

Notes and guidance when applying for Share The Joy Community Fund Round 6

- Deadline for applications: Wednesday 15th April
- Optional Q&A for applicants: Thursday 26th March, 5pm
- Q&A registrations: <https://tinyurl.com/STJ-QandA-R6>

The Share The Joy Community Fund is a partnership initiative from LCC and Lime with support from LOUD Mobility. The fund awards grants to projects that help encourage more people to cycle, so if you're a London-based community group, submit your application today.

All London-based cycling community groups can submit applications now. You can apply for funding to cover ongoing organisational costs such as existing activities, admin and staff (often called 'core costs'), project costs, or new equipment.

Most grants are awarded at £2500 but there a small number of grants available at £4000 for exceptional ideas.

For more information on the Share The Joy fund: lcc.org.uk/share-the-joy-fund/ & lcc.org.uk/share-the-joy-fund/terms-conditions/ for eligibility criteria etc.

Based on feedback from applicants we have made changes to the application form. Hopefully these changes make it easier to complete and give answers that support your application.

Word count:

Each of the main question boxes has a limit of 3000 characters, this is approximately 500 words per answer. There are several questions that give you an opportunity to tell us about yourselves and your plan. Although some of the questions are similar, they are designed to give you the best chance to sell you and your idea to us.

Awarding process:

1. The applications are scored individually by a panel of LCC staff. The combined scores of the LCC panel are used to create a shortlist. Typically, about half of the applications get shortlisted.
2. A second panel of four judges is formed, one individual from each organisation: LCC, Lime, Loud Mobility and a guest judge (typically from a local council, the NHS or similar)

3. The second panel individually scores the shortlisted applications
4. The panel meets to discuss and agree each of the shortlisted scores
5. Those applications with the highest scores are funded, going down the scores until the pot is spent
6. There is some due diligence before payments are made

Scoring criteria:

The judges are asked to score each application on four questions; each question has a score out of 5. The total score being out of 20. In addition, there is an eligibility question.

Eligibility questions:

- Is the project/activity in Greater London?
- Is the project/organisation eligible? (see terms and conditions, link at the bottom)

Scoring Questions – these are the questions the judges use to score the applications.

There are four questions that are scored (1, 2, 4, 6 below) and two questions that are to help guide the judges (3 and 5 below).

1. Essential Criteria 1 - Score out of 5: To what extent does the application meet at least one of the three objectives (Health and Wellbeing, Accessibility and Inclusion, Skills and connectivity)

2. Essential Criteria 2 - Score out of 5: To what extent does the application satisfy you that it encourages a specific group or community to cycle more?

3. Is a non-scoring question for guidance only: Project activity description or Organisation activity description: Have they indicated:

- What is the project/activity
- How will the project/activity be delivered
- Explained existing skills and resources or relationships possessed by the organisation/applicant
- If relevant, how STJ funded equipment will be used to encourage cycling and how the organisation will manage these resources

4. Using question 3 as a guide, and on your understanding of their application, score their project description or activity out of 5.

5. Is a non-scoring question for guidance only: Sustainability and deliverability: Have they satisfied the following aspects? (no score, for guidance)

- Project seems realistic and deliverable
- Quotes seem reasonable
- Is it realistic that the project can be sustained beyond the StJ funding (not essential)
- Is it likely the activity/project will be able to attract other funders to make it sustainable (not essential)

6. Based on your answer for Q5, your understanding of the application and your experience, score the deliverability and sustainability of the project/organisations planned activity out of 5

In addition to the scoring system above, we also try to award a reasonable balance of funds across the capital and across themes and communities.

Conflicts of interest

If a panel member has a conflict of interest, then they do not score the application and, depending on the nature of the conflict, may not take part in the conversation. This does not disadvantage the application because the average score is taken.

Exceptions

The panel are aware that many applicants are volunteers and may be applying for their first ever grant, with that in mind, we do not expect professional applications and may decide to make allowances or exceptions as appropriate when scoring, especially from groups under-represented in cycling or who face additional challenges.

Decisions and feedback

The decision of the panel is final and not open to appeal or challenge. We are not obliged to give feedback but will offer:

- Written feedback from the final panel for unsuccessful shortlisted applications. This will be one or two sentences.
- Written feedback from the LCC-panel for non-shortlisted applications. This will be one or two sentences.
- Opportunity for a conversation with a member of the administration team ahead of the next application round

How big is the pot for round 6 and how many applications do you expect?

The pot for round 6 is £70,000. This is our largest single pot so far. Typically, we get about 50-60 applications. We expect to award approximately 25 grants at £2500 and 2 or 3 at £4000. Subject to eligibility and due diligence.

I'm applying for my school, GP practice or NHS setting, am I eligible?

If you are applying on behalf a schools-based project or an NHS setting project, please attend the Q&A before applying as only certain types of projects in these settings will progress to the panel stage. If you can't attend the Q&A please contact sharethejoy@lcc.org.uk about eligibility for these settings. As a general rule of thumb, if your project is for - example - a school-based bikeability project, during school time, then you are very unlikely to get funded as other funding is available for those activities. Similarly, if it is a school or business (i.e. GP practice) capital expenditure project such as extra bike racks, then this is also very unlikely to get funded, but we may be able to point you in the direction of other grants so do get in touch.

However, if it is a schools or GP based cycling activity which is outside school hours and is community facing, then it is possible we will fund it and have funded similar projects in the past.

If you are not sure, get in touch or attend the Q&A (sharethejoy@lcc.org.uk)

Does my group need to be formally constituted as an organisation?

No, as long as you are a real group of individuals who are planning an activity together, then you are eligible.

I'm a small business or sole trader, can I apply?

Yes, you can apply, but, we won't fund anything that is promoting your business or your brand or is part of building your business. For example, if you are a bike shop and you need some new tools then you won't be funded.

But we might fund you if you want to do a free community service because of a local need that you have identified. We recognise that small businesses are often an important part of the cycling community. It's probably worth getting in touch before applying though. If you are not sure about eligibility, you could also team up with a local community group for your project. We like collaborations.

Need some ideas?

Check out our report from the first year of STJ to see what other people have done. There is a link to the report on this page - <https://lcc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Share-the-Joy-Annual-Report-Year-1.pdf>

More questions? Sharethejoy@lcc.org.uk

Terms and Conditions: lcc.org.uk/share-the-joy-fund/

Eligibility criteria: lcc.org.uk/share-the-joy-fund/terms-conditions/