

**North
East
Arts
Touring**

Community Culture & Heritage Fund

2026/27
Guidelines

supported by



Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Community Culture & Heritage Fund

About North East Arts Touring

North East Arts Touring (NEAT) has been a cornerstone of cultural enrichment in the North East of Scotland since 1985. It is dedicated to bringing professional theatre and community cinema to Aberdeenshire, Angus, Moray, and Aberdeen City.

Initially focused on supporting rural communities through a network of volunteer promoters, NEAT has significantly broadened its scope over the years. In 2013, it launched Scotland's first community cinema network, followed by the Young Promoter Scheme in 2015, designed to empower young people to promote their own cultural programmes and learn transferable arts and event management skills.

NEAT's inclusive approach extends to delivering cultural and heritage community engagement projects, especially targeting rural and deprived communities to ensure equitable access to the arts. The organisation's theatre-in-schools programme exemplifies this commitment by making theatre accessible to rural primary schools.

The substantial increase in participant numbers reflects NEAT's expansive impact and dedication to cultivating inclusive cultural development within communities across the North East.



About Live Life Aberdeenshire

Live Life Aberdeenshire (LLA) is an innovative approach to delivering sports and cultural activities on behalf of Aberdeenshire County Council.

The organisation provides various services to communities across the region, promoting positive mental health and physical well-being. Whether you live, work, or visit Aberdeenshire, LLA offers access to fun and educational activities from mountain to sea.



About The Positive Action Grant

The Community Culture & Heritage Fund, established by North East Arts Touring (NEAT) and supported by the Positive Action Grant from Live Life Aberdeenshire (LLA) and Aberdeenshire Council (AC), offers an exciting opportunity for organisations, clubs, volunteers, and creative practitioners to develop new or enhance existing creative or heritage activities in Barthol Chapel, Fyvie, Rothienorman and Tarves.

This is the third time NEAT has received a Positive Action Grant (PAG) from Live Life Aberdeenshire. The funding supports actions that improve community health and wellbeing in selected rural settlements with limited public transport and restricted local access to culture and sports. Using the PAG funds, NEAT is working with these communities to increase cultural activity, help local residents ensure long-term delivery, and raise awareness of LLA's services across Aberdeenshire.

This is the third round of this fund. Since 2023, NEAT has supported 12 groups in delivering or developing new community activities.



I am entirely happy with the support, guidance, and administrative security that NEAT provide. They have been excellent in taking a first time community film promoter through the different steps in getting a regular community film club working, and their suggestions on delivery, technology, promotion, and inclusivity have been useful and encouraging from the start.

Charlie, volunteer promoter in Tarland

The Five Communities

Barthol Chapel

Fyvie

Rothienorman

Tarves

In 2026/27, we're excited to continue our focus on the communities of Barthol Chapel, Fyvie, Rothienorman and Tarves. These villages have strong local assets, such as schools, village halls, and care settings, but often face barriers to cultural participation because of geography, transport, and limited local provision.

Recent research shows that adult engagement in cultural activity is 4% lower in Aberdeenshire, compared to rest of Scotland. Many rural communities have seen a downturn in local events since COVID-19, making it harder for people to connect and take part in creative opportunities.

With the support of the Positive Action Grant, our aim is to deliver activities for at least 400 participants across these four communities. We'll bring workshops, performances, and creative projects directly into community spaces, reducing barriers, encouraging inclusion, and building confidence and skills for all ages. By supporting volunteers and fostering partnerships, we hope to leave a lasting legacy of empowered, connected, and resilient communities.

We're excited to support these four communities and want to ensure everyone's needs are met. Our Project Coordinator, Cameron, will be there every step of the way. He'll help with all sorts of things, like building new skill sets, organising creative activities and helping groups recruit volunteers and participants. He'll also support group leaders in building the skills needed to sustain community groups.

Cultural and heritage initiatives can strengthen communities and promote social cohesion, so we're committed to supporting Live Life Aberdeenshire in reaching these five communities.

Want To Know More?

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Cameron. He'd be happy to answer any questions you might have. Just send him an email whenever you have a chance:



Timeline

Funding must be spent before **Tuesday 31 March 2027**, even if the project or activities are ongoing

Application Deadline

The deadline for applying is **Monday 23 November 2026 @ 5:00pm**

You will hear outcome of your application by **Monday 30 November 2026**.

Please note: your activity should predominantly take place *after* you receive the outcome of your application, between December 2026 and 31 March 2027.

Please be aware that any activity undertaken and costs incurred on your project *before* you receive the outcome of your application will be undertaken at your own risk, as your application may not be successful.

Large Grant

Who can apply: Organisations, Clubs, Groups, Associations & Societies

Amount: Up to £1,000

The applicant must be from or partner with a constituted group within one of the four communities to apply.

The grant must be paid into a bank account registered in the group's name (not an individual's account).

All activities, projects, or equipment purchases must benefit the wider community. Events should be open to the public, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility. Community members should be able to access activities or events as participants or audiences. Activities can be closed or private in certain circumstances, for example, in schools, sheltered housing, care homes, or for participants with specific needs, but should be inclusive.

A maximum of 35% of the total cost can be allocated for fixtures, fittings and repairs.

Small Grant

Who can apply: Individuals or Professional Creative Practitioners

Amount: Up to £500

Are you looking to develop an idea or conduct a pilot project? If so, this is the fund for you.

All activities, projects, or equipment purchases must benefit the wider community. Events should be open to the public, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility. Community members should be able to access activities or events as participants or audiences. Activities can be closed or private in certain circumstances, for example, in schools, sheltered housing, care homes, or for participants with specific needs, but should be inclusive.

Key Information

- The grant is open to any group, organisation or professional practitioner who wishes to benefit one of our four target communities (Barthol Chapel, Fyvie, Rothienorman and Tarves).
- Professional creative practitioners must be based in Aberdeenshire and able to bring their talent to at least one of these five communities.
- Applicants must demonstrate how their project or activities will benefit the wider community.
- If successful, you will receive 70% of the grant up front. At the conclusion of your activity, you will need to submit a report about your project. Following the report, we will release the final 30% of your funding.
- Your project can still generate income from ticket sales or membership fees if you choose; in fact, we encourage it.



You do a fantastic job at all times but especially during this pandemic. Living as we do relatively far from cultural centres you bring us that essential part of human enjoyment and development, such joy. Thank you

*Peter
audience member, Glenlivet*

The Process

Receiving Your Funding

If your application is successful you will receive 70% of your grant in advance, with the remaining 30% being transferred after a final report is submitted.

Midway through the funding period you will also need to submit a short progress report.

Assessment Criteria

The panel will evaluate your application using six criteria:

1. **Cultural or Heritage Focus**
2. **Quality of Activity**
3. **Impact of Activity**
4. **Project Management**
5. **Budget Management**
6. **Risk Management**

What Can You Use the Funding For?

The money should be used to positively change your community. Whilst we can support the development of your group, you must ensure that part of your project includes access to public events or activities.

For instance, the money can be utilised for various purposes; this list is not exhaustive:

- **Research and Development**
- **Delivering Projects**
- **Training**
- **Purchasing or hiring of materials and resources**
- **Artistic fees – i.e. tutors, facilitators, Designers, Performers**
- **Travel Expenses**
- **Venue Hire**
- **Marketing**
- **Online subscriptions**
- **Revenue-making ideas.**

Please note that this funding is not intended to replace the income you generate through your activities but to provide additional support. For instance, if you usually charge people to attend a workshop, you are still entitled to charge the full amount should you choose to do so.

What The Funding Won't Support?

It is important to note that the fund cannot cover some elements despite our goal of promoting flexibility for community connections.

- **Activities that don't benefit the people or communities of the five areas listed.**
- **Regular business costs.**
- **Contributing to regular salaries**
- **Purchasing of alcohol for public events.**
- **Activities that exclude participation based on individual needs or backgrounds.**

Areas & Activities We Support

Our objective is to help initiatives that improve the overall well-being of individuals and communities, foster skills growth, or create social opportunities that strengthen community cohesion.

We will also support activities or projects already up and running as long as you can demonstrate that the funding will help further the activity. This funding supports various activities or projects within the arts, culture, heritage and creative sectors.

