



Funded by  
UK Government

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT FUND  
2025/2026**

The closing date for applications is Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 at 5pm.

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

**All projects must be completed by 28<sup>th</sup> 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>

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

**SECTION 1 – ORGANISATION DETAILS**

<b>a</b>	<b>Organisation Name</b>	<b>Ayr United Football Academy</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>Organisation Address</b>	<b>Somerset Park, Tryfield Place, Ayr, KA8 9NB</b>
<b>c</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>www.aufa.org.uk</b>
<b>d</b>	<b>Type of organisation (voluntary organisation, charity, CIC, Ltd. by guarantee, SCIO, unincorporated association etc. or private sector)</b>	<b>SCIO</b>



e	If a charity or Limited Company please include your number	294025
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	Dementia Walking Football
b	<p>Ayr United Football Academy is a leading Third Sector organisation in South Ayrshire dedicated to improving health, wellbeing, and lifelong learning through football. Operating primarily in Ayr North—an area within the top 5% most deprived in Scotland—we work with over 100 staff and volunteers to deliver inclusive programmes for all age groups, from schoolchildren to older adults.</p> <p>Our new initiative, the Dementia Walking Football Programme, aims to provide dedicated walking football sessions for individuals aged 50+ living with Dementia and related cognitive conditions. The programme builds on our successful, long-standing walking football offering and responds to community feedback highlighting the need for dementia-friendly activities that promote physical, social, and emotional wellbeing.</p>	



	<p><b>Programme Overview</b></p> <p>Participants will attend two one-hour sessions per week, followed by a social gathering with refreshments and occasional guest speakers. The sessions are tailored to support:</p> <p><b>Physical health:</b> improving mobility, joint function, and cardiovascular fitness.</p> <p><b>Cognitive stimulation:</b> aiding memory and decision-making.</p> <p><b>Social interaction:</b> reducing isolation and promoting inclusion.</p> <p><b>Emotional wellbeing:</b> creating a safe, enjoyable space for connection and support.</p> <p>The programme will be delivered free of charge, ensuring no one is excluded due to financial circumstances, and will take place in Ayr, Prestwick, and Troon, with the ambition to expand based on demand.</p> <p><b>Alignment with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)</b></p> <p>The project closely aligns with key UKSPF investment priorities, particularly within the "Communities and Place" and "People and Skills" pillars:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p>✅ <b>Health and Wellbeing</b></p> <p>The programme directly supports UKSPF objectives around enhancing local health outcomes. Walking football is a proven method of encouraging physical activity in older adults while helping to slow the progression of Alzheimer's symptoms through movement and mental engagement.</p> </li> <li> <p>✅ <b>Social Inclusion and Reducing Inequalities</b></p> <p>By targeting a vulnerable, often overlooked population and offering services free of charge, the project combats social and health inequalities, a core priority of the UKSPF.</p> </li> <li> <p>✅ <b>Pride in Place and Community Participation</b></p> <p>The programme fosters civic pride and strengthens community networks by using local venues and encouraging volunteer involvement. Participants are given opportunities to connect and contribute meaningfully, both during and beyond the football sessions.</p> </li> <li> <p>✅ <b>Local Delivery, Local Benefit</b></p> <p>Operating in Ayr North and nearby communities, the programme reflects UKSPF's emphasis on place-based investment. It also supports South Ayrshire Council's local Place Plans, Health &amp; Social Care Partnership's Dementia Strategy, and broader Scottish Government goals for ageing well.</p> </li> </ul>
c	<p><b>What community will this project be delivered in and what communities will benefit?</b></p> <p>The project will be based in Ayr North initially but open to all residents of South Ayrshire. It will be developed according to demand and subsequent funding.</p>



<b>d</b>	<p>If your project will require maintenance in future years how will your organisation achieve/fund this?</p> <p>Ongoing grant funding applications together with community fundraising</p>
<b>e</b>	<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>Consultation with existing walking football participants, care homes and other organisations connected with promoting activities for older people</p>
<b>f</b>	<p>Which of the following Council plan priorities most aligns with your proposed project:</p> <p>Priority 1 – Spaces &amp; Places <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Priority 2 – Live, Work, learn <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Priority 3 – Civic &amp; Community Pride <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>What UKSPF priority does it meet:</p> <p>Health &amp; Wellbeing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Green Spaces, Active Travel, Sports Facilities, Cost of Living Support)</p> <p>Community Safety <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/></p>



	<p>Assist with Community Asset Transfer <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Align with Community Wealth Building Principles <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Link into your local place plan/community action plan priorities <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If linking into a place plan or a community action plan, please details which priority it will be achieving:</b></p>	
<b>g</b>	Estimated start date:	1/7/25
<b>h</b>	Estimated completion date:	Ongoing
<b>i</b>	<p><b>Is your application submitted in partnership with other organisations?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>If yes, please detail.</b></p>	
<b>j</b>	<p><b>If your project relates to a property or land, please confirm whether you own, or lease the property or land</b></p> <p>own <input type="checkbox"/> lease <input type="checkbox"/> (</p> <p><b>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</b></p> <p><b>If lease, then a copy of the lease needs to be provided.</b></p>	
<b>k</b>	<p><b>Please tick/populate as appropriate:</b></p> <p><b>Are you aware of the appropriate consents required for this project?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Do you have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statutory consents for your project in place <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Planning, including listed building and conservation area consents <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Building Warrants <input type="checkbox"/></li> <li>• Evidence of Pre application discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Please include your reference number</li> </ul> <p>_____</p>	



Funded by  
UK Government

Not applicable ☒

Copies of any of the above need to be provided

#### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Capital <input type="checkbox"/></p>	4000
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><b>*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></b></p> <p>Hire of Facility (Pro Soccer)    £100 p.w (40 weeks @£100 p.w-   £50 per session)</p>	
c	<p>Does your group require the full amount applied for your project? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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>Yes, initially it would lead to fewer sessions</p> <p>If you are successful, will this funding be used as match funding? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, have the other sources been confirmed?</p>	



<b>d</b>	<b>OTHER FUNDING. Have you applied for, or received, grants from any other body for your project/activity?</b> <b>If so, please give details of to whom and how much:</b>	
	<b>Body:</b>	James Weir Foundation
	<b>Amount applied for:</b>	£5000
	<b>Amount received:</b>	
	<b>OR</b>	
	<b>When applied:</b>	27/4/25)
	<b>When decision expected:</b>	1/8/25
<b>e</b>	<b>Please confirm you have the following documents:</b>  Constitution/Memorandum & Articles <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Audited or independently verified accounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  Last 3 months bank statements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>  <b>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 <a href="mailto:grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk">grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk</a></b>	



--	--

## 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.





Funded by  
UK Government

Signature: Stuart Watson \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 30/4/25

On behalf of: (Organisation name) Ayr United Football Academy \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit all supporting information to:**

External funding Officer

[grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:grants@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)