

BUILDING COMMUNITIES FUND

INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

Updated July 2025

Grant awards of up to £3,000 for Oct 2025 – Mar 2026

KEY INFORMATION

Deadline for applications: 12pm (midday) on Monday 4th August 2025.

The Building Communities Fund is a small grants fund dedicated to supporting community-focused projects in our local area (see maps at the end of this document). It offers grants of between £500 - £3,000 for projects that must take place between Oct 2025 and Mar 2026. This fund supports a range of community projects and services for Southwark residents of all ages.

Funding Themes

All activities we fund must help create a stronger sense of shared local community between local residents.

Within this, we are particularly interested in activities which:

- Provide opportunities to take part in **creative, arts, and activities for physical wellbeing**
- Provide opportunities for communities to **enjoy nature, and enhance their natural environment, or address sustainability needs**
- Improve access to **employment opportunities and/ or develop new skills.**

Requirements

In addition, your project/ activities must

- Have a positive impact on Southwark residents (minimum 70% of participants must live in the borough).
- Take place in the October 2025/ March 2026 financial year

Priority will be given to activities which:

- Target communities or groups with
 - high levels of deprivation and need
 - take place closest in proximity to London Bridge. We are less likely to fund activities taking place in the South of the Borough.
- Can demonstrate clear and substantial impact
- Offer good value for money
- Most closely match our funding themes

Priority will be given to organisations which:

- Can demonstrate a track record of delivering quality delivery of activities in the area of focus, or a clear ability to do so
- Are embedded in the community they serve
- Take an active and demonstrable approach to equality, diversity and inclusion. For example, the London Living Wage accreditation or other relevant platforms
- Would be less likely to source funding from larger charitable or statutory sources.

We encourage applications from organisations with a turnover less than £300,000 per annum, although in some cases we may fund larger organisations.

We particularly **welcome applications from majority black and minority ethnic groups, including BAME-led organisations.**

APPLICATION PROCESS

Please complete the application form and email it to us, together with your constitution and latest accounts. Email to sofia@teamlondonbridge.co.uk. Expect a confirmation by email within a week of submitting your application, if you don't hear back please call the office.

If you are unable to submit by email, you can also request an application form by calling us on 020 7407 4701. You can then complete the application by hand, and drop it off or post it to us at our address below.

Team London Bridge
8 Holyrood Street
London
SE1 2EL

You are welcome to call our office to ask for anything to be clarified before you submit the application, ask for Sofia the Responsible Business Director.

We encourage all applicants to approach Community Southwark, the local infrastructure support organisation for the voluntary and community sector for advice and support on completing applications for grants.

Please ensure you give us accurate contact details, it's the only way we can let you know whether your application has been successful.

FURTHER INFORMATION

WHAT IS TEAM LONDON BRIDGE?

Team London Bridge (TLB) is one of the 69 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in London and over 320 around the country. Working with our partners and 350+ business members, our vision is: *to make London Bridge one of the most safe, sustainable and compelling places for business and tourism in the world.*

Our activities can be broadly grouped under several service headings:

- Safety and Security
- Sustainability
- Street and Spaces
- Place Marketing and Promotion
- Social Impact
- Arts and Events

Our work with the community and voluntary sector

We recognise that the voluntary and community sector plays an essential role in the London Bridge community and its surrounding areas. We work with the sector to help build a more equal and supportive society, to connect and support groups of people in places they live, and to help build the thriving, lively culture that we believe is so important to the area. This work is particularly centred around our Social Impact ([Responsible Business programme](#)), which seeks to make London Bridge:

- A great place to work
- A sustainable business district
- A thriving community

OUR GRANTS

We know that local not-for-profit groups often need financial support to run activities that can help contribute to realise our shared vision, and our members want to ensure they can make a contribution to these vital areas of local support. We currently run two different funding streams supporting beneficiaries across the borough:

- **Building Communities Fund ([this fund](#))**
£500-3,000 for projects that must take place between 1 Oct 2025 and 31 Mar 2026. This fund supports a range of community projects and services for Southwark residents of all ages.

Deadline for applications: 12pm on 4th August 2025.

- **Building Bridges Fund ([not this fund](#))**
Up to £75,000 split over three years (June 2022 – Mar 2025), for projects and organisations with a substantial reach and impact.

The application process for this grant will re-open in 2026/27 financial year.

All Team London Bridge grant funding is made up of contributions from BID levies paid by [all businesses based in London Bridge](#). Without them, this fund would not be possible.

