**Town Centre Improvement funding – invitation for proposals**

The Lambeth 2030: Our Future, Our Lambeth plan captures our ambition to make Lambeth neighbourhoods fit for the future. We know that Brexit, COVID-19 and the resulting economic impacts have exacerbated London wide trends of growing inequality. Particular attention is needed to town centres in the south of the borough, such as Streatham and West Norwood. The loss of vibrancy on high streets in the south of the borough is also an issue that is impacting residents, with the most recent resident survey indicating that town centres are seen as less welcoming than in previous years.

We are inviting proposals for capital projects in Streatham, Tulse Hill and West Norwood that can foster a sense of local pride and support Lambeth’s diverse, locally rooted business and cultural base.

Projects should enable greater economic activity in town centres will be guided by recent strategic work, such as the Making High Streets Work programme and the Streatham Investment and Growth Strategy. All projects should speak to the needs of local stakeholders to deliver meaningful outcomes that support the community.

All project proposals should include a letter of support from at least one local ward councillor relevant to the location of the project.

Successful projects will receive grant funding provided through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which is part of the government’s levelling up agenda. Up to £250,000 is available per project although we anticipate funding some projects at a lower level of funding.

**Project themes**

Projects should deliver against one of the below UK Shared Prosperity Fund themes.

**Improvements to town centres & high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs, e.g.:**

* Public realm improvements, for example street art, street furniture or other decorative improvements
* Regenerating a town square or high street

**Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces, e.g.:**

* Development of a new park, particularly in areas with the least access to greenspace
* Development of a new community garden
* Urban tree planting
* Regeneration of existing parks or community gardens, or improving access to existing parks

**Enhancing existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer, e.g.:**

* The development, restoration or refurbishment of local natural, cultural and heritage assets and sites
* The delivery of outreach, engagement and participatory programmes

**Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities, e.g.:**

* Funding for maker spaces
* Funding for local art galleries/museums/libraries for exhibitions or other arts and culture focussed spaces
* Pop-up uses and cultural activation, drawing the borough’s uniquely varied arts, community and cultural landscape.

**Monitoring and reporting requirements**

Successful projects must use awarded funding for capital expenditure only to acquire, upgrade or alter physical assets. Projects that focus on operational costs are outside the scope of this funding, but legal or professional fees related to capital works are permitted.

Projects must be able to demonstrate delivery of contracted outputs by no later than **31st March 2025**.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund requires projects to deliver and report against certain outcomes and output. Further information on the output definitions and evidence requirements for projects can be [found online](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-09/UKSPF%20Output%20and%20Outcome%20evidence%20requirements%20V3.pdf). Please familiarise yourself with this guidance.

Projects will be subject to quarterly reporting until the end of the funding period. Failure to evidence outputs and outcomes by this date will result in funding being clawed back and returned to central government.

**Process**

Completed forms should be returned to Enterprise@lambeth.gov.uk by **5pm Friday 19th January 2024**. Forms received after this date will not be considered.

Following submission, your proposal will be reviewed and you will be notified of the outcome by 31st January 2024. If your proposal is successful, further checks on eligibility will be required in line with government guidance. Successful projects should expect their grant award by 31st March 2024.

We anticipate that this funding will be heavily oversubscribed. Assessment of projects and funding awards will consider the scale of outputs, alignment with the themes outlined above, track record of delivery and ability to deliver within the grant period. The geographical distribution of the overall funding we have available will also be taken into account.

Successful projects will be subject to a grant agreement for the duration of the grant period. Recipients will be required to pay back any funding if the grant is used for a purpose other than the project activities, is used for ineligible expenditure, or if outputs are not met.

Please contact Enterprise@lambeth.gov.uk with any queries relating to this process.

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| --- |
| **Background information** |
| Registered name of lead organisation |  |
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| Registered address of lead organisation |  |
|  |
| Contact email address of lead organisation |  |
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| Is this a partnership proposal? If so, please list the other organisations/groups in your partnership |  |
|  |
| Ward councillor engagement – please indicate which ward councillors are supportive of the application and attach a letter of support for the project proposal |  |
|  |
| **Project details** |
| Please detail the project idea(s) that you are seeking funding for, including:* Which of the themes outlined in the introduction section the project is aligned with
* Evidence of need for this support
* How the proposal will provide direct support to local communities and businesses
 |
| *Max 500 words* |
|  |
| How will your organisation’s previous experience enable you to deliver this programme successfully? Please describe your track record of delivering similar projects/services to the one you are applying for funding towards. |
| *Max 500 words.* |
| **Project outputs** |
| Projects must deliver against at least one theme highlighted in the introductory section. Each theme is associated with the delivery of different outputs. Please detail these outputs below under the relevant theme.  |
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| Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs |
| Number of commercial buildings completed or improved |  |
| Amount of commercial space completed or improved |  |
| Amount of public realm created or improved (in square metres) |  |
| Jobs created |  |
| Jobs safeguarded |  |
|  |
| Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces |
| Amount of green space created or improved (in square metres) |  |
| Number of trees planted |  |
| Increased visitor numbers |  |
| Increased use of cycleways or paths |  |
|  |
| Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer |
| Number of Tourism, Culture or heritage assets created or improved |  |
| Improved perceived/experienced accessibility |  |
| Improved perception of facilities/amenities |  |
|  |
| Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer |
| Number of local events or activities supported  |  |
| Number of volunteering opportunities supported  |  |
| Increased footfall  |  |
|  |
| Please describe any other economic outputs your proposal will support (for example, businesses supported, footfall generation, increased income etc.) |
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| **Project delivery** |  |
| What is the funding ask for the project? Please provide a detailed cost breakdown. |
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| What are the expected delivery timescales? Please outline key milestones. All projects must be able to demonstrate delivery of outputs before 31st March 2025. |
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| Does the project have any match funding? If so, please include the amount and source(s) of match. |
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| Are there any project dependencies, external requirements, or particular challenges that could hamper the project progressing? |
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| Please describe who will lead and be involved in the project leadership and management. |
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| Please describe how you will work in partnership with any other organisations involved in project delivery. |
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| How will you evaluate the success of the project and document learning? |
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| Please share any other relevant information not covered in previous sections. |
|  |

**Declaration**

In completing this application, you declare that:

* you are (or acting on behalf of) the lead organisation submitting this project proposal.
* the lead organisation is not in receipt of state funded support in excess of the business grant subsidy allowances under the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) with the EU under the Subsidy Control Act 2022.
* the lead organisation is not subject to insolvency, striking off or any administration proceedings or is an "undertaking in difficulty”.

Any information you provide through this service will be processed in line with Lambeth Council’s [Privacy Policy](https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/about-council/privacy-data-protection/privacy-notice).

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| Name: |  |
|  |  |
| Signature: |  |
|  |  |
| Role: |  |
|  |  |
| Date: |  |