

Community Investment Fund: Seeking Funding Proposals up to £10,000 per Year

The Community Investment Fund is managed and delivered by the Community Investment Board, made up of local residents volunteering their time to make investments enabling Southend residents to improve their lives, hosted by the Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS). The board are keen to hear from not-for-profit groups or individuals with ideas that will achieve our vision and mission from Jan 2022 onwards. The board are seeking proposals looking for up to £10,000 per year in early 2022 as a trial targeted at organisations with a lower income (approx. £100,000 or less) before planning for larger investments from spring 2022 onwards.

Our vision is of a sustainable Southend where residents engage in their wider communities, are empowered to realise and reach their full potential. In a city they are proud of, feel safe in and can enjoy healthy and fulfilling lives.

Our mission is to utilise the strengths and assets of Southend locally by motivating residents to create sustainable and resilient communities that will;

Improve health and wellbeing; mental health; and the perception and attitudes towards Southend.

Reduce isolation and loneliness, homelessness; poverty; addiction; antisocial behaviour and violent crime.

Enable community-led action to improve and allow community ownership of physical spaces & local events

Enhance a thriving economy, by raising aspirations and building skills.

Influence positive change within organisations to improve and develop their activities.

Invest for future sustainability in the work of the Community Investment Board.

What is the board looking for?

The board are interested in ideas seeking up to £10,000, per year (i.e. 2022, 2023 and 2024), for use until September 2024 from those based and/or working in Southend that;

- Will deliver their vision and mission and [Southend Borough Council's 2050 themes and outcomes](#).
- That deliver direct benefits to the most marginalised communities in Southend facing the challenges within our vision and mission and tailored to them.
- Ideas that minimise the need to access statutory services and dependency on them.
- Activities that provide support outside of usual working hours and are more accessible.
- Are from small organisations, most likely with an income of around or less than £100k per year seeking core or project costs from Jan 2022 to Sept 2024 over weeks, months or years. If you apply for funding for a short time you are welcome to request more if you need it in the future.
- Proposals where those who will benefit from the activities are directly involved in the design, delivery and evaluation of the plans.

You might be a group of individuals with an idea, faith group, registered charity, Community Interest Company, small constituted group or something else – whatever you are, we would like to hear from you if you have a great idea. Funds will be paid into an account in the name of an organisation, if you do not have access to this, but have a great idea we will work with you and partners to build your proposal.

Your proposal will likely be focused on a particular part of our vision and mission and Southend 2050 – it does not need to realise everything sought.

How to apply?

To express your interest send up to two sides of A4, a 10 minute or less video or other format with the following information to cib@savs-southend.co.uk (if sending a large file please use [wetransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com));

- Who your organisation (where relevant) is, what they do, your name, role, phone number and email.
- How many people will directly and indirectly benefit and are they from a particular community.
- What you plan to do, when it will start and end or if it is ongoing, and why it is needed.
- How those who will benefit have designed your ideas and will be part of implementing them.
- How your idea will deliver our vision and mission.
- Which of the [Southend 2050 themes and outcomes](#) your idea contributes to and how.
- How much money you need, what it will be spent on and how you know it is value for money.
- How will you know your activity will have made a difference and how will those benefiting be involved in that.

Please also confirm if you have two bank signatories and provide your bank account details and details of your income, expenditure and reserves (both restricted and unrestricted) from your most recent set of accounts. If you are a new organisation less than one year old or individuals please contact us and we can work with you. As part of their review the board will request your governing document, a bank statement and your safeguarding, equalities and other policies. Successful projects will be asked to acknowledge the Community Investment Fund and Southend Borough Council when publically mentioning their work. The board is unable to consider incomplete applications.

Successful proposals will address all the points above and express how they will seek to deliver direct impact to residents of Southend in line with our vision and mission and Southend 2050 themes and outcomes. They will likely focus on adults; individuals and whole families. Those who receive funding will be asked to commit to the Community Investment Board's statements on Safeguarding, Equalities, Anti-money Laundering and Environmental impact which can be seen [here](#).

What will the reporting look like?

The Community Investment Board are committed to sharing an annual impact report to Southend Borough Council outlining the impact of the fund on residents and communities in Southend, and how activities carried out contributed to the delivery of the [Southend 2050 themes and outcomes](#). The board will therefore seek to find out the following from those receiving funds;

- How the funds were spent and how many people benefited.
- The difference your activities made and if those benefiting are from a particular community.
- What Southend 2050 themes and outcomes the funding targeted and the impact achieved.

Reporting will be requested from those funded in line with the timeline for their work and length of time over which they are seeking funding. For example if £10,000 is awarded over 2-3 years the board will seek a report on progress every 6 months. If 1 year of funding or less is given a report will be required at the end of the planned time period although the board will remain in contact informally. A template for the report will be provided, when funds are awarded. Where funds are given over a time period of more than 1 year they will be released on receipt of reporting as requested by the board every 6 months.

The Southend 2050 outcomes may from time to time be amended, the Community Investment Board will remain aware of the outcomes at the time of making funding decisions to ensure we are contributing to the current themes and outcomes.

What happens next?

Throughout 2022 it is envisaged that the board will meet monthly to consider complete proposals in line with this guidance at the soonest possible meeting. Funds cannot be used for the furthering of religious or political aims and only for future plans. Feedback will be provided as soon as possible after the board meetings to all proposers and information on successful proposals shared publicly.

The board are keen to hear your feedback on their process as they too develop their ways of working. If you have feedback or questions, want to find out more or talk through your idea and how to approach this, please contact our Community Investment Fund Coordinator, Gemma Cartwright using cib@savs-southend.co.uk, 01702 356008 or 07415 846506 (what's app, SMS or call).

Any ideas shared will not be shared with the board until formally given as a proposal. If you would like to receive this information in an alternative format also get in touch with the Community Investment Fund Coordinator who will work with you to provide it.

We thank you for taking the time to put a proposal together and look forward to being in touch with you.