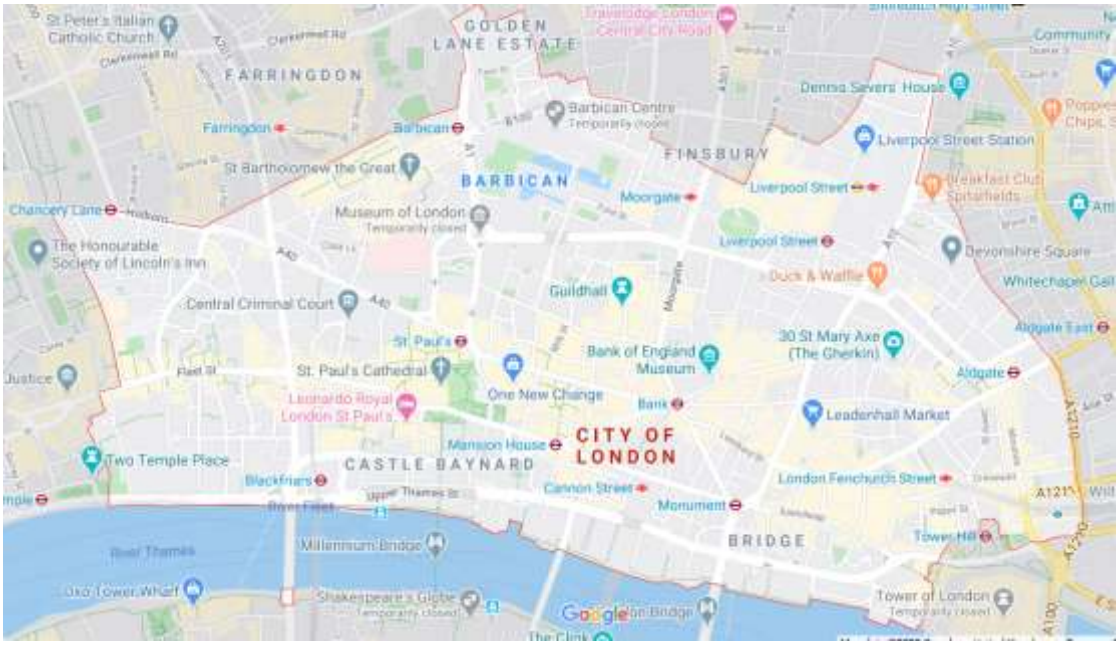
Stronger Communities

1. Geographical eligibility

Grants issued through the 'Stronger Communities' theme will be awarded to projects or services that are being delivered for the benefit of communities or beneficiaries:

i. Within the City of London (the Square Mile – see red boundary on the map below)



And / Or

ii. On City of London Corporation managed housing estates. A current list is available at: http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/housing/housing-estates/Pages/default.aspx

Please only apply to this programme if your project is directly targeting beneficiaries within one or more of the above geographical areas. Applications that do not meet these criteria will unfortunately be rejected.

2. Types of activity to be supported

The Stronger Communities funding theme has been separated into two sub-themes. Applications should fit one or both of these sub-themes:

- **Developing stronger neighbourhoods and communities**

This sub theme has been developed to actively support local community based projects within the City of London and its Housing estates across London. The projects you put forward should enable more people to become involved in their communities and encourage a broader understanding of the diverse needs of these communities. Projects may either promote a higher take up of existing projects or services or encourage new and innovative ones.

- **Promoting community health and wellbeing**

The activities supported through this sub theme should contribute to the health and wellbeing of communities and should be able to demonstrate positive outcomes that address the Health and Wellbeing priorities set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Details of which can be found on the City of London Corporation (CoLC) website).

3. Who can apply for a City of London Corporation Grant?

The CoLC Central Grants Programme is open to organisations that fall into one of the following categories:

- Registered charity
- Registered Community Interest Company
- Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation
- Charitable company (incorporated as a not-for-profit)
- Exempt or excepted charity
- Registered charitable industrial and provident society or charitable Cooperative (Bencom)
- Constituted voluntary organisation

Proposals that support individuals can be accepted under this theme. However, if you are an individual wanting to make an application, we ask that you apply for funding through a City-based constituted group or organisation, residents association or a charity who will be able to support and countersign your application and thus have "ownership" of the project.

