Community Priorities Programme

Grant funding for community-led projects and initiatives

Information Pack for Local Area Panel Members 2024

Welcome

We appreciate your interest in becoming a part of the local area panel for the Community Priorities Programme (CPP). Thank you for your commitment to contributing to the betterment of our community. Your presence is crucial in our collective effort to enhance community priorities.

This information pack provides a summary of the roles & responsibilities of the Local Area Panels. Additionally, there is an enclosed application form should you wish to apply.

Best Wishes

The Community Priorities Team

An overview of the funding Programme

The Community Priorities Programme is a grants programme funded by Westminster City Council and coordinated by the council's Communities Department. It is all about strengthening communities in the borough, specifically in Queens Park, Westbourne, Church Street, Harrow Road, Maida Vale, Little Venice, Abbey Road, Lancaster Gate, Pimlico South, Vincent Square & St James's wards.

The programme was launched in 2022 as a pilot in North Westminster and only covered four Wards in the North: Church Street, Queen's Park, Harrow Road & Westbourne. Round One successfully funded 24 community-led organisations and individuals to deliver meaningful projects.

This year, it has been relaunched to additional wards in the South of the Borough where there are higher levels of need, resulting in 51 community-led projects being funded by the programme.

KEY CRITERIA

The current criteria of the programme and projects are:

- **Empowering young people** Residents feel strongly about young people being able to access opportunities that channel their energy, skills, and passions. It is an important part of young people's development, self-esteem, and future potential.

- **Enabling all adults to progress** Opportunities to train/retrain, be creative, learn and grow, should not be limited once you stop being a young person. Residents want to be able to boost their own progression for personal and/or professional life.

- **Building connections between people** Our residents really want to connect more with others both inside and outside of their communities. Some feel isolated, especially those who are elderly, those living with mental health issues, those who have experienced homelessness, and those facing other inequalities. Socialising and creating networks among and across different age groups, cultures and backgrounds is seen as

important to good community health and wellbeing.

- **Making places safe, sustainable, and welcoming** Feeling safe and happy in our local environment is important to a good quality of day-to-day living. We know from residents that feeling safe and happy is dependent on a range of factors, including (but not limited to) how well community members know each other, the levels of anti-social behaviour taking place locally, greenery, and street cleanliness.

We will review these criteria in February to ensure that they are still fit for purpose. Focus group sessions will be held with communities across the 11 Wards, to identify local priorities.

Our main aims are:

- To fund new projects/initiatives, or ongoing work, that is in line with our key criteria and put relationships and connections within communities at the centre of everything.
- To support and empower local groups, individuals, or grassroot organisations with project ideas, that wouldn't usually apply for grant funding.

- To fund individuals, groups or organisations that seek to benefit communities within one or more of the 11 key Wards.
- To create lasting relationships with project deliverers.

What are Local Area Panels?

Local Area Panels are dynamic, collaborative groups comprising of dedicated individuals from our communities, all driven by a shared passion for enhancing their local areas. Panel membership is diverse, including residents, Ward Councillors, representatives from Voluntary and Community Organisations, Tenant and Resident Associations, Community Champions, and young people.

What will you do?

The main role of the panel is to determine which community projects should receive funding from the Council under the Community Priorities Programme. Additionally, you will serve as the voice of the community, offering guidance and support in the design and coordination of community consultations and events in your local area.

How can you help?

We are actively seeking nominations for panel members who can contribute their skills and enthusiasm to positively impact their community. I encourage you to nominate other individuals whom you believe would be valuable additions to these panels. Nominate your legends!

Who can become a Panel Member?

Anyone who is a resident of Westminster can apply. You must be 16 years old or over to apply.

Panel members are selected based on the following criteria:

- Knowledge of the local neighbourhood.
- Interest in the general good of the community (rather than personal interests).
- Be able to attend meetings in person or online.
- A willingness to work with others and consider different points of view.
- Ability to think critically and use this to shortlist projects proposals.
- Being open, inclusive, and transparent.
- Being punctual and manage time well.

- Being sensitive and responsible with personal information, strictly not discussing applications outside of meetings and being aware of GDPR compliancy.
- Training and support will be provided to assist you in fulfilling your role effectively.

Conflict of Interest:

Note: Working Group members and any organisation that Working Group members are involved with (e.g. as a Trustee, paid employee or volunteer) can apply for Community Priorities funding while they are a working group member.

Members are expected to declare any potential conflicts of interest related to individual funding decisions before the meeting wherein they will be discussed, on the application form or as soon as the existence of a conflict becomes apparent.

In such cases, members must withdraw from reviewing that grant application. This does not exclude them from scoring other applications of the same type at the meeting, but it excludes them from being designated panel members at the meeting.

For more information about the Community Priorities Programme, please visit:

https://www.westminster.gov.uk/community-priorities-programme

An introduction to the team

Algina Kamara - Programme Manager

Email: akamara@westminster.gov.uk

Rashid Ahmed - Senior Community Development Officer

Email: rahmed1@westminster.gov.uk

Fahmida Yesmin - Senior Community Development Officer

Email: fyesmin1@westminster.gov.uk

Radeyah Abbas Saud – Senior Community Development officer

Email: rasaud@westminster.gov.uk

Important information

Application Deadline: 21st January 2024

Program Length: 2 years (July 2024 – July 2026)

Time Commitment: Time will vary according to the number of applications received.

Reward & Acknowledgement: Each panel member will be awarded gift vouchers for attending sessions. In total, we are asking for 15 hours of your time, and we will reimburse you with vouchers worth £200.

HOW TO APPLY

Take the first step towards becoming a CPP panel member by completing the application form below. Apply now!

The application deadline is 21st January 2024. You can apply online or complete and send the hard copy of the application form to us.

Please submit the completed application to communityprioritiesprogramme@westminster.gov.uk

Alternately, you can return the form at the following offices:

1. City Hall
2. 99 Church Street
3. Queens Park Library