



Cairngorms 2030: Transforming Transport grant guidance notes

Cairngorms 2030 Transforming Transport grants are available to fund projects that promote improved travel choice within and between communities in the Cairngorms National Park. We are looking to support projects that promote travel choice reducing car dependency for the whole or part of a journey.

What is Cairngorms 2030?

Cairngorms 2030 is an ambitious programme to connect people and nature inspired by the Gaelic word dùthchas – meaning the deep-rooted connection between people and nature – and places the power for change in the hands of the National Park's communities. Cairngorms 2030 is part funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund through their 'Heritage Horizons' programme and aims to deliver change by working with communities throughout the National Park. Through 20 long-term projects, Cairngorms 2030 will bring about transformational change in the Cairngorms, benefitting people's health and wellbeing, delivering on climate change and enhancing nature across the National Park. The programme is on a larger scale than anything previously attempted in the UK and aims to inspire rural and urban communities throughout Scotland and beyond to take action and make a difference. Find out more here: [Cairngorms 2030 - Cairngorms National Park Authority](#)

What is the Transforming Transport project?

The Transforming Transport theme has been defined as: transforming the way people move around the National Park to reduce emissions, protect our natural heritage and improve health. This will be delivered through increased cycle and active travel provision, public travel initiatives and activities to change travel behaviours



What does active or public transport mean?

'Active transport' refers to travel that involves walking, cycling, using a wheelchair or other non-motorised transport like skateboards and scooters. 'Public transport' is for journeys made using buses and or railways. We are looking for projects that support travel options and choices within the National Park.

Must my project be located in the Cairngorms National Park?

All projects must predominantly benefit journeys between or within the National Park. Whilst we do want to encourage active and public transport choices for those travelling to and from the National Park, this fund only supports projects that apply to locations within the National Park boundary.

What will it fund?

The minimum grant amount is £1,000 with a maximum of £25,000 to fund projects that will impact how people travel around the National Park. Individual projects should be of a scale and level of ambition to have a significant impact and achieve long-term, transformational change to travel choice. All funding requests should include the total costs including non-recoverable VAT. Applicants will be required to submit a project budget setting out all other sources of funding for their project and the cash grant required to allow their project to proceed. Grants can be awarded for 100% of the total cost, though this may vary according to the individual project, the relevant project officer can offer further advice. Grants can only be used for new work, not for work already started before being awarded the grant. Applicants may be asked to demonstrate value for money where selection of suppliers or contractors uses an open and transparent process of gathering estimates and quotations such as the organisation's own procurement process, depending on the value of the grant. Advice can be provided on this.



How much is the fund worth?

The Transforming Transport grant programme has a fund of £170,000 to be distributed between March 2025 and March 2026. Funding requests should be the minimum amount required to allow your project to proceed and must include non-recoverable VAT. Grants can be used to fund up to 100% of eligible project costs depending on the nature of the project. For projects that do not meet the requirements of this programme, we have another grant available advice can be provided on a suitable alternative.

Application criteria

Applications will be assessed against three outcomes, and must meet at least one of these:

Outcome 1: Public transport is more accessible and better promoted.

Outcome 2: Enhanced active travel facilities improving the quality of user experience and enabling changes to travel choice.

Outcome 3: People are supported to change their travel behaviour to cycling, walking and or other non-motorised transport like skateboards and scooters.

All successful grant applicants will be required to submit regular progress reports to the Park Authority outlining progress with agreed outputs and updates on eligible expenditure. The applicant will also be required to report on the impact of their project and how it contributes to the outcomes of Cairngorms 2030. Frequency of reporting will be agreed in advance of accepting the grant offer through discussion with the relevant National Park Project Officer who will supply further information on what data will be required as this will vary according to the project. The applicant will be required to acknowledge that the project has been funded by Cairngorms 2030 and The National Heritage Lottery Fund on all publicity and promotional materials.



What are the key dates?

Submit an Expression of Interest from 10 February 2025. Applications will be invited and should be submitted by the deadline agreed with the transport team officer. The fund will remain open with regular funding round decision-making until the end of March 2026, with projects to be completed by December 2026.

When will funding be received if our application is successful?

All applicants will complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) which will confirm your general proposal in a short statement with outline details of your project. For grants up to £10,000 the EOI will be reviewed within two weeks of submission, and you will be invited to a support meeting to discuss before being sent a link to complete a full application.

Applications under £10,000 will be scored independently by an officer and recommended to an internal assessment panel with a minimum of three people including a representative of the transport team, Head of Cairngorms 2030 and Head of Visitor Services and Active Travel. Applications will be determined using scores to determine the outcome of the award subject to any conditions.

Applications over £10,000 will be scored and proposed to an additional decision-making board of partners including members of the Cairngorms National Park Authority Executive team with other representatives to widen participation in decision making. All decisions will be final and cannot be appealed.

For applications over £10,000 a series of quarterly submission deadlines and funding round closing dates will be published as above for larger grant requests between £10,001 and £25,000.

All applicants should complete the EOI and then take part in a support meeting one to one with a project officer to explore whether the proposal meets the aims and aspirations of the Cairngorms 2030 programme. Applicants who pass the EOI stage will



then be invited to complete a full application with more detailed information about the applicant's eligibility and the proposed project's outcomes.

Decisions to fund projects will be based on the availability of funding, how well the project matches the Fund priorities and its contribution to outcomes.

Ready to apply

You can fill out the Expression of Interest form here: [NEW EOI forms.url](#)

How to contact the fund

Transport@cairngorms.co.uk