

## Ready to Level: East Birmingham Funding Application call

### Application Deadline: Midday (12:00) on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**This is an advice note accompanying the Grant Funding Application Form.**

**Please fill in the Grant Funding Application Form and email it to us at [eastbhaminfo@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:eastbhaminfo@birmingham.gov.uk).**

**If you do not receive an automatic reply from this email address, please assume we have not received it and try resending.**

**You may need to send it from a different email address to get it through. If you are still experiencing difficulties, please email us without the attachment to tell us, and we will try to support you.**

**However, we must receive all Grant Funding Application Forms before our application deadline of 11 September 2024, midday.**

#### 1. Introduction

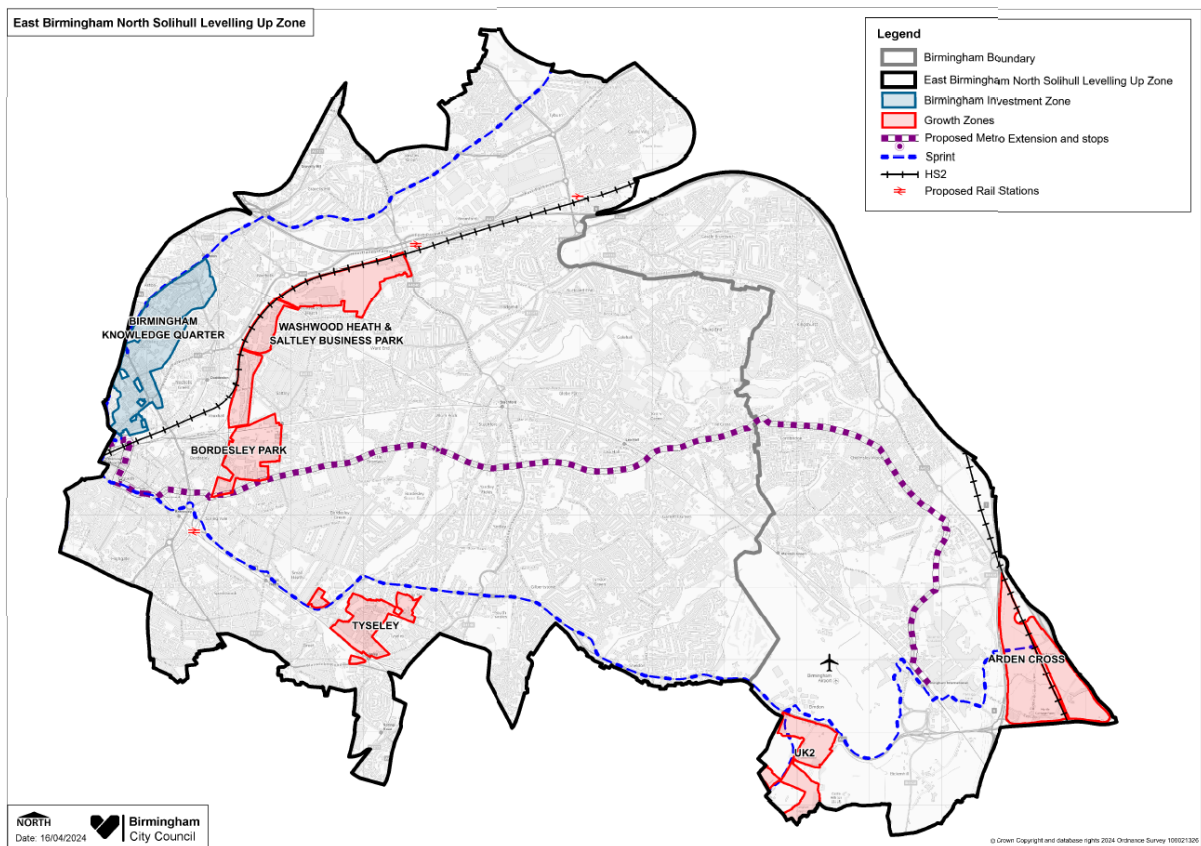
Birmingham City Council and Loconomy are opening the **second call** for the community anchor organisations in East Birmingham to take part in the ***Coalition for Impact Programme*** project, which is funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and will support the delivery of the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Programme. The aim of the Coalition for Impact is to form a network of East Birmingham organisations working in partnership with the East Birmingham Team (BCC) and our strategic partners (public, private and HE) to deliver the objectives of the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Programme. An overview of our programme can be found on our website here: [Overview of the programme | East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Programme | Birmingham City Council](#).

