

Blackwall Reach Trust - Grant Funding Policy

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Applies to: Blackwall Reach Trust (BRT)	BRT
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Our Vision

Our aim is to support the residents of the area commonly known as Blackwall Reach, East London, and specifically that part which has been subject to regeneration and has been renamed Blackwall Reach Development (the Community), in achieving its objectives, to identify its own needs, help meet those needs and enable residents to participate more fully in society.

Our Rationale

The Global pandemic of 2020/2021 prompted Trustees to consider how BRT funding could be used to better effect, within the community that it serves. The pandemic has highlighted significant issues including food poverty, financial exclusion, worklessness, Mental Health difficulty, isolation and loneliness, which have had a detrimental effect on the lives of local people.

This prompted the Board of Trustees to consider new ways to get financial assistance to individuals, groups and organisations that live and work locally. To this end several new funding pots, which make access to funding more accessible, have been developed, and these are set out in the criteria section below.

Criteria

We will only fund projects where to do so would be in furtherance of our charitable objects. Our focus will be to fund individuals and 'not for profit' voluntary and community sector groups and organisations, which operate from the geographical area of the Community and whose objectives are to deliver projects and activities which can demonstrate clear community benefit. There are several funding pots available, which each have their own funding limits and specific terms and conditions, as follows:

Give it a go Grant – Applications can be awarded up to a maximum of **£500**. This funding is available to individuals and there is no requirement to be a formally constituted body. The grant can be used to initiate new and innovative community projects, which help to meet a currently unmet need within the community and 'kick start' community activity.

Helping Hand Grant – Applications can be made up to a maximum of **£500**. This funding is specifically available to households claiming Universal Credit with children, to enable the participation in leisure or sporting activity, which supports the child(rens) personal development. Applications must be endorsed by a third party referral agency (see Guidance Notes for further information) prior to submission.

Grants to Organisations – Applications can be made up to the value of **£20,000**. This funding is available to fully constituted groups and organisations who wish to deliver community projects, which is needs based and clearly demonstrates a community benefit. This funding can support projects up to 1 Year in duration.

The 'Big' Project Fund – Applications can be made for amounts between **£20,001+** (for projects to 1 Year) up to **£50,000** (up to 2 years). Applicants must be fully constituted groups and organisations with a proven track record of project delivery and be more than 1 year old, with a set of full accounts available.

Full details on each of the funds pots available can be found in the full Guidance Notes shown at **Appendix 1**.

What type of applicants will not be eligible for funding?

Each of the funding pots highlighted above, can be accessed by different bodies as set out in the Guidance Notes, but specifically applications will not be considered from a:

- A Non Resident of the Blackwall Reach development
- A statutory agency or a health body;
- A commercial company, organisation or group, set up to make a profit.

Evaluation of Grant Applications

We will only process applications that fall within the above criteria and where the applicant has completed and signed the application form.

If the applicant is not eligible to be considered, we will notify the applicant and tell them the reason why their application cannot be processed.

We will assess at the outset whether the funding of the project would be in furtherance of our charitable objects. To be in furtherance of our charitable objects, the Board will consider whether the undertaking of the project will develop the capacity and skills of the members of the community, so that they are better able to meet their needs and to participate more fully in society.

We will need to be satisfied that the undertaking of the project provides opportunities for people to learn through experience – opportunities that would not otherwise be available to them and that it involves people in collective effort, so that they gain confidence in their own abilities and their ability to influence decisions that affect them.

If the application falls within the criteria, we will confirm receipt of their application and may at that time ask for any further information we consider may be required and will advise them that this does not restrict us from making further information requests.

We will consider the application against an overview of other projects we have funded.

If the application is unsuccessful, we will write to the applicant to explain the main reasons behind our decisions.

If successful, we will advise the applicant in writing to make our offer of the grant and set out any specific terms and conditions that apply to the grant to include, without limitation, provisions requiring that:

- funds can only be used for the purposes identified in the grant application and our confirmation of funding letter (to ensure the funds are used only in furtherance of our objects)
- any risks identified under our risk assessment are addressed
- suitable monitoring arrangements are in place
- we can withdraw from the funding if the trustees decide it is no longer in the best interests of the charity to support the project and requiring repayment in certain situations
- we can publicise our support of the project and include our logo on publicity or promotional literature.

Assessment of Applications

Project Assessment

The project must fall within the criteria as set out in the Guidance Notes, to be considered and in addition, we will generally give priority, but without restricting ourselves, to the following types of projects:

- projects which in our opinion tackle what the Community perceives to be the most important issues to be addressed.
- projects which involve or benefit the greatest number of people within the Community.
- projects which can be adopted by other individuals and organisations to widen the benefit.
- projects which provide a greater benefit for the amount of funding requested.
- projects which involve sustainability.

Due Diligence

We will undertake due diligence to assess the suitability of the applicant. This will assess, without limitation, the following:

- Identity - Is the applicant who they say they are and are they reliable and competent?
- Reputation - Are there any reputational risks to the Trust in being connected with the applicant?
- Ability to Deliver - Does the applicant have a track record of delivery for the type of project being considered?
- Funding Record - Has the applicant previously applied for funding and what was the outcome?
- Partnership Working - Circumstances and credibility of any part funding applications?

Risk Assessment

In addition, the project will be subject to a risk assessment proportional to the level of grant being considered. The areas to be considered include

- reputational
- financial
- ability to deliver

Each project will be considered on a case by case basis in relation to risk and the level of funds being considered.

Monitoring

The terms and conditions attached to a grant will include appropriate monitoring provisions to include:

- use of the funds for the sole purpose of furthering the objects
- assessing any risk areas identified during the evaluation process
- rights of access to personnel and financial records such as invoices, receipts etc.
- regular and robust reporting requirements

- rights to inspect project delivery during the delivery period

Right to withdraw

The standard terms and conditions attached to the funding will allow us to withdraw from continuing to fund projects, where it is no longer in the charity's best interests to do so. In addition there may be circumstances where the funds already provided must be repaid, for example, where the monitoring reveals failure to apply funds in accordance with the original purpose of funding. Termination provisions will be invoked where the applicant is insolvent.

Process outline where grant applications are successful

- Application submitted, together with supporting documentation, as necessary (Constitution or other governing document, Bank Statement, Annual Accounts, Insurance documents, DBS certificates and Policy documents)
- Notification of receipt of application and initial decision on funding to identify if the application falls within the agreed criteria
- Due diligence and risk assessment undertaken
- Final decision on funding and confirmation of funding and terms and conditions completed
Monitoring reports and case studies to highlight achievements, as specified

The BRT reserves the right to use data, facts and findings from monitoring reports and case studies in promoting the activities of the Trust in its publicity and promotional material and on its website.