OUR APPROACH

Team London Bridge follows the principles of Open and Trusting Grant-making, developed by IVAR (the Institute for Voluntary Action Research). This includes being flexible, open about our processes, streamlined in how we work, and trusting grantees to make decisions about how best to deliver their work. You can find out more about these here:

<https://www.ivar.org.uk/flexible-funders/>

We offer more than financial support, and offer the opportunity for local VCS organisations to be part of our business network, with access to upskilling, training and events. Where we can, we also connect organisations with opportunities – from available resources and skilled volunteers to other funding and support in kind.

In return, we ask that you make a commitment during the life of the grant to ongoing communication with TLB, openness to forging long term relationships with businesses, and a once-a-year meeting with one or two representatives of the TLB Task Group.

Building Communities fund: How much is available?

Your group can apply for any amount from £500 to a maximum of £3,000.

This grant cannot usually be more than 50% of your organisation's annual income, based on the most recent set of accounts.

What can the money be used for?

Grants can be used for direct projects costs, equipment, salaries, and contributions towards core costs.

We will not fund the following:

- Academic research
- Individuals (eg. individual hardship grants)
- Projects that assist religious or political activities
- Projects run for individual or commercial benefit
- Contributions towards large-scale capital improvements
- One-off conferences or workshops

Who is eligible?

The Building Communities Fund is open to:

- Registered charities
- Tenants and Residents' Associations (TRAs)
- Other types of community group with an asset-lock

See the application form for a full list of applicable groups, and please contact us before applying if your type of organisation is not listed. We are unable to fund private enterprises.

As a minimum, your group must have a management committee, some form of written constitution and a dual signatory bank/building society account. (Please note that you will need to send us your constitution and latest accounts together with the filled in application form.)

We may ask you to provide us with up to date health and safety, safeguarding, public liability insurance or equal opportunities policies. You may be asked to confirm that people working with children and young people or vulnerable adults have undergone an enhanced DBS check.

Only one application may be made per organisation per year.

Support organisations/ fundholders

If you don't have the right level of governance, or your members are under 18, you can still apply, with the support of another organisation to hold the funds and take final responsibility for the project. For example, you may want to apply via your local TRA if you are a small informal group. This organisation will:

- Receive and disburse the small grant on behalf of the applicant group
- Seek all necessary legal and other approvals (health and safety, child protection, insurance and so on) which may be required to complete the project
- Undertake informal monitoring and support of the project from beginning to end
- Communicate any project problems to Team London Bridge
- Keep proper financial records and accounting (including receipts, invoices, etc)

If you think you need to apply by this route, please get in touch before you apply.

DECISION-MAKING

The Building Bridges Task Group will consider all applications and confirm whether applications have been successful by mid September 2025, and aim to announce successful applicants by 15th September.

The Task Group's decision is final. We endeavour to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications, although this is not always possible if we receive a very high number of applications/ requests.

The Building Bridges Task Group is responsible for the overseeing of all Team London Bridge grant funding, making the final decisions on applications. Task Group members are representatives from TLB member businesses, as well as local community stakeholders:

PwC
London Bridge City
Anthony Gold
Southwark Council
REM

Impact on Urban Health
Jacobs
Norton Rose Fulbright LLP
Team London Bridge
Local resident

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We recognise that extended monitoring and evaluation requirements take organisations away from their day to day work of delivering activities and support. We therefore ask only that you complete a very brief evaluation form at the end of your project setting out to what extent you were able to deliver the work as planned, and any evidence of success. We also ask that you send us pictures of your activities to help us publicise the work and its impact.

A member of Team London Bridge staff or a member of the Task Group will aim to visit each project at least once. This is an opportunity for us to meet you and understand a bit more about what you do, beyond what's in an application form.

GRANTS AND SPENDING

If you are successful, we will ask you when you will need the grant. We will usually pay the grant at the start of the quarter in which the activity begins. The grant must be used exclusively for the purpose for which it was awarded. We are open to discussions about changes to the use of the grant within reason, but please contact us in advance before making any significant changes.

In extraordinary circumstances or should there be a breach of our agreement, we reserve the right to ask for evidence of expenditure in the form of copies of all relevant receipts and invoices. We will request funds are returned if we believe funding has not been spent appropriately.

