



DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY COASTAL BENEFIT FUND

GUIDANCE AND CRITERIA 2025/26 ROUND 6

21 February 2024	Open for Applications
28 March 2025 (mid-day)	Application Deadline
by 15 April 2025	Compliance and Eligibility Checks Scoring Panel Scrutiny and Assessment Complete
22 April 2025	Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Committee determine allocations
April 2025 – 31 March 2026	Project delivery period

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FUND OBJECTIVE

The Dumfries and Galloway Coastal Benefit Fund has been established to invest funds from the region's allocation of net revenue from Scottish Crown Estate marine assets out to 12 nautical miles, to deliver direct benefit to coastal communities across Dumfries and Galloway.

CRITERIA

All applications must:

- be for projects which can **start within 3 months** of an award notice from the Coastal Benefit Fund (**by 1 August 2025**) and be concluded by **31 March 2026**.
- be for **new/added value projects** which demonstrate tangible benefits for coastal communities.
- **evidence support** from coastal communities for the project at time of application. (eg letters of support, community consultation etc).
- demonstrate its contribution to the [Principles and Outcomes from the Council Plan 2023-2028](#).
- demonstrate its contribution to supporting the '**blue economy**' through:
 - Environmental enhancement
 - Emissions reduction or removal of waste
 - Jobs
 - Tourism
 - Skills development
 - Diversification projects
 - Investment for community purpose
 - Climate change adaptation

ELIGIBILITY

Applications must:

- be received by noon on **28 March 2025**.
- detail the full eligible project costs which can include capital and/or revenue costs (see GENERAL EXCLUSIONS below).
- be for projects that **will start within 3 months** of a decision and be fully delivered and use the funding award by **31 March 2026**.
- directly benefit coastal communities.
- be submitted by the organisation which will incur the expenditure and be responsible for project delivery. **No third-party applications can be accepted**.

Dumfries and Galloway Council considers that coastal communities are those directly with a marine coastline or, where there is a river system, the extent to which is considered coastal is defined by using the Scottish Crown Estate Marine Assets map

<https://www.crownstatescotland.com/resources/map>

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In addition, eligibility extends to communities with an operating harbour with direct access to the sea. Applications will therefore only be accepted from within the following eligible Community Council boundaries:

- Auchencairn
- Borge
- Buittle Parish
- Caerlaverock
- Cairnryan
- Colvend & Southwick
- Cree Valley
- Cummertrees & Cummertrees West
- Dalbeattie
- Dundrennan
- Eastriggs, Dornock & Creca
- Garlieston
- Gatehouse of Fleet
- Gretna & Rigg
- Isle of Whithorn
- Kingholm Quay
- Kirkbean
- Kirkcolm
- Kirkmabreck
- Kirkmaiden
- Leswalt
- New Abbey
- Old Luce
- Port William
- Portpatrick
- Royal Burgh of Annan
- Royal Burgh of Kirkcudbright & District
- Ruthwell & Clarencefield
- Southernness
- Stoneykirk
- Stranraer
- Troqueer Landward
- Whithorn
- Wigtown & District

GENERAL EXCLUSIONS

Applications:

- **cannot** include ongoing running costs of an organisation.
- **cannot** include costs to cover existing salaries (additional hours are permitted).
- **cannot** include management fees.
- **cannot** include anything already committed to or paid for prior to a decision.
- **cannot** include in kind costs (as match or expenditure).
- **cannot** include any other Council sources of match funding (windfarm and UKSP funding is accepted)
- **will not** be accepted after the published deadline date.
- **cannot** be accepted from Organisations with outstanding monitoring or compliance issues for other Council managed funding.

WHO CAN APPLY

All applicants must be active in our Council's area and spend any agreed funding such that it benefits people in coastal communities in our Council's area.

Third Sector organisations/community groups require to have a signed constitution and appropriate governance and financial arrangements in place in line with Council guidance, with its own bank account.

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HOW MUCH CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

There are **two community funding streams** available.

SMALL Community-led projects for third sector organisations

Total available £125,528.03 – for projects seeking up to **£5k**

You can apply for up to **100%** of your total project costs from the Small Fund, however, match funding is encouraged, and the Scoring Framework is weighted to those seeking up to 80%

LARGE Community-led projects for third sector organisations

Total available £376,584.09 – for projects seeking up to **£50k**

You can apply for up to **100%** of your total project costs from the Large Fund, however, match funding is encouraged, and the Scoring Framework is weighted to those seeking up to 80%

In addition to the above community funding streams, **£215k** will support our Council to invest in our coastal paths and harbour infrastructure.

Applications will be assessed in the relevant funding stream and should any be underspent, the anticipated allocations above may be varied and the remaining balance of the Fund will be allocated as required, with Members of Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Committee making the final decision.

MATCH FUNDING

Whilst confirmation of any match funding is not required to submit an application, written evidence from funders who have been approached will be required before your project can begin and any award is released from this fund. All match funding **MUST** be in place within **3 months** of an award notice from the Coastal Benefit Fund. The level of match funding which can be confirmed as part of your application will have an impact on the scoring awarded to your application.

This does not apply to those requesting 100% from the Fund.

HELP AND SUPPORT

Searching for match funding opportunities which may be appropriate for your project can be done with the free funding search tool at www.funding.scot.

[Third Sector, Dumfries & Galloway](#), [Business Gateway](#) and [South of Scotland Enterprise](#) may also be able to assist you with advice and sources of funding.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Applications **must ensure** that any statements of support and match funding information has the formal approval of the organisations and/or individuals named in the application. This must be provided at the time of application.

If applications have not completed compliance checks by the time of the preparations for the Scoring Panel assessment and cannot be resolved by the time of the appropriate Committee meeting, the application will be withdrawn and not presented for consideration.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

There will be an interim (six months) and final (end of project) monitoring report required which will inform an annual report to the relevant Committee. The monitoring information sought will include the number of people who benefitted from the project/initiative and details of the expenditure incurred.

Consistent with normal practice, should your project not be completed or any funds not spent within the funding period or not used for the stated purpose you will be required to return these to our Council for reallocation.

All awards of more than £10k will be allocated a Project Monitoring Officer who will provide ongoing liaison support and monitoring throughout the project.

DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

On receipt of completed applications by **12 noon on 28 March 2025** there will be a compliance check of the application and supporting documents and then applications will be scored by a scoring panel using a Scoring Framework. No late applications will be accepted. Applications which have not cleared compliance checks by the time of the preparations for the appropriate Committee will be withdrawn.

The Scoring Panel will submit a report to the Education, Skills and Community Wellbeing Committee on **22 April 2025** with recommendations for awards. The awards are made at Members discretion.

If your funding application is successful, you will be required to sign an acceptance form to state that you accept our award conditions before we make any payment to you. Up to £10,000 of your award will ordinarily be paid on receipt of this acceptance, subject to agreement by the Lead Officer/Monitoring Officer and the final balance paid on submission of final monitoring.

SCORING FRAMEWORK

The Scoring Framework considers:

- Intervention Percentage Requested
- Evidence of confirmed match funding secured
- Fit with Dumfries and Galloway Council Principles and Outcomes
- Benefit to Coastal Communities and environment/net zero
- Evidence of impact
- Evidence of need
- Evidence of sustainability
- Evidence of community involvement in development/delivery of project

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CONTACT US

If you need help or have any questions, please contact your local Ward Officer in the first instance, you can find their contact details [HERE](#).

Alternatively, please contact:

Email: CoastalBenefitFund@dumgal.gov.uk

SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION FORM

Please email your completed form to:

GrantApplications@dumgal.gov.uk