



Community Fund Application

GUIDANCE NOTES: September 2026 Round

1. Background

The Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) current Police and Crime Plan (2024-2029) focuses on three key pillars:

- Protecting Communities
- Protecting People
- Protecting Property.

The full Police and Crime Plan is available here: <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan/>

The Community Fund provides an opportunity for not-for-profit organisations across the Thames Valley to apply for grants for projects that support one or more of the PCC's 'Police and Crime Plan' priorities.

Generally, two rounds are held per year. The fund is jointly managed by the PCC and the Chief Constable and helps to prevent crime and keep communities safe. Money for the scheme is obtained from the sale of items seized from criminals that cannot be returned to their rightful owners.

The September 2026 round opens for applications on Monday 8 September 2026. The deadline for completed application forms is: **12pm (noon) on Monday 28 September 2026**. Any applications that are received after this deadline will not be considered.

We will consider funding requests up to a total value of **£10,000**.

Applications will be reviewed against the eligibility and evaluation criteria set out below, and appropriate due diligence by OPCC officers. Shortlisted applications will then be presented to a Judging Panel chaired by the PCC and the decision on final awards approved by the Chief Constable.

2. Requirements

The Community Fund has strict eligibility criteria and organisations applying must be able to confirm in their application form that their organisation and project proposals meet the following eligibility criteria. If any or all eligibility criteria are not met, then your application will be rejected.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Your organisation MUST be designated as not for profit.** The OPCC cannot fund organisations who are ‘for profit’ businesses, or in other words one that sells products and services where the surplus revenues after tax, debts and other liabilities are covered, are distributed to shareholders or reinvested to grow the business. Examples would be companies limited by share capital, public limited companies, commercial organisations, and community owned companies such as village shops and public houses. Organisations applying to the fund must be not-for-profit, and examples are social enterprises, community interest companies, charities, and town and parish councils. You can check with the OPCC prior to starting an application.
- **Your project MUST take place or be delivered within the Thames Valley Policing Area.** The OPCC cannot fund any projects, or part of a project that is taking place or being delivered exclusively to places outside of the Thames Valley policing area. If your project is being delivered in the Thames Valley but is also being delivered in other parts of the UK, then you must make this clear in your application and clearly identify the aspects that relate to Thames Valley including the cost elements. Your application WILL be rejected if this is not set out clearly. As a general guide, the Thames Valley policing area comprises the entire counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire including the city of Milton Keynes, and Oxfordshire including the city of Oxford.
- **Your organisation must NOT have had a successful Community Fund grant award within the last 12 months.** If your organisation was successfully awarded a grant in the February 2026 round, it will not be eligible for further funding until a full 12 calendar months has passed from that award. To clarify, if your organisation was awarded a grant in the September 2025 round, or any previous rounds of the Community Fund prior to that one, it will be eligible providing it meets all the other criteria. If your organisation has submitted applications to any previous rounds, including February 2026, and the application was rejected, then you can apply to this September 2026 round.
- **Your organisation must have its own bank account.** Grant payments to the successful projects will be paid directly into the organisation’s bank account, which must be in the organisation’s name. The details of the bank account – sort code, account number and account name, are mandatory requirements on the application form. Personal accounts of people who work for or are Trustees of the organisation etc. must not be used, neither can we pay a third party organisation on behalf of your organisation.

3. Grant application Form Guidance

The OPCC will **only** accept online applications via the SUMS portal. Access to the SUMS portal will be via a link on the Community Fund page of the OPCC website. This will be made live when the application window opens.

The application window is three weeks – Monday 8 September to Monday 28 September. You are advised to check and assure yourself that you can obtain all required details and information within that period before starting an application.

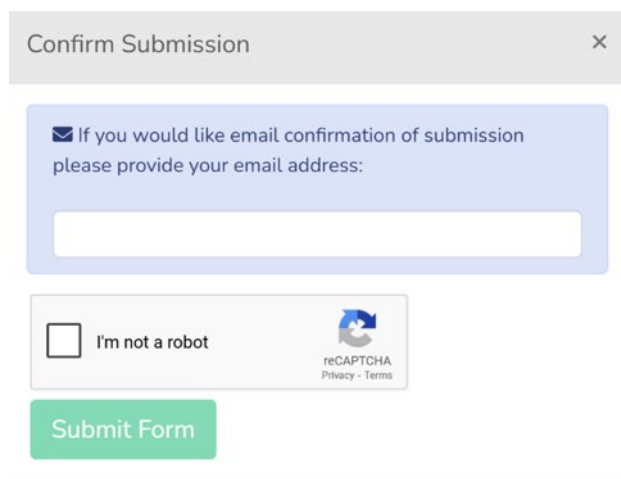
The application form is divided into several sections each with specific questions. Most questions on the application form are mandatory, or in other words must be answered with relevant information about your organisation and your project.

It's important that you follow any help pointers, denoted by a ? mark in a black circle next to individual questions. These contain specific guidelines on how to answer a particular question. The online application has a facility for you to save your application as you work on it and return to complete it further as many times as you need up to the deadline. Follow the instructions carefully on the screen when saving so you don't run the risk of losing any work.

Although you can save an application form and go back to it multiple times, you won't be able to submit a completed application form until **all** the mandatory fields are filled in. Please keep this in mind if you need information from other people to complete your application. The OPCC will **NOT** accept any applications, completed or part complete, after the deadline has passed.

The deadline for applications **WILL NOT** be extended in any circumstances. However, the OPCC reserves the right to extend the evaluation and awarding timeframes, or this round's process altogether should situations beyond its control emerge that would require it to reprioritise resources to respond to that situation. In the event of such occurrences, the OPCC will not be liable for any costs or expenses incurred by any applying organisation to the fund.

You can receive notification to your e-mail address to confirm your completed application has been submitted. You will be prompted by the following box on your screen



Please ensure you have entered your e-mail address correctly before clicking the submit button.

The application form can be saved to your own computer. It's highly recommended that you do this, which is available via your print/save facility as a pdf document and saving to your PC's drive etc.

The Community Fund is very popular and has a limited amount of funding available in each round. All applications that meet the eligibility criteria are then evaluated and assessed to produce the shortlist for the Judging Panel. It's critical that your application is clear and concise and the following pointers are provided to help with this:-

- A clear and concise description of the project.
- Detailed costs associated with the delivery of the project or the service.

- Evidence of the need for the project or service with references to consultations, needs assessments or surveys etc.
- Defined and clear links for how the project or service aligns to the Police and Crime Plan and contributes to its outcomes.
- Good working links and connections with local partnerships including Thames Valley Police, local councils and others.

a) Application contact details

As with any funding application, we require a single point of contact within your organisation as someone we can contact via email or telephone should we require further information relating to the application. That may be the person completing the application, or somebody else within the organisation.

b) Your Organisation's Details

The Community Fund can only support projects, or elements of projects taking place within the Thames Valley. However, it may be that your organisation's head office or office location is based outside the Thames Valley Police (TVP) area. You must clearly identify this in your application if this applies to your project.

Most applications for the Community Fund are received from community and voluntary organisations, not-for-profit companies limited by guarantee, or Social Enterprises but the fund is not limited to these. You will be asked on the application form to select the option which best describes your organisation. If your organisation has a registration number, or charity number, there is space on the application to include that.

While we will not ask for details or supporting documentation, we do require confirmation that your organisation has appropriate safeguarding and data protection policies and procedures in place.

c) Funding

Both the PCC and TVP operate several grant schemes. As mentioned previously, the eligibility criteria require applying organisations to confirm they have **NOT** received funding from the Community Fund in the last 12 months. To avoid duplicate funding, we also ask that you provide information relating to any other funding received from Thames Valley Police or the Police & Crime Commissioner in the last 3 years

In this section, you must provide details on how, if successful, the grant money will be spent. Most applications are to fund a specific project or to support the organisation's running costs, but funding is not restricted to these.

While we would like to approve all appropriate applications, the available funding for each round is always limited and we receive more applications than we can fund. As an example, we received over 280 applications in the last round - February 2026. To help make the investment go as far as possible, we regularly offer a lower amount of funding requested. Where this is the case, we need to be sure that the reduced funding offered will still have an impact and not compromise the deliverability of a project. It's often the case that the remaining funding could be secured from another source, or the scale of the project and your objectives adjusted accordingly. You are also

permitted to decline the grant funding offer should it be lower than the amount requested if you do not feel that you will be able to deliver your intended objectives.

d) Purpose

Description of the work you plan to undertake: We need to understand the problem you aim to address or the opportunity you have identified, together with some details of how you aim to deliver this change. In addition, we have provided a range of possible deliverables and populations you propose delivering to. These lists are not exhaustive and there is an option to select 'other' and provide appropriate information.

This fund is an opportunity for community and voluntary groups to get involved and assist both the PCC and TVP in tackling and reducing crime. The Police and Crime Plan details the PCC's priorities for addressing crime and we ask that you identify which aspect of the plan your proposal would support.

e) Deliverables and outcomes

Identify outputs / products expected to be delivered (e.g. number of sessions, length of intervention, number of clients, referrals etc.) through the work and activities proposed.

Where possible we would like data supporting these deliverables and an understanding of how this would support the identified Police and Crime Plan priority.

We are aware that not all projects / work will allow the collection of data, but it is preferred. Where data cannot be collected, we need to understand how you will evidence success.

It should be noted that we will require a short project close report. It is critical that you measure successful delivery of your project against clear outcomes for its beneficiaries. Typical outcomes could include reduced incidents of anti-social behaviour; or increased confidence in reporting vandalism and damage. You could gather testimonials, data and visuals to support this. The project closedown report allows us to assess impact, but it also gives us an opportunity to celebrate your success and communicate with a wider audience.

f) Additional Supporting information

This is not mandatory but if you have existing working relationships and partnership arrangements with Thames Valley Police or local Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs), space on the form is available to provide details etc.

Notes

Presentation Event

Successful applicants to each round of the Community Fund are invited to attend a presentation event, hosted by Matthew Barber (Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley) and Jason Hogg (Chief Constable, Thames Valley Police).

Alongside the PCC and Chief Constable, several previously successful applicants are invited to share a short presentation on how the Community Fund has supported them. Also invited to attend are the county High Sheriffs and Lord Lieutenants from across Thames Valley, and representatives of the judiciary.

The presentation event for this round of the Community Fund is scheduled for the morning of Thursday 26 November 2026 in Milton Keynes, venue to be confirmed.

You can find out more about our previous presentation events on [our dedicated webpage](#).

Project Evaluation

All funded projects will be required to complete an evaluation that we will send you in due course. This does not need to be completed until the project, or funded position concludes which will be no later than 30 September 2027. The purpose of the evaluation is to see how projects are contributing to the Police and Crime Plan; gather a good evidence base of projects taking place across the Thames Valley and promote good practice. Evaluation is an important part of the process. Successful organisations are expected to provide end-of-project reports. The OPCC will provide the template forms for this, and although it will not pursue late or no submissions, the lack of an end-of-project report might impede an organisation's eligibility for future funding.

Office of the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner