – Ongoing</p>
e	<p>Can your project demonstrate that your project/organisation needs have been identified through consultation? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>As part of the Wallacetown Community Survey, it was noted the need for a community centre or hub as well as support and activities for young people, Foresters Hall has started to provide this, though we are looking to enhance what we can offer.</p> <p>“When asked what services and support were needed within the community a variety of responses was provided. The most common suggestion was a community centre or hub where people can meet others and seek support from a range of services.”</p>
f	<p>Which of the following Council plan priorities most aligns with your proposed project:</p> <p>Priority 1 – Spaces & Places <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Priority 2 – Live, Work, learn <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Priority 3 – Civic & Community Pride <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>



	<p>What UKSPF priority does it meet:</p> <p>Health & Wellbeing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Green Spaces, Active Travel, Sports Facilities, Cost of Living Support)</p> <p>Community Safety <input type="checkbox"/> (Crime Reduction/Prevention)</p> <p>Community Inclusion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Arts, Culture, Heritage, Volunteering, Digital Connectivity, Local Engagement and Regeneration)</p> <p>Does your project meet with any of the following objectives?</p> <p>Ownership of local land and assets <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Community led regeneration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Assist with Community Asset Transfer <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Align with Community Wealth Building Principles <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Link into your local place plan/community action plan priorities <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If linking into a place plan or a community action plan, please details which priority it will be achieving:</p>	
g	Estimated start date:	01/06/2025
h	Estimated completion date:	30/12/2025
i	<p>Is your application submitted in partnership with other organisations? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please detail.</p> <p>Prestwick and District Dog Training Classes With Teagan Dynamic Dogs</p>	



j	<p>If your project relates to a property or land, please confirm whether you own, or lease the property or land own <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> lease <input type="checkbox"/> (</p> <p>If lease, an indication that the owner is supportive or aware that plans will be required. Please detail how you will provide evidence of support, ie long term lease</p> <p>If lease, then a copy of the lease needs to be provided.</p>
k	<p>Please tick/populate as appropriate:</p> <p>Are you aware of the appropriate consents required for this project? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Do you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statutory consents for your project in place <input type="checkbox"/> Planning, including listed building and conservation area consents <input type="checkbox"/> Building Warrants <input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of Pre application discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Please include your reference number _____ <p>Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Copies of any of the above need to be provided</p>

SECTION 4 – PROJECT COSTS

		£
a	<p>How much are you requesting from the Community Empowerment Fund</p> <p>Are you applying for Revenue or Capital costs, or both?</p> <p>Revenue <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Capital <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>£6500</p>



b	<p>Please provide a full break down of costs for your project. If applying for both revenue and capital, then please details costs separately.</p> <p>*For costs over £1000, 3 quotes need to be provided – <u>if relevant quotes are not provided when submitting application, it will not be considered.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100-120 New folding chairs on a portable trolley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AJ Products – 2x Chair Trolley with 50 chairs £1,170 Each (£2340 Total) 2. JustforSchools – 2x Chair Trolley with 60 chairs £1425.89 Each (£2851.78 Total) 3. EE Supplies – Chair Trolley with 112 Chairs - £2,382.00 - New storage units - £134.40 Per Cabinet 6 required for a total of £806.40 - New flooring - £400-500 Per Floor x 3 - Kitchen Floor - £900 - New Insulation - £35.50 Per roll – 25 rolls required for a total of £887.5 - PA/Sound System - £500-600 	
c	<p>Does your group require the full amount applied for your project? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If the fund is oversubscribed, would a part funded offer be considered? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, then would this impact the delivery of the project?</p> <p>Not necessarily as we would seek the rest of the funding elsewhere.</p> <p>If you are successful, will this funding be used as match funding? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, have the other sources been confirmed?</p>	
d	<p>OTHER FUNDING. Have you applied for, or received, grants from any other body for your project/activity?</p> <p>If so, please give details of to whom and how much: n/a for this part of the wider project</p>	



	Body:	n/a for this part of the wider project
	Amount applied for:	
	Amount received:	
	OR	
	When applied:	
	When decision expected:	
e	<p>Please confirm you have the following documents:</p> <p>Constitution/Memorandum & Articles <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Audited or independently verified accounts <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Last 3 months bank statements <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>We ask that you do not upload these documents when submitting your application due to GDPR regulations. These documents should be submitted via email to grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</p>	

SECTION 5 – DECLARATION AND CONDITIONS



I, on behalf of, (organisation name):

- Certify that to the best of my knowledge the information contained in this application is true and accurate and will adhere to the following terms and conditions;
- Understand that making this application does not entitle the organisation to funding as a right;
- Will not commence or commit any expenditure before receiving approval of the funding;
- Confirm that the quotations are bona fide competitive quotes;
- Will provide the External Funding officer with digital colour photos of the work, both before and after the work has been completed. I understand that these images will be kept on record and used for future publicity;
- Understand that this funding award does not cover retrospective work;
- Understand that to make any misleading statement in relation to this application could make the application invalid, or may mean the organisation has to repay the funding;
- Understand that this application is subject to appropriate checks and meets appropriate conditions such as planning, procurement guidelines, and other statutory consents; and
- I Have read the associated guidance before completing and submitting this application form.
- Understands that if I do not provide satisfactory evidence of spend then the council may request I repay the grant
- Failure to return or complete and return any evaluations requested then I may not receive any future funding from South Ayrshire Council. I may be asked to repay the funds if I cannot provide evidence that they were used for the purpose intended.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

On behalf of: (Organisation name) _____

Please submit all supporting information to:

External funding Officer
grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk