GREENWICH NEIGHBOURHOOD GROWTH FUND

Funding Guidance
Thank you for your interest in the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund (GNGF). This information pack provides details of the selection criteria and application process. Please see the separate “Application Guidance” document for detailed guidance notes on each question of the application form. Please ensure that you read this guidance carefully as this will help you to provide all the information that we need to consider your application.

As part of the application process you are required to discuss your proposal with local Ward Councillors, who can talk through your ideas and provide additional guidance and support.

Please note that the payments terms of the GNGF grant are:

- 90% of funds to be provided upon signing of the Grant Level Agreement (i.e. before implementation); and
- 10% of funds to be provided upon successful completion of your project and submission of the Monitoring Form.

Please complete the online application and submit along with any necessary supporting documents, by 18 December 2019. PDF-based copies of the application form are available on request for those not wishing to complete online. A large print version of the application form and the Application Guide are also available on request.

We will seek to confirm the successful projects 28th February 2020, and have released the funds by 31st March 2020.

It is intended that Round 4 will be launched July 2020, with funding awarded November 2020. Relevant forms and guidance will continue to be made available on the website, for groups wishing to plan their proposals before the official launch date.

Support

If after reading this guidance you are unclear about whether your application meets the selection criteria, please contact the Growth fund Team:

📞 020 8921 4256
✉️ Growth-Fund@royalgreenwich.gov.uk
🌐 https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/growthfund

Metro GAVS are also available to offer advice on applications and can be contacted as follows:

📞 020 8305 5000
✉️ gavs@metrocharity.org.uk
🌐 https://www.greenwich-cvs.org.uk/
1. Introduction

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge collected by the Royal Borough of Greenwich (RBG) on liable development and paid by developers, which enables RBG to fund new infrastructure.

Since 6 April 2015, RBG charges CIL on any development taking place under planning permission which either creates a new dwelling or adds 100sqm or more of new floorspace. RBG’s CIL is charged at a rate per square metre, which varies according to the land use and location. The charging schedule can be found on the RBG website.

A portion of the CIL collected is made available to be spent on local priorities in consultation with the community; this is known as Neighbourhood CIL or the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund. The CIL regulations set out that this funding should be used for:

a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or
b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

2. Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund

In accordance with the regulations, 15% of the CIL collected within a neighbourhood is retained to be spent within that area, in consultation with local residents. The CIL Regulation states that, in areas where a Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted, the portion retained within that area increases to 25%. There are currently two designated Neighbourhood Forums/Areas in the Royal Borough: Lee (cross boundary with Lewisham) and Thamesmead Moorings. These areas/forums can prepare and adopts neighbourhood plans for their area. There are currently no adopted Neighbourhood Plans in the Royal Borough.

The purpose of Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund is to support projects that mitigate the impact of development in the local area. Preference will be given to proposals that provide new or improve existing items of infrastructure. The regulations also allow for the funding to be spent on “anything else concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area”, so services that have a community benefit and mitigate the impact of development will also be considered.

3. Neighbourhood Areas

For the purposes of collecting and allocating the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund, the borough has been divided into four neighbourhood areas. These areas are consistent with the Royal Borough’s engagement and consultation areas, and are large enough to ensure there is a sufficient quantum of neighbourhood funding to enable meaningful projects to be delivered, but small enough to be recognisable as the community area.
Neighbourhood CIL collected in a neighbourhood area is made available to be spent in that same neighbourhood area. In exceptional circumstances, where all proposals from that area have been considered and there remains a surplus of funds, the Council may decide to allocate these unspent funds to shortlisted projects in a different neighbourhood area, where there has been insufficient funding to support these projects.

In order for neighbourhood CIL to be allocated to projects in a different neighbourhood area, the proposals will need to demonstrate that they fully meet the selection criteria, and demonstrate a real benefit for the community.

**Figure 1.** Royal Greenwich neighbourhood areas

![Map of Royal Greenwich neighbourhood areas]

Applicants will need to obtain the endorsement for the relevant Ward Councillors, which are detailed in Table 1.

**Table 1. Ward councillors by neighbourhood area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Neighbourhood Area</th>
<th>Ward Name</th>
<th>Ward Councillors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Coldharbour &amp; New Eltham</td>
<td>John Hills, Roger Tester, Matt Hartley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eltham North</td>
<td>Charlie Davis, Linda Bird, Spencer Drury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eltham South</td>
<td>Matt Clare, Nigel Fletcher, Pat Greenwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eltham West</td>
<td>Bill Freeman, Miranda Williams, Mick Hayes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Middle Park and Sutcliffe</td>
<td>Christine May, Ian Hawking, Mark James</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shooters Hill</td>
<td>Chris Kirby, Danny Thorpe, Sarah Merrill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. **Available Funding**

The amount of funding available in each round is based on the amount of Community Infrastructure Levy collected in the previous financial year, plus any unspent funding from previous funding rounds. The amount collected is entirely driven by the amount of development that has taken place in an area.

The amount of funding available in each neighbourhood area is detailed on the GNGF webpage here: [https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/growthfund](https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/growthfund).

5. **Funding Criteria**

The Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund can be spent on anything that addresses the demand that development places on an area. Preference will be given to proposals that provide new or improve existing items of infrastructure. This might include infrastructure items such as the provision of community facilities, environmental improvements, new play equipment, or improvements to community buildings.

Proposals that provide services to support local residents (such as healthcare, education, crime reduction or employment) will also be considered, but must demonstrate how they address the impact of development in the area and provide a community benefit. There should be no on-going revenue implications to the Council.

Examples of successful projects from previous rounds are available on the GNGF webpage here: [https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/growthfund](https://www.royalgreenwich.gov.uk/growthfund).

Applicants must submit all the required documents for an application to be assessed. The Validation Stage assess application against the requirements below:

**Validation Requirements**

- A complete application form submitted online or emailed using the template form;
- Ward Councillor endorsement provided;
- Letters of approval from Freeholder/Owner of the building, land, or any other party that maintains assets/spaces;
- Full project budget submitted, with a minimum value of £5,000;
- Quotations for goods/services. For any goods/services less than £10,000 a single quotation is required. For goods/services between £10,000 and £20,000 two quotations are required, and for goods/services over £20,000 at least three quotation;
- Proposal submitted on behalf of, or in partnership with, a fully constituted group, which has more than two trustees and bank accounts with a minimum of two signatories.

You will be notified if your submission does not fulfil the validation requirements and will be given until the application window closing date to submit the required documents. If the required documents cannot be provided within the 12 week application period, we will not be able to consider your application within the current application round.

The below criteria will be used to assess applications that successfully pass the validation stage.

**Selection Criteria**

- Proposal clearly demonstrates how it addresses the impact of development
- Proposal benefits widest section of community
- Proposal does not have ongoing revenue implications for the council
- Proposal has a well-thought through project plan and is ready to be started
- Proposal is deemed to provide value for money

Applicants should note that proposals that include new or improvement to existing infrastructure will be prioritised over proposals primarily based on providing a service.

Applicants are encouraged to secure match funding from other organisation or in-kind match.

Applicants are also reminded that only 90% of the funding will be awarded initially with the final 10% released on project completion.
The allocation of the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund will be managed through an online application process. A PDF version of the form will also be available to those wishing to complete offline.

Applications will be invited on an annual basis, with each application round open for 12 weeks.

**Figure 2. Application process**

- **Applicants develop proposals and obtain Ward Councillors’ support before submitting proposal**
  - Applicants develop fully costed proposals, and provide evidence that the project has the support of all Ward Councillors in the ward where the proposal is to be implemented.

- **Applications are validated**
  - Officers review applications to ensure that all validation requirements are met. Applicants will be given the opportunity to provide any information missing by the application deadline.

- **Applications are shortlisted by officer-based Project Board against funding criteria**
  - Officer board recommends which projects should be shortlisted based on whether the proposal meets the funding criteria: are well-planned; are properly costed; represent value for money; and benefit the wider community.

- **Final shortlist decision taken at meeting chaired by the Leader**
  - Final shortlist decision taken at meeting with the Leader; Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources and Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Growth.

- **Shortlisted proposals subject to public vote**
  - Shortlisted proposals are subject to a two-week public consultation, whereby residents are invited to vote for their favourite project via an online system.

- **Final decision on successful projects**
  - Based on the outcome of the public vote and a final review of the proposals, a final decision is taken on which projects to award funding in a meeting with the Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources and Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Growth.

- **Review of unspent amounts to determine if projects in other areas can be support**
  - Any underspend will be considered at a meeting chaired by the Leader. This meeting will determine if any of the underspend in the neighbourhood areas can be allocated to projects in other neighbourhood areas.
## 7. Examples of Previously Funded Proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal Title</th>
<th>Proposal Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sensory Garden at Greenwich &amp; Bexley Community Hospice</td>
<td>Creation of a sensory garden for use of inpatients and their families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery Hill Park – Outdoor Hub</td>
<td>Creating an attractive, safe and inclusive outdoor space for the community to relax, play and freely associate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rathmore Hall Mosaic Bench Repair</td>
<td>Repair the mosaic benches, a community landmark, to provide a rest area in a space beset by commuter traffic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guard up Against Gangs (Boxing Empowerment Programme)</td>
<td>Create a twelve-week programme using boxing and fitness as a positive tool for change for young people at risk of joining gangs, or for those who are already involved in gang activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Crèche, Clock House Community Centre</td>
<td>Opening a full time crèche/ Stay and Play facilities to offer local vulnerable families an 'under one roof' programme of activities and services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovation of Winn's Common Playground</td>
<td>Renovations to the playground in order to create an area of fun and play for young people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reach Out 'Digital Inclusion' Project at Mycenae House</td>
<td>Expand the Café space by 50% to create a technology suite and include training programs to open access and support sessions for the community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackheath/Westcombe Autism Support Project</td>
<td>Upgrading equipment and furniture to better meet the needs of children and families with autism and other special educational needs.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A directory of successful projects is being developed and will be available on the GNGF webpage, providing full descriptions of projects and pictures of completed or on-going works.