ACCEPTANCE PACK

Team London Bridge will send each successful applicant an acceptance pack, which includes:

- An acceptance form
- Team London Bridge logo for use on your promotional materials
- Details of how to claim the grant

The acceptance form will ask you to:

- Confirm the amount of grant requested and your bank account details
- Agree to keep evidence of spend
- Agree to fill in a project evaluation form when the project is completed

Groups working with a support organisation will require signatures from both groups.

Applicants (and their support groups) will be asked to contact Team London Bridge on completion of their project. Team London Bridge will then send out project evaluation forms (which will include a section for support organisations).

If you have any further questions about the application process, please contact Sofia Alexandrache, Responsible Business Director, via sofia@teamlondonbridge.co.uk



Figure 1: Team London Bridge BID area

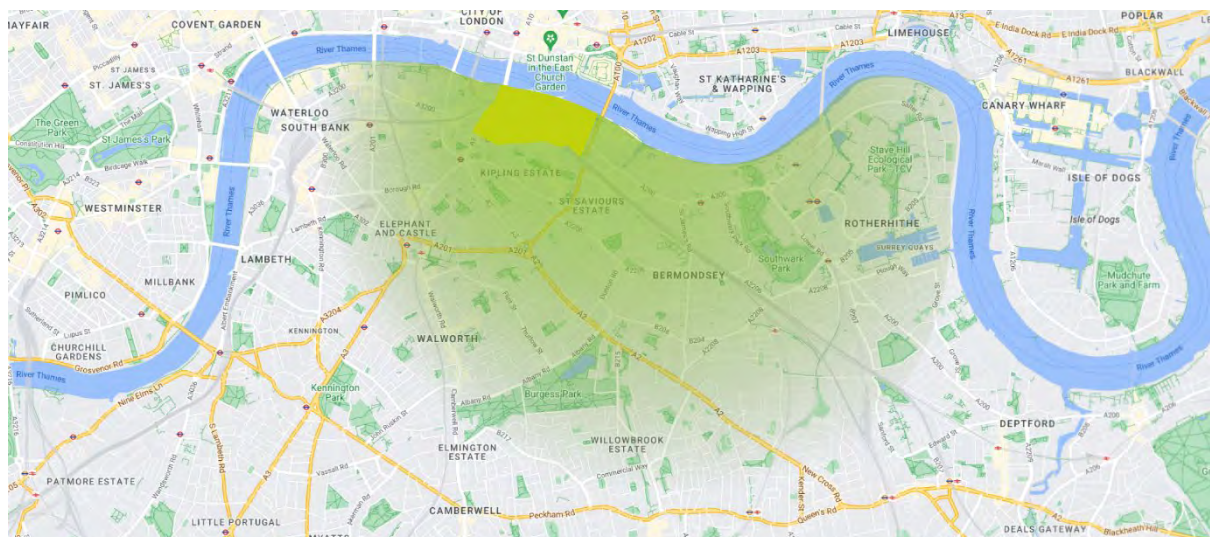
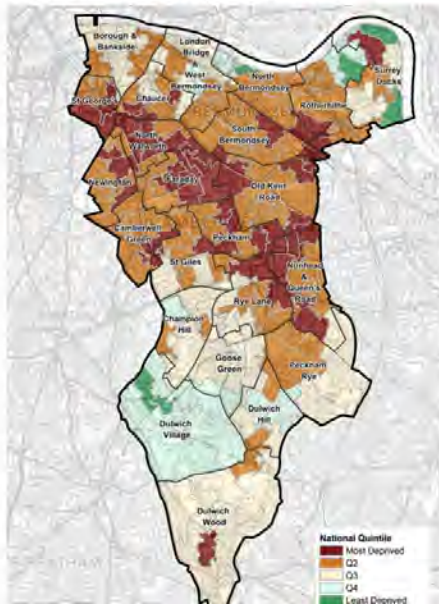


Figure 2: Local to Team London Bridge BID's area

SUMMARY

Figure 11: Indices of Deprivation 2019



The Indices of Deprivation 2019 is the official measure of relative deprivation in England.

- Southwark is ranked in the bottom quartile of local authorities on both the average rank (43rd) and average score (72nd) measures.
- Over a fifth of our residents live in communities ranked in the most deprived 20% in England.
- In contrast, only 2% live in communities ranked in the least deprived 20%.
- Like many London boroughs, Southwark has seen a large improvement in its' ranking relative to other local authorities since 2015.
- The borough's ranking has improved across six of the seven domains. However high levels of deprivation remain, particularly relating to barriers to housing and the outdoor environment.

Figure 3: Indices of Deprivation for Southwark, 2019, [access full document here](#).