Following an open application process, 9 organisations from East Birmingham will be selected to receive £16,000 grant award each. (**Please note** this is an opportunity for organisations who have not benefited from the Ready to Level grants before). Consortia of two or three organisations can apply for this funding, they will then have to decide on the lead applicant with the full financial responsibility for the grant, demonstrate how they are going to share the £16,000 grant among themselves (detailed budget breakdown) and demonstrate the added value achieved by working jointly.

To be eligible, organisations need to be located and deliver activities within the red and light blue lines (red lines are indicating Growth Zones and the light blue lines indicate the Investment Zone) on the map below or in the immediate proximity to the zones. Please note, these grants are only available to organisations based in East Birmingham. The Solihull element of the map is only provided for reference.

The following Growth Zones have been designated by the Government in April 2024 for East Birmingham:

- 1) Investment Zone (the blue line on the map below) also referred to as the Birmingham Knowledge Quarter – we are looking to fund up to three organisations based in Nechells and Digbeth who will be interested in working with us on the local economic plan/Community Economic Development Plan linking to the opportunities enabled by the delivery of the Investment Zone. Priority will be given to organisations that have links to the local businesses (social enterprises and SMEs) and are willing to explore links to the innovation ecosystem and the Birmingham Knowledge Quarter.
- 2) Tyseley also referred to here as the Green Innovation Quarter – we are looking to fund up to three organisations based in Tyseley and Small Heath who will be interested in working with us on the local economic plan/Community Economic Development Plan linking to the opportunities enabled by the delivery of Tyseley Growth Zone, this will also include work on improving green infrastructure and perception of the River Cole corridor, engage in the ongoing work within the Tyseley Energy Park (<https://www.tyseleyenergy.co.uk/>) and the wider retrofit and green economy sector locally. Priority will be given to organisations engaged in circular economy, retrofit and green economy and green infrastructure and those seeking to engage in a partnership working with the National Trust and Tyseley Energy Park/University of Birmingham.
- 3) Bordesley Park and Washwood Heath sites, also referred to here as the Sports Quarter and also the HS2 sites - we are looking to fund up to three organisations based in Bordesley Green, Alum Rock, Saltley, Ward End or Firs and Bromford who will be interested in working with us on the local economic plan/Community Economic Development Plan linking to the opportunities unlocked by delivery of the growth zone stretching from the former Wheel site (Bordesley Park) to the Washwood Heath and Saltley Business Park. Priority will be given to organisations delivering sport, health and wellbeing interventions given the proximity of the Sports Quarter and a potential partnership with the Birmingham City Football Club (BCFC) and South and City College Birmingham (SCCB).



**2. Who can apply and what support is included - there are two different opportunities:**

**2.1** A total of £144,000 is available for 9 community anchor organisations to work with the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Team to support the future development of the East Birmingham Programme. Each will receive a £16,000 grant that has been designed to cover the time of senior level representative of their organisation but will not support organisation’s core activities. We are looking for organisations who are ready to explore new ways of working with Birmingham City Council and our strategic partners to unlock new economic opportunities, seek to diversify their income streams and overall explore their role in the wider East Birmingham Programme. Each organisation will receive mentorship support and a business diagnostics session with the Growth Hub which will help determine further growth opportunities. Through participating in the project, community organisations will also gain skills to be able to participate in the future interventions supported under the East Birmingham programme.

