

LYLE'S LOCAL FUND

2026/27 GRANT BROCHURE

Funding local ideas that help make Newham safer, healthier and more prosperous.



AT A GLANCE

The 2026/27 round has a total fund of £50,000, with grants of up to £5,000 available; applications open on Tuesday 22 September 2026 and close on Sunday 25 October 2026 at 11.00pm.

The Lyle's Local Fund is financed by Tate & Lyle Sugars and administered in partnership with the London Borough of Newham. It supports not-for-profit organisations with practical, community-led projects that benefit Newham residents.

This brochure explains who can apply, the type of projects the fund is looking for, how to prepare a strong application and the planned timetable for decisions and payment.

1. Tate & Lyle's track record of local investment

£300,000+

awarded to Newham community projects since 2017

117

community projects supported

£50,000

available in the 2026/27 round

UP TO £5,000

available for each successful project

2. What last year's funded projects achieved

The 2025/26 projects show the range of ideas the fund can support. Strong applications should identify a clear local need, realistic delivery and outcomes that can be evidenced.

NATURE AND CHILDREN

10 Forest School sessions delivered, with 10 more planned.

Curious by Nature London CIC | £5,000

YOUNG PEOPLE AND CULTURE

A six-day international tour and three public concerts developed skills, confidence and teamwork.

Newham Music | £5,000

CARE-EXPERIENCED YOUNG PEOPLE

Two young people co-designed and improved empty properties as safe, personalised homes.

Setup4life | £5,000

HERITAGE AND COMMUNITY

Walks, workshops, tours and learning resources connected residents with Newham's sugar heritage.

NACHRG | £4,950

WELLBEING AND CONNECTION Choir singing and chair-based yoga supported people in the early stages of dementia and carers. Bonny Downs Community Association £5,000	WOMEN'S SUPPORT A weekly women-only space offered casework, practical support and trauma-informed activities. NEWway Project £4,901.92
BUS LIBRARY FOR SCHOOL Transform a donated bus into a school 'bus library', addressing school's lack of library. Park Primary School £5,000	SOULFUL CONNECTIONS Focusing on health and wellbeing through music, therapy, exercise, and workshops for stroke survivors Newham Stroke Club £4,922.50
EARLY YEARS AND FAMILY SUPPORT Provided nurturing support for parents and carers, helping families through the early years. Serene Beginnings funded project £5,000	COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND INCLUSION Community activity that brought residents together, strengthened local connections and wellbeing. Vipon funded project £5,000

3. Key dates and applicant support

STAGE	DATE
Applications open	Tuesday 22 September 2026
Online Grant Surgery	Tuesday 29 September 2026, 6.00pm to 7.30pm MS Teams Register here
In-person Grant Surgery	Wednesday 7 October 2026, 2.00pm to 4.00pm Stratford Library, Hopkins Room Register here
Applications deadline	Sunday 25 October 2026 at 11.00pm
Council checks and scoring	4 to 15 November 2026
Tate & Lyle Sugars employee panel	16 to 27 November 2026
Outcome communications	Week beginning 7 December 2026
Agreements and payments	Week beginning 14 December 2026

Use the Grant Surgeries

We strongly encourage all applicants to attend a Grant Surgery before submitting their application. These sessions are an important opportunity to ask questions, test your project idea, check eligibility, strengthen your outcomes and budget, and make sure your application is as clear and competitive as possible. Booking is required.

4. How applications will be scored

Applications will be assessed using the scoring criteria below and a final panel decision. Eligible applications will be scored against six criteria. Each criteria carries a maximum of 4 marks, and a minimum threshold of 16 marks will be required to be considered for funding. Meeting the scoring threshold does not guarantee funding, as final decisions will also consider available budget, due diligence and panel moderation. All applicants are welcome to request feedback.

Criterion	What scorers will look for	Available mark
1. Highlights key aspects and sets out aim of the project	A strong answer clearly explains what the project will do, why it is needed, who it will support and what it is trying to achieve. Scorers will look for a focused project aim rather than a broad or general description.	4
2. Quality and feasibility of proposed activities	A strong answer sets out realistic activities, timescales, staffing, venues, materials and delivery arrangements. Scorers will look for evidence that the organisation can deliver the project safely, on time and to a good standard.	4
3. Identifies benefits/impacts the project will make to the local community	A strong answer explains the difference the project will make for Newham residents, with clear benefits, likely numbers reached and community outcomes. Scorers will look for impact that is specific, realistic and linked to local need.	4
4. Project is good value for money	A strong answer provides a clear, proportionate budget that matches the proposed activities. Scorers will look for reasonable costs, good use of grant funding and a clear explanation of how each cost supports delivery and outcomes.	4
5. Appropriate monitoring and feedback provisions	A strong answer explains how the organisation will track attendance, gather feedback, monitor progress and evidence outcomes. Scorers will look for simple and practical ways to show what was delivered and what changed for participants.	4
6. Innovation of proposed activity	A strong answer shows what is new, creative or different about the activity, or how it builds on past learning in a fresh way. Scorers will look for ideas that respond to local needs and offer added value beyond usual delivery.	4

5. Who can apply

The fund is intended for not-for-profit organisations delivering projects that benefit Newham residents. Expected applicants include:

- Charities and community organisations
- Schools and parent-led school groups
- Community interest companies and social enterprises with a not-for-profit purpose
- Faith and community groups proposing inclusive community benefit
- Other constituted not-for-profit organisations
- Only one application should be submitted per organisation.

