

Herefordshire Rural Services Delivery Grant Scheme 2020/21

The delegated grants team offers grants to benefit the community, businesses and voluntary organisations.
Contact the team on 01432 260753 or email delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk.

Information Sheet

What is the Herefordshire Rural Services Delivery Grant Scheme?

This grant supports Community Transport and rural services in Herefordshire by making available funding for initiatives to improve access for rural residents and people with limited or no access to public transport and private car transport.

Types of projects that could be supported:

- New vehicles for community transport use
- Software to help plan journeys
- Schemes to support young people
- Initiatives to attract more volunteers
- Schemes which will feed into existing services
- Scheme which trial use of social media and smart technologies to increase access
- Brokerage – making greater use of vehicles available in the local community

We will also be interested in other innovative ideas which applicants can demonstrate will meet the criteria for the grant.

Who can apply?

The first round of applications was opened to the seven Herefordshire Community Transport operators on 1st March 2020.

- Ledbury Ring and Ride - 01531 635503
- Hereford Dial a Ride - 01432 277622
- Ross Area Transport - 01989 765595
- Dore Community Transport - 0845 2020144
- Hay & District Dial-a-Ride - 01497 821616
- Bromyard Community Transport - 01885 488452
- Community Wheels - 01568 615785

Town and Parish Councils, and formally constituted community and voluntary groups/organisations are now eligible to apply in the 2nd funding round. Applicants are encouraged to make contact with their local Community Transport group to discuss whether a joint or coordinated application would provide the best outcome. Contact details for the groups are shown above.

For further information or guidance please contact Adam Houchen, Process & Procurement Manager on 01432 261858 or email adam.houchen@herefordshire.gov.uk.

How will I know if our project is eligible?

Applicants will be required to demonstrate how their projects will meet the following objectives:

- Address an identified need relating to rural accessibility
- Add value to existing supported transport services;
- Reduce costs for other public sector services such as adult social care;
- Minimize environmental impacts;
- Once established will be viable without ongoing council contribution;
- Demonstrate partnership working;
- Will provide learning outputs to enable the council to share best practice and lessons learnt with other groups and communities.

How much can we apply for?

There are limited funds available, grants will be for a minimum of £5,000 and maximum of £30,000. Please note that this is a one off grant and cannot be used for any ongoing revenue implications such as maintenance, insurance, fuel, etc.

How do we apply?

You need to complete a simple application form which can be downloaded from the council's website at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/grants.

You can submit your application at any time, however, the last date for receiving round 2 applications for 2020/21 is **12 noon on 30th June 2020**. We will aim to make a decision within 4 weeks. Grants will be subject to the availability of funding as there is a limited amount.

What happens then?

After acknowledging receipt of your application, it will be considered by an independent panel made up of representatives which will include:

- Passenger transport team
- Local enterprise and resources team representative
- Facilitation and support will be provided by the delegated grants and programmes team.

Based on the information in your application, the panel can make one of four decisions:

- Offer a grant
- Offer a grant with some specific conditions
- Request further information from you to aid decision making
- Not approve the application, although reasons for not awarding funding will be provided

When can we start the project?

Similar to most other grant providers, if we make a grant offer to you, we will send you an offer letter setting out how much is offered, along with any specific conditions. If you are happy to accept the grant offer and associated conditions, you will need to sign and return the copy offer letter. Once you've sent this back, you can then start your project. You should keep all financial paperwork relating to your project, such as all invoices, receipts, cheque stubs and bank statements.

Successful applicants will be required to submit evidence of outputs and project impact through quarterly returns and a project evaluation report within 6 months of completion.

How is the grant paid?

The grant will only be released to you when you send the paid invoices related to your project together with your final report and evidence of achievements. You should bear in mind that you will need to pay the invoices first, before you claim the grant money. Invoices that are dated before the date of the offer letter will not be eligible, which is why your project should not start until you have accepted the offer.

If you fail to meet any of the conditions set out in our grant letter after we have released payment or your project is discontinued or fails to achieve its targets, we may request part or all of the funding to be returned.



Please help us to help future applicants, by telling us if you have any queries which aren't answered in this document.

If you would like help to understand this document or would like it in another format or language, please contact the delegated grants team at Herefordshire Council on 01432 260753 or delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk.