

Community Regeneration Partnership Fund Community Transport Buses Open Call Grant 2025

Tendring District Council Funding Application Criteria

This project focuses on the delivery of increased community transport via the provision of 3 additional minibuses. Two of the buses are to provide local community transport and one to support the provision of transport for 10–18-year-olds facing personal and social challenges, enabling them to access alternative education and support services.

The provision of increased community transport sits in line with the Council's Our Vision (Corporate Plan) 2024-28. This project supports the following corporate priorities:

- Pride in our area and services to residents.
- Raising aspirations and creating opportunities.
- Working with partners to improve quality of life.

All organisations who are successful in gaining a grant, will be expected to report on their transport delivery progress on a regular basis, and provide vehicle purchase receipts within 28 days of receiving the funding award. Organisations who apply for funding will need to provide 2 minibus purchase quotes and clear outcomes built into their application.

Key Dates

18 th July 2025	Funding application deadline
July - August 2025	Funding panel allocations
September 2025	Purchase invoice deadline
31 st March 2026	Overall grant funding deadline
31 st March 2027	Reporting and monitoring deadline

Aims and Objectives of the Funding Programme

The key aims and objectives of this project are to enhance public transport by providing three additional minibuses. It also addresses transport challenges identified in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2029, particularly for coastal communities with poor interconnection. The project aims to combat social isolation and improve mental wellbeing by ensuring community connectedness and access to essential services.

Funded Projects are expected to:

1. Operate the minibuses efficiently, ensuring they meet the needs of local community transport and/or support 10–18 year-olds facing personal and social challenges.

2. Ensure their services align with the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-28 by fostering pride in the area, raising aspirations, and improving the quality of life for residents.
3. Focus on overcoming transport challenges identified in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2025-2029, by increasing transport availability in the Jaywick Sands, Clacton-on-Sea and Holland-on-Sea communities with poor interconnection.
4. Use the minibuses to help reduce social isolation and improve mental wellbeing by facilitating community connectedness and access to essential services.
5. Provide mobility-related adaptations where necessary to ensure equality of access for all service users, including those with disabilities.
6. Regularly monitor the impact of their services and report on key metrics to demonstrate how they are meeting the project's aims and objectives.
7. Adhere to the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and any other relevant regulations, by ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of allocated grant funds.

Funded Project outcomes

It is expected that funded activities will aim to address the following outcomes within the duration of the project period:

Please be aware that applicants should strive to achieve the outlined outcomes, but meeting all of them is not a requirement for consideration

1. Enhanced Public Transport: Increased availability of community transport.
2. One of the minibuses to support Vulnerable Youth: Improved access to alternative education and support services for 10–18-year-olds facing personal and social challenges.
3. Community Pride: Fostered pride in the area and improved services for residents.
4. Raised Aspirations: Created opportunities for residents.
5. Addressed Transport Challenges: Overcome transport issues in local communities with poor interconnection.
6. Reduced Social Isolation: Decreased social isolation by enabling community connectiveness and access to essential services.
7. Improved Mental Wellbeing: Enhanced mental health through increased social interaction and access to support services.
8. Accessibility: Ensure equal access to transport services for all users, including those with disabilities.
9. Community Engagement: Strengthened relationships with local organisations to collaboratively address transport issues.
10. Sustainability: Maintained and operated minibuses sustainably, ensuring long-term viability.
11. Innovation: Implemented innovative approaches to improve transport service efficiency.
12. User Feedback: Gathered feedback from service users to continuously improve transport services.
13. Volunteer Involvement: Encouraged volunteer participation in transport service operations.
14. Safety and Security: Ensured safety and security for passengers and drivers.
15. Promotion and Awareness: Increased awareness of transport services within the community.
16. Training and Development: Provided training for drivers and staff to ensure high-quality service delivery.
17. Environmental Considerations: Incorporated environmentally friendly practices in transport operations.
18. Compliance: Adhered to the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and other relevant regulations.
19. Economic Benefits: Generated social and economic benefits by combating loneliness and social isolation.
20. Independent Living: Supported independent living for individuals, including those with disabilities.

21. Access to Services: Facilitated access to work, health centres, hospital appointments, schools, and colleges.
22. Flexibility: Addressed different customer needs and demand patterns with adaptable transport services.
23. Monitoring and Reporting: Regularly assessed and reported on service impact and effectiveness.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Organisations in receipt of grant funding will be required to provide evidence of purchasing the minibus within 28 days of receiving the funds. Successful applicants will also be required, over a period of 3 years, to provide reporting and monitoring evidence which demonstrates how the funding has been spent and how this meets the criteria set out within the application.

Organisations will be required to provide a minimum of 3 years of recent financial evidence, to demonstrate the feasibility to maintaining the minibus going forward.

Who Can Apply?

Applications are invited from organisations or groups who already have an established community transport service, or organisations who endeavour to offer community transport as a new service.

Allocation of Funding

Successful projects will contribute to, and be able to demonstrate, impact against identified outcomes and should be evidence based. Funding decisions will be made by a panel. Funding will be released upon receipt of the signed offer letter and invoice for the purchase of the minibus. Projects and activities must demonstrate a reasonable level of implementation by 30th September 2025.

How will applications be reviewed?

All applications will be scored against the following criteria:

Pass/Fail Criteria

- ☐ Application must include evidence that demonstrates the organisation is financially able to maintain a minibus. This includes a copy of annual accounts or a budget forecast for the coming year.
- ☐ The minibus will service CRP2 area.
- ☐ Minibus will be operated by a qualified driver
- ☐ The published Terms & Conditions are otherwise adhered to
- ☐ Satisfactory responses to subsidy control section

Scored Questions:

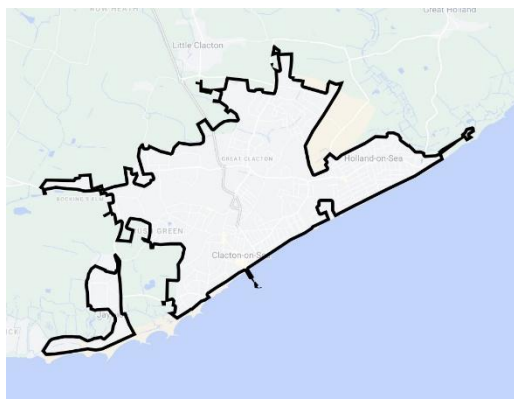
0	Wholly Unsatisfactory No response or the whole response is irrelevant to all of the question and evaluation criteria.
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1	Unsatisfactory The response only covers a minor element of the question and evaluation criteria and does not provide evidence to all points mentioned in the question
2	Partially Acceptable The response covers more than one element of the question and evaluation criteria but does not fully evidence all points mentioned in the question
3	Acceptable The response addresses the question provides sufficient evidence for all aspects of the question

1. Please provide a brief summary about your organisations purpose, core activities and use of a minibus.
2. If you were successful would your service provide community transport to support the provision of work, health centres, hospital appointments, schools and colleges, including adult education.
3. Do you currently provide essential transport services for youth aged between 10-18? If no, is this something you endeavour to provide?

Grants are awarded subject to the following Standard Terms & Conditions:

1. The grant is for a fixed term and the purchase of the minibus must be completed by 31st March 2026. You are required to provide proof of purchase within 28 days of receiving funding.
2. Grants must only be used toward the purchase of a community minibus. Any related expenditure must be funded by the applicant or other sources.
3. Any grant funded activities must conform to any relevant licensing or permit restrictions and these must be in place prior to the activity being carried out.
4. The minibus must service Clacton-on-Sea, Holland-on-Sea and Jaywick Sands, being the identified area for Community Regeneration Partnership funding, as demonstrated in the map below:



5. Any deviations to the original plan submitted for approval must be sent to the Council for further consideration. Grants will not be increased but may be reduced if costs change.
6. As a successful recipient of funds, you will be required to provide evidence of the project's progress upon request, and monitoring data as required for reporting purposes. Tendring District Council has a responsibility to report on each project's progress, expenditure, and contribution to the agreed outputs/outcomes.
7. Grant funding will be paid in full to your organisation at the amount outlined in the Grant Offer Letter and on receipt of the relevant minibus purchase invoice, within 28 days to the stated organisations bank account.
8. Any project must not involve or in any way be connected with:
 - Nude/semi-nude modelling
 - Gambling
 - Offering sexual services of any kind
 - Pornography
 - The promotion of particular religious or political views
 - Any illegal activity
 - Any other activity that TDC has indicated that it does not regard as suitable for support from public funds
9. Any promotional materials or social media produced must include the phrase "This project is [funded/part-funded] by the UK Government" and any questions regarding branding and logos should be directed to projectdeliveryunit@tendringdc.gov.uk in the first instance.
10. The recipient shall keep separate, accurate and up-to-date accounts and records of the receipt and expenditure of the grant monies received by it including all invoices and receipts relating to the expenditure of the grant for a period of at least three (3) years following receipt of any Grant monies to which they relate and shall permit the Council upon request to review and take copies of such accounts and records.
11. By accepting the funds provided, the recipient agrees to provide the Council with updates on progress upon request. The Council would also welcome, where possible, anonymised case studies and photographs. The Council has an obligation to report the spend and impact of its allocation back to Central Government, and so any requests for information must be met in a timely manner. By arrangement, the Council reserves the right to visit the project to see the work first hand in order to gain a fuller understanding of the work taking place and its impact.
12. Tendring District Council reserves the right to publicise and promote these grants in any way; this could include press releases, photography, printed material, website, social media, or any other appropriate means, and/or to process any requests for information which the Council has a legal obligation to comply with.
13. If, at any stage, funding is found to have been misspent, deviated from the original application without agreement in writing as per (5), or otherwise misused, the grant in part or in full will be subject to repayment/clawback arrangements.

14. Should match funding be required to cover extra costs related to the purchase of the minibus, this is the responsibility of the applicant to arrange.

**For further information please contact the Project Delivery Unit at
projectdeliveryunit@tendringdc.gov.uk**