This includes, but is not restricted to:

- **Archives**
- **Gaming**
- **Crafts**
- **Conversation Cafes and Spoken Word**
- **Cultural Education**
- **Dance**
- **Design**
- **Fashion and Textiles**
- **Film and Video**
- **Fine Arts**
- **Heritage**
- **Horticulture**
- **Languages**
- **Music**
- **Photography**
- **Theatre**
- **TV and Radio**
- **Visual Arts**
- **Written Word**

Application Questions

To help you plan, here are the questions you must answer as part of the application process.

If you have any queries or would like some help, please contact **Cameron:**



1 Please tell us in which capacity you are applying?

Constituted Group / Individual / Creative Practitioner

2 For which grant are you applying?

Large / Small

3 First Name

4 Last Name

5 Email

6 Telephone

7 Address

8 Application name

- Constituted Group name or if you are an individual or creative practitioner please enter your name

8 Application name

- Give your project a specific name

9 In which community or communities will your activity take place?

- Barthol Chapel / Fyvie / Rothienorman / Tarves

10 Start Date

11 End Date

12 Amount you are applying for £

13 Please give a description of how you will use this grant?

- We'd love to hear your story entirely in your own words.
- Don't stress about using fancy jargon or buzzwords!
- Tell us how you will spend this money in around 750 to 1,000 words.

12. Which outcomes will your project achieve (Tick all boxes that apply)

- **Outcome 1** - Improved Health and Wellbeing: Encouraging active lifestyles and providing support for mental and physical health.
- **Outcome 2** - Increased Community Engagement: Offering accessible services and activities to foster community participation and cohesion.
- **Outcome 3** - Enhanced Cultural Experiences: Promoting cultural activities and events to enrich the community's cultural life.
- **Outcome 4** - Sustainable Service Delivery: Developing revenue streams and partnerships to ensure the long-term sustainability of their services.

13 Who is your target recipient/audience/group or demographics are you aiming this project to benefit?

How will you reach new participants to join your activity?

14 Budget

Please keep in mind the following information:

You can download a budget template by **clicking here** or using your own template and uploading it as part of your supporting materials.

- Alternatively, you can fill out the Budget question below to provide details about your budget.
- Please itemise income and expenditures associated with the project or activity.
- If the cost exceeds the amount claimed, please explain how you will cover the extra cost.

15 (OPTIONAL) Please feel free to submit any supporting material

16 If funded, will you ensure your project is accessible, inclusive, and free from discrimination or bullying?

Yes / I would like some advice or support / No

- You could help participants by providing resources and tools catering to people with different abilities, whether physical, cognitive or emotional.
- Creating an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome and empowered will contribute to the project's success.
- Additionally, you can aim to ensure that your project or activities are designed to be user-friendly, regardless of the user's background or experience level.

17 If funded, will you make your project as environmentally friendly as possible?

Yes / I would like some advice or support / No

- Taking little steps can make a big difference. For example, recycling materials, encouraging participants to walk or car share and switching off unused lights or appliances in your hall.

Bank Details

Please provide your bank details; successful applicants will be paid in two instalments. This information will also ensure we deposit public money into legitimate bank accounts.

18 Bank Name 19 Account Name 20 Account Number 21 Sort Code

22 As the main applicant, I confirm that all the information provided is accurate and complete, and we/I agree to adhere to all the fund's required criteria.

I/we accept the above statement / I/we do not accept the above statement.

Apply Here

Please click below to register your details, and we will send you an online application form to the email address provided.

If you need to make your application in a different format please get in touch with Cameron.

The deadline to submit applications is **Monday 23^d November at 5:00pm**

APPLY NOW



Contact Cameron for help or advice
cameron@neatshows.org.uk



North East Arts Touring Limited is a Company registered in Scotland No. 380002
Registered Scottish Charity No. SC041764

 [**www.neatshows.org.uk**](http://www.neatshows.org.uk)

Examples Of Activities From Round 2

Fyvie



Rothienorman



Barthol Chapel



Community Culture & Heritage Fund supporting cultural activities in our communities



01330 826525



look@neatshows.org.uk



The Barn, Burn O'Bennie, Banchory, Aberdeenshire, AB31 5QA



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