

Cairngorms 2030 Communities Fund Panel

What's fixed and what's flexible

This sheet sets out the boundaries for your decision-making. Some things are fixed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Park Authority, or legal requirements. Everything else is yours to shape.

<p>Fixed: these things can't change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Total budget: £1 million b. Connection to Cairngorms 2030: the fund must support the four themes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Empowering communities ii. Transforming transport iii. Restoring and enhancing landscapes iv. Improving people's health and wellbeing c. The National Lottery Heritage Fund has conditions that must be met d. Legal and compliance obligations: eligibility rules, safeguarding, accountability e. Deadline: all grants must be paid by 30 September 2028 f. The Park Authority remains the accountable body for the funding g. At least 10% of the total value of grants must be linked to equality, diversity and inclusion. h. The National Lottery Heritage Fund must be acknowledged in the funding, in line with their guidance. 	<p>Yours to decide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fund objectives and how they deliver the Cairngorms 2030 vision b. Types of projects and activities to prioritise c. Grant sizes and range (minimum and maximum amounts) d. Whether to have one fund or several pots e. Eligibility criteria: who can apply (within NLHF rules) f. Application and assessment process g. How funding decisions are made and by who h. How to ensure the fund is accessible, fair and transparent i. Monitoring and reporting requirements j. How many rounds of funding, and how long projects can run k. Whether match funding is required l. What success looks like and how impact is shared.
<p>Things that cannot be funded include: Assets outside the National Park, existing staff costs (unless full cost recovery), repairs to private homes, political or faith causes, recoverable VAT, artificial grass, plants.</p>	

<p>Things to keep in mind as you design</p>		
<p>Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Funding must have demonstrable benefit to the Cairngorms National Park and those who live in it ● Applications from outside the Park boundary must show clear benefit for National Park communities ● Assets or buildings outside the Park cannot be funded 	<p>Grant scale and administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Grant sizes should reflect the needs and capacity of the communities you're trying to reach ● The Park Authority cannot administer an unlimited volume of very small grants. This is a practical constraint to factor into your design ● Larger strategic projects may have a longer lead-in time and might not be ready to apply until later in the funding cycle 	<p>Decision-making and accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The decision-making process must recognise the Park Authority's role as the accountable body ● For goods or services over £10,000, at least three competitive quotes are required ● For goods or services over £50,000, competitive tendering evidence must be provided ● Cash payments cannot be made ● Any profit from a project must be reinvested in National Park communities