Each organisation will work on their local economic capacity and produce the Community Economic Development Plan. Please note, these are not formal planning documents and instead a tool for designing and mobilising around a common economic vision for an area. More information on the CEDP is available here: [Community Economic Development Plan - Co-operative Councils Innovation Network](#).

The Coalition for Impact programme will be co-ordination by the lead partner [Loconomy](#).

**2.2** A total of £16,000 is available to two organisations. Previous Ready to Level grant recipients can reapply to access £8,000 each to support the facilitation of one of the two Thematic Groups:

Theme 1: *Community assets* – focussing on: new governance models, income generation for asset ownership (i.e. via new/diversified income streams). This work will also support the work BCC East Birmingham Team is undertaking with local assets in East Birmingham e.g. on the Ward End Park House.

Theme 2: *Community economic development* including: understanding and applying the principles of local/community wealth building and implementing Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) methodology, identifying pathways to support women-led economic activity, building pathways for diverse organisations to innovation ecosystems (inclusive innovation), exploring “Buy Local” tools/platforms (continuation of the work started earlier this year). This group will also connect with the work led by the Economic Justice Network (<https://barrowcadbury.org.uk/our-work/economic-justice/>).

The £8,000 grants will enable facilitation of meetings and commissioning specific expertise required to take the work forward, i.e. advice on asset governance, Community Asset Transfers, community shares, community development trusts, community cooperatives, local economic development plans, etc.

**Please note:** Priority will be given to Round 1 Ready to Level participants or consortia involving at least one of the previous recipients of the Ready to Level Grants - as this is a continuation of the work started in the Ready to Level 1 Programme. These are: Arts in the Yard, Disability Resource Centre, Go Women Alliance, Grand Union, Our Community Foundation, Urban Development Foundation, Open Door, Pioneer Housing Group, Muath Trust, Unity Hubb/Ashebo.

### **3. Project aims**

- Build the Coalition for Impact – a network of bridge organisations – facilitating greater collaboration between the public, private and HE sectors and the local communities in East Birmingham;
- Deepen local understanding of opportunities linked to each of the growth zones and the East Birmingham Programme (e.g. through partnership provision, service improvement etc);
- Engage local communities in co-designing local solutions, especially where they relate to equity and intersectionality<sup>1</sup> and support their sustained involvement;
- Increase active participation of local community organisations in the economic development activities by supporting co-design of 9 community-led economic plans including mapping of local economic assets.
- Build local organisational and individual skills and strengthen local economic development capacity within each of the organisations participating in the programme, including better use of community assets and strengthened local economic development.

### **4. What we’re looking for from your application**

We are asking community anchor organisations to work with the Coalition for Impact project lead Loconomy and the East Birmingham Programme Team as partners to deliver the change the area needs and deserves. We know that we can’t do it alone, especially in the current difficult circumstances for the Council, and it’s only by working in partnership with a network of community anchor organisations, we can make the difference for local communities in East Birmingham. The

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<sup>1</sup> The purpose of intersectionality is to understand how the intersections (concurrency) of various individual traits (e.g., race, gender, sexuality) lead to specific experiences of oppression and privilege.

successful applicants will be also invited to join one of the thematic groups: 1) Community economic development and 2) Community Assets (funded with the £8,000 grants) if they find them relevant or useful.

The selected anchor organisations are expected to have:

