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AUTHORITY

Northumberland Inclusive Economy Community Partnership

A new fund of £1.5 million, to support the work of the voluntary and community sector in South East Northumberland, has been secured by Northumberland County Council (NCC).

The Northumberland Inclusive Economy Community Partnership, made up of representatives from the sector, is overseeing the programme. This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) as the lead authority. NCC provides the administrative support and is acting as the Lead Accountable Body.

The focus of the funding is to support:

- impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places and
- investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.

The North of Tyne Combined Authority is a partnership of three local authorities: Newcastle City Council, North Tyneside Council, and Northumberland County Council and the North of Tyne Elected Mayor.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

Funding

Funding is available for small projects, as well as revenue and capital schemes:

- Small projects - £5,000 to £35,000
- Revenue projects - £35,000 to £100,000
- Capital projects - £50,000 to £100,000

The fund can be used for projects in the wards of Amble, Ashington Central, Bedlington Central, Bedlington East, College, Cowpen, Croft, Hirst, Isabella, Kitty Brewster, Lynemouth, Newbiggin Central and East, Newsham, Plessey, Seaton with Newbiggin West, Sleekburn, Stakeford, and Wensleydale.

The fund is for local organisations in the VCS to enable them to build capacity and offer impactful volunteering opportunities and social action projects to residents. Projects should be designed to include those who are economically inactive, to help address inequalities and deliver Inclusive Economy ambitions.

The Partnership will use its in-depth understanding of the area to encourage collaboration and creativity in the sector to respond to the complex factors that lead to economic inactivity. A research

alliance created by NTCA will also offer the Partnership a potent opportunity for on-the-ground knowledge and trends to inform and influence its wider work.

Support for organisations applying to the fund

Recognising the capacity challenges, particularly for smaller organisations, of applying for funding, NCC has grant funded [Northumberland CVA](#), working with [CVA Blyth Valley](#), to support the development of projects from an idea to an expression of interest for submission to the Partnership's funding panel. It will also help those organisations whose expressions of interest are approved to complete full applications, as well as working with others to build capacity and develop projects for funding from alternative sources with complementary criteria.

How to apply

The Specification and Expression of Interest Form can be downloaded below.

We encourage applicants to work with Northumberland CVA or CVA Blyth Valley to develop their idea into a viable project.

Applicants working in Blyth should contact CVA Blyth Valley at info@cvabv.org.uk or on 01670 353623.

Applicants in all other areas should contact Northumberland CVA at enquire@northumberlandcva.org.uk or on 01670 858688.

This call for projects will remain open until May 2024. However, we encourage applicants to submit expressions of interest by the first deadline of Wednesday 31 January 2024 if at all possible, even if your project proposal is fully not developed at this time. As the funding available is limited, NCC wants to quickly get a full picture of the projects that are likely to seek funding from the programme so it can gauge which projects it may be able to support within the available funds.

The full application form is also included below for information but, to save any unnecessary work, please do not begin work on this until your expression of interest has been given approval.

Completed expressions of interest should be submitted to employabilityandinclusion@northumberland.gov.uk by **9 am on Wednesday 31 January 2024**.

Further information

To discuss the Northumberland Inclusive Economy Community Partnership or any questions about the funding, please contact Adam.Gray@northumberland.gov.uk

Supporting documents

- NIECP Grant Specification and Guidance – Call for Projects
- NIECP Expression of Interest Form
- NIECP Application Form
- Annex 1 – Expenditure, Funding and Outputs Tables