

Lower Thames Crossing Community Fund – Application Guidelines

These guidelines have been designed to support your application to the Lower Thames Crossing Community Fund.

The Lower Thames Crossing is a new road that will connect Essex and Kent via a tunnel under the River Thames. National Highways have established the **Lower Thames Crossing Community Fund** managed by ECF and Kent Community Foundation to support community organisations working to improve the lives of people in the areas impacted by this development.

Fund aims

ECF are managing the fund for community projects taking place north of the River Thames. If you are seeking funding for work taking place South of the River Thames, please visit the [Kent CF website](#).

The fund will support organisations and projects working to benefit residents in the below areas. These are the closest areas to the proposed route, where there is the greatest potential for impact. Eligible wards were identified using evidence from the Community Impacts Report submitted as part of the Development Consent Order process.

Thurrock

- Belhus
- Chadwell St Mary
- Chafford and North Stifford
- Corringham and Fobbing
- East Tilbury
- Little Thurrock Blackshots
- Little Thurrock Rectory
- Ockendon
- Orsett
- Stanford East and Corringham Town
- Stanford-le-Hope West
- Stifford Clays
- The Homesteads
- Tilbury St Chads
- West Thurrock and South Stifford

- Upminster
- Cranham
- Harold Wood

Brentwood

- Brizes, Stondon Massey & South Weald
- Herongate, Ingrave & West Horndon
- Warley

Havering

Your application must support work in one of the following priority areas:

- Supporting mental health and wellbeing
- Developing local skills and employment opportunities
- Bringing local communities together
- Community led environmental projects

Who / what can be funded

- Voluntary and community organisations, registered charities, social enterprises, not for profit organisations and parish councils.
- Core, project or small capital costs.
- You will also benefit from reading our help and guidance on [our website](#).

Who / what cannot be funded

- Projects or activities that are not for the benefit of local people in the areas detailed above.
- Large general appeals where the majority of funds have not been secured.
- The purchase of buildings or land.
- Political or exclusively religious activity.
- Services or projects that are the statutory duty of an organisation to provide as part of their usual operation.
- Projects that are inconsistent with local plans including neighbourhood plans.
- Retrospective work

Application Process

Grants of **up to £10,000** are available. If you're overall project costs are higher than what you are applying for, we will want to understand how the remaining costs are being funded.

We would be happy to talk through your funding needs before you submit an application. Please [book a call](#) with the Grants Team or call us on 01245 355947.

The deadline to apply for this funding is **30 March 2026, 5pm**. To apply, you will need to complete an online application form, which can be found [here](#).

If you have any difficulties with completing an online application, then please contact the grants team and we can arrange an alternative way to submit your application.

Final decisions will be shared with applicants in May 2026, following the panel meeting.

Supporting Documents

Alongside the application you will need to provide the following documents. If you have applied to ECF previously we may have some of these on file already, so only new or updated documents will need to be submitted.

- Governing Document
- Safeguarding Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Latest Annual Accounts
 - If your accounts are more than 12 months old we would request a more updated document. e.g. draft figures from the most recent financial year, up to date management accounts, a profit & loss report.
 - If your annual accounts are micro company accounts then we would ask you provide an income & expenditure /profit & loss report to help provide further detail.

- A bank statement that clearly shows the account name, account number and sort code, dated within three months.