- A permanent base within the boundaries of one of the Growth Zone areas (*see map above*) – this could be owned or long-term leased premises (at least for the next 18 months) or in one of the wards adjacent to the Growth Zone and supporting residents within the same boundaries. Or have a demonstrable track record of delivering activities in the geographically relevant wards. *Please note, we are not looking for service providers who only deliver activities to specific service users referred to them. If you are a service provider, housing association or another specialised provider, please email us on EastBham@birmingham.gov.uk before applying.*
- Plays a role as a convenor of networks, community groups, resident groups, communities of interest to improve the social, environmental, and economic wellbeing of a neighbourhood / neighbourhoods they support;
- Provides a holistic offer addressing community needs;
- A strong track record of local engagement and successfully delivering funded programmes, and if possible some existing contribution to East Birmingham Programme to build on. Existing links to Programme partners like Aston University and the Birmingham City University (for the IZ), BCFC/Foundation or South and City College Birmingham (for the Sports Quarter) and Tyseley Energy Park or the National Trust for the (Green Quarter) are an additional strength;
- Robust legal structures, policies and procedures and ability to collect evidence satisfying the UKSPF requirements and audit trail (full defrayal evidence will need to be provided before the end of March 2025<sup>2</sup>);
- Each of the 9 participating Community Anchor organisations and the two leads of the thematic groups will need to have at least 1 senior lead and one other deputy member of staff to be available to take part reliably in the full project including the Action Learning Network in the period of 6 months September – March 2025 and, with support as needed, develop a Local Economic Plan relevant to their organisational capacity and building on their wider network's strength including a local asset mapping exercise (including delivery of at least 3 events before the end of March) that is specific to their local community and the Growth Zones relevant to their geography.

Each Community Economic Development Plan should bring the following benefits for local people:

- Include local residents in the mapping and the analysis of local economic opportunities in their neighbourhood (local assets) to deepen the understanding of the importance of local economy and its dependence on social and green capital,
- Improve local understanding of the East Birmingham Programme opportunities and specifically the ones developed within the designated investment/growth zone, including capital investment coming to East Birmingham, planned programmes and services and new employment opportunities,

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<sup>2</sup> The entire grant (£16k) needs to be spent before the end of March 2025. Full evidence of defrayal (actioned payments) is required for the full amount awarded including invoices and bank statements for all payments in line with the UK SPF monitoring requirements.

- Increase participation in local events – there is an expectation that each of the community organisations will organise at least three local events transferring the learning from the Coalition for Impact to the local community. It is expected that these events will cover content such as: asset-based community development, community economic development, fundraising capacity, improved income generation, local employment, cooperative working, and social enterprise. These can also include activities that promote pride in place, social cohesion and the improvement of public facilities and the public realm, for instance on high streets. Each event will need to be related to the economic plan and specifically engage local communities in the programme related work. *Please note, we are looking for quality engagement over large number of attendees.*

Each Community organisation’s involvement is expected to start in September 2024 and must be complete by mid March 2025. To be complete, each organisation must have engaged in the Coalition for Impact programme, created their Community Economic Development Plan, held at least 2 events (with at least 60 residents engaged jointly), taken part in the evaluation, and expended (utilised on staffing and/or paid out for other costs) all of the £16,000 grant funding by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

## **5. Timescales**

August 2024 – call opens, information event organised

September 2024 – deadline for applications, successful applicants notified, induction event

September 2024 – formal project launch and first joint event for successful applicants

End of November 2024 – (mapping complete)

End of January 2024 – Community Economic Development Plans written by each of the organisations (grant holders)

End of February 2024 – individual events organised (complete) by each of the organisations (grant holders)

March 2024 – Final Coalition for Impact Event (organised by Loconomy with the support of all organisations on the programme)

(1) Intensive collaboration led by the lead partner organisation (Loconomy)

(2) Collaborative Coalition for Impact Events:

- Loconomy will run a programme of six collaborative learning events with all nine of the community anchors. The main speaker sessions will be recorded and uploaded on to the electronic learning platform. The programme will blend keynote introductions on the building blocks of levelling up topics as well as providing collaborative space to discuss common issues across the organisations to help build a future network and ongoing collaboration beyond the programme. The programme will move around the venues of the community anchors with the opportunity for each to share their organisation’s mission and their work on the economic development planning.

- each of the two thematic group leads will convene 6 thematic events each for their group and invite other interested organisations to the collaboration – these are supposed to be designed as collaborative groups and the grants are awarded to enable the organisation and commissioning of required external expertise.

(3) Electronic Learning Platform:

- Each of the community anchors will access an electronic learning platform that will host the six local learning sessions, a summary of collaborative learning events as well as their local levelling project proposals. It will be loaded on the Loconomy website and be accessible to all programme participants.

(4) Look and see visits:

- Loconomy can arrange a visit for programme participants to a best practice neighbourhood (travel arrangements and cost of participating will be covered by the grant)

(5) Evaluation:

- Participating in the project evaluation will be required of all the successful community anchor organisations – as it is expected that the learning will be transferred to future projects and interventions and the wider East Birmingham Programme.

## **5. Grant expenditure**

### **5.a. Coalition for Impact Grants**

Successful 9 applicants will receive £16,000 to cover the costs of participating in the Coalition for Impact Programme, design of their Community Economic Development Plans and organisation of at least one local event in their communities. It is expected that the total number of people engaged in the local events will be a minimum of 400, which amounts to approx. 60 per community anchor organisation.

75% of the grant will be paid after completion of Month 1 of delivery (end of September 2024), and the remaining 25% will be released in March 2025 after all defrayal documentation has been submitted and validated by the Financial Officer within BCC. Eligible costs include:

- Staff time spent joining the Coalition for Impact Programme, attending learning and mentoring sessions and trips/events, designing the Community Economic Development Plans and organising local events;
- Cost of additional training identified as a result of mentoring and 1-2-1 support received;
- Cost of travel to attend events organised as part of the Coalition for Impact Programme;
- Refreshments/essential accommodation/essential subsistence;
- Promotion costs e.g. flyers;
- Additional activities to activate the event and encourage further community engagement (i.e. arts/crafts/music, children focused activities, etc).

### **Schedule 3 – Breakdown of Costs**

#### **Ineligible Costs**

The following are Ineligible Costs

- contributions in kind,
- appreciation, amortisation or impairment of fixed assets owned by the Recipient or any Delivery Partner,
- input VAT reclaimable by the Recipient or any Delivery Partner from HM Revenue and Customs,
- interest payment or service charge payments for finance leases,
- gifts,

- entertaining (which for this purpose means anything that would be a taxable benefit to the person being entertained, according to current UK Tax Regulations).

If there are fewer than 9 successful grant applicants, we will increase the amount granted per organisation. The total budget available for this element is £144,000.

#### **5.b. Grant expenditure Thematic Groups:**

The remaining £16,000 is available for the Cohort 1 or Ready to Level – organisations who participated in the previous programme from January to March 2024. They will be encouraged to bid for two opportunities (joint bids/consortia are encouraged):

Group 1: Assets

Group 2: Economy

The winning organisations will be paid in accordance with the same schedule. 75% of the grant will be paid after completion of Month 1 of delivery (end of September 2024), and the remaining 25% will be released in March 2025 after all defrayal documentation has been submitted and validated by the Financial Officer within BCC. Eligible costs include:

- Staff time of the lead organisation (10% of the grant value)
- Organisation of meetings/events,
- Cost of travel to attend events organised as part of the Coalition for Impact Programme;
- Refreshments/essential accommodation/essential subsistence;
- Promotion costs e.g. flyers;
- Additional activities to activate the event and encourage further community engagement (i.e. arts/crafts/music, children focused activities, etc);
- External expertise, i.e. speakers, specialist workshops/training for the thematic group.

#### **Ineligible costs**

The following are ineligible costs:

- Contributions in kind,
- Depreciation, amortisation or impairment or fixes assets owned by the Recipient or any Delivery Partner,
- Input VAT reclaimable by the Recipient or any Delivery Partner from HM Revenue and Customs,
- Interest payments or service charge payments for finance leases,
- Gifts,
- Entertaining (chich for this purpose means anything that would be a taxable benefit to the person being entertained, according to current UK tax regulations).

#### **6. How to apply**

To apply to take part in the project please submit the application form by 11 September 2024, midday. When completing your application, please ensure you refer to the project criteria detailed above.

If you have any questions about the project or your application prior to submission, please contact [eastbhaminfo@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:eastbhaminfo@birmingham.gov.uk). Please note, large attachments may bounce back. If you have not received a confirmation email from us, please emails us again.