Core expectations

- The project must benefit Newham residents.
- The proposal should be community-focused, deliverable and supported by a clear budget.
- The organisation should have suitable governance and an organisational bank account.
- Insurance, safeguarding, DBS checks and risk management should be in place where relevant.
- Outstanding monitoring from previous grants should be completed.

Project themes

The application form will ask you to choose one project theme from the list below. If your project fits more than one theme, please select the main theme that is the strongest fit for your project aims and outcomes.

Theme	Examples of what could be funded
1. Children and young people	Activities that support learning, confidence, creativity, life skills, mentoring, youth voice, family support or safe spaces for children and young people.
2. Health and wellbeing	Projects that improve physical health, mental wellbeing, social connection, healthy lifestyles, peer support, inclusive activities or support for carers and residents with additional needs.
3. Community safety and security	Local initiatives that help residents feel safer, build trust, reduce isolation, provide positive activities, support prevention work or improve awareness of safety and security issues.
4. Communities and neighbourhoods	Community events, resident-led activities, cultural or heritage projects, volunteering, intergenerational work, neighbourhood improvement ideas or projects that bring people together.
5. Environment and climate	Green space activities, food growing, recycling and reuse projects, climate awareness, environmental education, nature-based learning or practical action to improve local places.
6. Money, financial stability and tackling hardship	Support that helps residents manage money, access advice, reduce hardship, build skills, improve confidence, connect to local support or respond to cost-of-living pressures.

6. What can be supported

If you are unsure about an expenditure item, please get in touch for advice.

- Sessional staff, tutors, facilitators
- Venue hire and essential equipment or materials
- Activities, workshops and learning resources
- Publicity and outreach connected to participants
- Volunteer expenses and reasonable local travel
- Insurance costs needed for safe delivery
- Reasonable project management costs and overheads where clearly justified (capped at 10%)

7. What won't be supported

This is not an exhaustive list, if you are unsure about an expenditure, please get in touch.

- Political activity or party-political publicity
- Religious promotion or religious ideology
- Alcohol, gambling or fundraising activities
- Costs incurred before a written grant offer
- Personal benefit or unrelated commercial activity
- Vague or unexplained budget lines

8. What happens next

- Council eligibility checks and scoring
- Consideration by a Tate & Lyle Sugars employee panel
- Due diligence or clarification where needed
- Outcome communications planned for the week beginning 7 December 2026
- Grant agreements and payments planned for the week beginning 14 December 2026, subject to checks

9. Support for applicants and Apply

Grant Surgeries

We are offering free support sessions for applicants who want to make their application stronger before submitting. You should attend if you would like help understanding the fund, checking your eligibility, or making sure your aims and outcomes are well explained. At the session, you can expect a practical overview of the grant, guidance on what makes a strong application, time to ask questions and signposting to further support.

- **Online Grant Surgery** [Register here](#)
Tuesday 29 September 2026, 6.00pm to 7.30pm, online via Teams
- **In-person Grant Surgery** [Register here](#)
Wednesday 7 October 2026, 2.00pm to 4.00pm, Stratford Library, Hopkins Room

VCFSE contract provider support

Free grant support is available to help applicants understand the fund, check whether their project is eligible, strengthen their project idea, develop a clear budget and improve the quality of their application before submission. Please contact:

- **One Newham**
One Newham can help local voluntary, community and faith organisations identify funding opportunities, understand local grant information and strengthen their approach to applications. They also share funding news, resources and guidance for community groups.

Email: info@onenewham.org.uk Tel: 07957 194 467

- **Aston-Mansfield**
Aston-Mansfield can support grassroots organisations, small charities, community groups and not-for-profit organisations with training, advice, capacity building, tailored support, resources and guidance to help develop stronger projects and improve organisational sustainability. Aston-Mansfield can also help with fundraising and review applications and search for similar funding that can support the proposal. For those who are not quite ready Aston Mansfield have a development support grant, see [Aston Mansfield - AMCT Development Plus](#).

Email: info@aston-mansfield.org.uk Tel: 0203 740 3975

Contact

For queries relating to Lyle's Local Fund please email Shah Muhmud (Community Partnership Coordinator) at lyleslocalfund@newham.gov.uk or call on 0203 373 8895.

How to apply

Use the online application form to submit your project proposal.

START YOUR APPLICATION → [APPLY NOW](#)