

C2030 Communities fund

Fixed and flexible



Cairngorms
National Park

Pàirc Nàiseanta a'
Mhonaidh Ruaidh



Key facts



£1 million grants for distribution by 30 September 2028



The fund must help people and nature thrive together under the four delivery themes of Cairngorms 2030



The Park Authority will not decide the exact funding criteria, the application process, or the process for awarding funding.

Enabling limits



The panel has broad freedom in shaping how the fund will operate, its design must align with the Cairngorms 2030 vision, including all four themes.



Vision: By 2030, the Cairngorms National Park will be an exemplar of people and nature thriving together in a rapidly changing world.



Delivery themes:

- empowering communities
- transforming transport
- restoring and enhancing landscapes
- improving people's health and wellbeing

What are you deciding?

- ✓ The funds objectives and how they deliver the programme vision and community aspirations
- ✓ Types of projects to prioritise
- ✓ The levels and types of grants offered
- ✓ Eligibility criteria (within The National Lottery Heritage Fund rules)
- ✓ Application assessment approaches and decision making processes
- ✓ How to ensure the fund is accessible, fair and transparent
- ✓ Monitoring and evaluation requirements aligned to the programme
- ✓ How the above shapes a fund that delivers against climate resilience

Fund objectives

Parameters and questions
to consider

- The Cairngorms 2030: Communities Fund is a community co-designed fund that supports locally led projects which contribute to the National Parks journey towards net zero.
- The panel has freedom to shape how the fund works but must do so within NLHF requirements and the strategic framework of Cairngorms 2030s vision and four delivery themes.

Types of project

Parameters and questions to consider

- Things that cannot be funded are explored on the handout.
- What can be funded?
- Funding should have demonstratable benefit to the Cairngorms National Park and those that live within it.
- Applications from organisations or individuals outwith the boundaries of the National Park should show clear benefit to the communities of the National Park.
- How best to achieve the aim of 10% of the total value funded contributing towards equality, diversity and inclusion?

Level and type of grants

Parameters and questions to consider

- The panel should consider how this fund fits into what funding already exists.
- There isn't unlimited resource to deliver the funding, for example 20,000 grants of £50 would not be possible.
- Is match funding required?
- Is this multiple funding pots of different scales?
- Do all pots have the same requirements for match funding?
- How do we ensure value for money?
- How do we assess the capacity of communities to deliver programme outcomes?
- Who makes decisions?
- How do we make sure that money benefits local people?

Eligibility criteria

Parameters and questions to consider

The C2030 programme target audiences are:

- Community groups
 - Farmers and land managers
 - Interest groups
 - Local businesses
 - Under-represented groups
 - Young people.
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- Who can apply?
 - Within that, is there a focus on community organisations?
 - Are businesses eligible?

Assessment and decision making

Parameters and questions to consider

- Who decides on applications?
- Consider the capacity of both the organisation (administering the funds), and the capacity to make decisions – i.e. the volume of applications that will need to be read, considered against a set of criteria, and then decisions made. Volunteer or paid decision makers?
- The Park Authority is the accountable body for the funding, which means we need to report back on value for money, are in charge of reputational risk if a grant “goes wrong” and will manage the legacy of the funding in legal terms.
- What happens if applicants disagree with a decision?
- Is it possible to appeal a decision?
- Who considers that appeal?

Accessible, fair and transparent

Parameters and questions
to consider

- Consider how different people interact with funding guidance, and how that will impact this process.
- How will both the fund and eventual grant awards be promoted?
- How best to achieve the aim of 10% of the total value funded contributing towards equality, diversity and inclusion?

Monitoring and evaluation

Parameters and questions to consider

- The National Lottery Heritage Fund must be acknowledged in the funding awards, in line with their guidance.
- How will we ensure value for money?

The Park Authority needs to know:

- What organisation or individual has received the money?
- What the money was intended for,
- What the money did,
- What impact the money had
- How each project contributes to at least one of the four delivery themes
- How does a project contribute meaningfully to climate resilience primarily, and/or nature recovery and community outcomes

“But what about the fund
and what will that look
like?”



Broadly, we don't know.



What we do know, is it is
rooted in community.



Now we have the people
who will shape this