Should you be a resident on one of the CoLC Housing Estates and would like to consider establishing a Residents Association (should there not be one already operating in your area), you should contact your local Estates Manager who will be able to provide you all the necessary advice and guidance on how to proceed. Their contact details can be found on the CoLC website.

Your local Council for Voluntary Service would be able to provide you advice and guidance in constituting any other type of organisation.

4. Opening Dates

Main Grants

Two grant rounds will take place each year. Grant dates will be advertised on the webpage. Deadlines are usually in November and April each year. Decisions will be made within 12 weeks of the application deadline.

Small Grants

A small grants scheme for grants of £3,000 or less will now run throughout the year on a rolling basis with no deadlines.

5. What is the minimum and maximum Grant that can be applied for?

The minimum grant award permitted will be £500, and the maximum £10,000 for projects that take place over a 12-month period. Grants of up to £20,000 will be considered in exceptional circumstances if the project takes place over a 2-year period. Exceptional grants will be those that demonstrate how greater funding over a longer period will make a demonstrable difference to the community they work with.

A small grant scheme is also available for grants of £3,000 or less.

6. How do you apply for a grant?

To apply for a CoLC grant you will need to complete either the small grant of standard online application form by the corresponding deadline and submit this electronically with your supporting documents to the CoLC Central Grants Unit.

You should send your application to us well before the stated deadline to allow us to process your application in time. We will only consider one application from your organisation at any one time.

All application forms should be completed through the online CoLC grants web portal. Application forms in large print, Braille or audio tape would be offered to applicants by special request.

7. How are applications assessed?

Once the CoLC has received your online application and all supporting documents it will be passed to one of the City Corporation's Grant Officers for assessment. As part of this process a Grants Officer may contact you for more information.

We will acknowledge receipt of your application within 10 working days of it being received. If your application is not complete it will be returned to you and you will have a further 10 working days to send us the missing information.

A Funding Officer may also arrange to visit or call your organisation as part of the assessment process. Once a full assessment has been completed your request will be referred to an appropriate Committee.

Main Grants

The timescale to process your application will vary; however, we will endeavour to ensure your application is assessed within 12 weeks of the closing date. You should take account of this when planning your project.

Small Grants

Small Grants will be assessed within 8 weeks of the application being submitted.

8. How do we monitor and evaluate grant recipients once an award has been made?

If we fund your project we will need you to complete an end of grant monitoring report to confirm how the grant has been spent and what you achieved. Please make sure that you keep receipts for all the items or services you buy with the grant and that you keep them somewhere safe as we may ask you to provide them.

We may also visit you to check how the grant has been spent.

Please keep us up to date if your project or any of your contact details change at any stage during the period of your grant.

9. If your grant application is successful

If your application is successful, an initial offer letter detailing the level of grant awarded will be issued. This may contain special conditions relating to the grant award or pre-agreement grant conditions.

Grant acceptance terms and conditions will be subsequently issued which should be signed and returned within 20 working days.

Once all documentation has been received and approved you would be asked to formally request payment of your grant award.

Note: You cannot start your project until we have received, checked and approved all information that we have requested.

10. If your grant application is unsuccessful

Due to the limited budget available and the number of applications for funding we receive, the CoLC unfortunately cannot provide funding to every applicant that applies for a grant. Grants are therefore issued on a discretionary basis, there is no appeal process and the decision of the CoLC is final.

11. Support with your application

We urge all applicants that are unsure about whether to submit an application to read all available eligibility criteria on our website and attend one of our Grant Officer led workshops; dates for which will be publicised on our website throughout the year.

If you have an enquiry that is not covered within the online guidance, please contact the City of London Central Grants Unit directly, who will be able provide answers to general queries regarding the application process.

12. Can you reapply for funding?

You may reapply for funding to deliver a continuation of the same project however; organisations cannot hold more than one of our grants at any one time

If you are a current grant holder, you will need to have satisfactorily met all our grant monitoring requirements before applying again.

13. What do we not fund?

Some things we are unable to pay for are shown below.

- activities that have already taken place or start before we confirm our grant
- any costs you incur when putting together your application
- fundraising activities for your organisation or others
- items that are purchased on behalf of another organisation
- loans or interest payments
- projects that actively promote religious or political activities
- purchase of alcohol

14. Further information

If you have questions about how to apply or about the status of an application, you can contact us on 020 7332 3712, email us at grants@cityoflondon.gov.uk, or visit our website www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/centralgrantsprogramme to find out more.