

BMSDC Grants - Communities

Mid Suffolk District Council

Progress Power Community Benefit Fund

1. Fund Details

The Progress Power Community Benefit Fund is generated on a yearly basis by the Progress Power Station (gas-fired power station) on the former Eye Airfield site.

The Fund is available to apply for within the parishes of Eye, Yaxley, Mellis, Brome & Oakley and Thrandeston only. A total funding pot of £90,000 is available each year from September 2024 for a 3-year period from which local organisations in the community benefit area can apply.

2. Fund Priorities

Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations are able to apply towards projects or initiatives that encompass one or more of the following priorities:

- a) **Children and young people** - especially projects focused on improving access to activities and services, and where young people play a key role in the decision-making
- b) **Carbon reduction** - helping to tackle climate change
- c) **Vulnerable people** - especially projects involving increased access to services and facilities for people with disabilities and the elderly
- d) **Elderly people** – projects providing recreation, care and companionship for elderly people
- e) **Community regeneration** - projects that improve health and education, reduce crime levels, regenerate local employment, local services, recreational activities, housing and the physical environment and projects for hosting events (including at festive occasions) which will improve interaction among members of the community and encourage the involvement of members of the community
- f) **Community buildings** - projects that improve and maintain buildings widely used by the community
- g) **Self-help groups** – projects providing self-help services in the local community
- h) **Environmental and wildlife projects** - especially those involving improvements to community land, including parkland, allotments and recreation grounds, rights of way and other open spaces
- i) **Education and skills development** - community-based programmes, particularly for those seeking access to training opportunities to improve their education and skills and the grant of bursaries to local students
- j) **Health** - projects providing access to services that aim to improve the health and well-being of communities
- k) **Heritage** - projects that celebrate and protect local heritage for current and future generations
- l) **Sustainability** - projects that promote local sustainable development

3. Community Benefit Area

Grants can be applied for from community groups or projects within the following parishes:

- Eye
- Yaxley
- Mellis
- Brome & Oakley
- Thrandeston

4. Ineligible Organisations and Projects

Grants are not available for:

- Services or facilities which are ordinarily funded by Statutory bodies
- The provision of services or facilities which the Councils are under a statutory duty to provide
- The promotion of political activities
- Individuals or businesses
- Requests for sponsorship or loans
- Projects of no benefit to the Community Benefit Area (see above)
- Applications from national or regional charities with no independent office in the Community Benefit Area
- Projects relating to improvements to land that is not open to the general public
- Requests for deficit or retrospective funding for projects and activities that have already taken place

5. Fund Requirements

The Progress Power Community Benefit Fund seeks to support local communities and organisations operating within the five Parishes of Mid Suffolk as defined above.

The financial support will help with the delivery of local initiatives and activities, where gaps in provision have been identified.

During 2025/26 the Grant Panel are particularly keen to see applications from projects and activities that support Children and Young People in addition to place-based organisations.

Progress Power Community Benefit Fund applications can be revenue or capital up to 100% of total project costs (up to a maximum grant of £10,000). Applicants can apply for two-year funding for the same project (a maximum of £20,000). The minimum grant that can be applied for is £250.

Applicants can make one application per financial year to the Progress Power Community Benefit Fund per group of beneficiaries.

Applicants must be able to show that they offer a wider community benefit and are fully inclusive.

Projects or activities need to clearly evidence their need for support and should be able to evidence community consultation or engagement. Projects need to be able to demonstrate that they contribute towards one or more of the Fund’s priorities described above and to one or more of our following Mid Suffolk priorities: [The Mid Suffolk Plan](#).

Project sustainability must be described within the project application – how will the project be maintained going forwards, what provision is in place for the future if the project group changes or is dissolved, etc.

6. Grant Allocation

There will be three application windows per year open for eight weeks and closing end of February, June and October:

- ❖ Window 1 opens 1 May and closes 30 June
- ❖ Window 2 opens 1 September and closes 31 October
- ❖ Window 3 opens 1 January and closes 28 February

Applications will be assessed three times a year by a Grant Panel (consisting of 1 representative from each of the 5 Parish/Town Councils within the Community Benefit Area, 1 Mid Suffolk District Council representative and 1 Suffolk County Council representative). Timetable as follows:

2026/27:

Round 1		Round 2		Round 3	
Applications accepted	Between 01/05/26 and 30/06/26	Applications Accepted	Between 01/09/26 and 31/10/26	Applications Accepted	Between 01/01/27 and 28/02/27
Grant Panel	15/07/26, 15:00-17:00	Grant Panel	18/10/26, 15:00-17:00	Grant Panel	17/03/27, 15:00-17:00

7. Application Process

Completed grant applications to be emailed to: BMSDCGrants@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk by no later than the dates specified above for each funding window.

Each completed application form to be accompanied by a copy of latest accounts and (if a capital project) a minimum of 2 quotes for any proposed works, or a valid reason if a single quote is provided

8. Grant Offers

The grant panel reserve the right to make a partial grant award.

Successful applicants will receive an offer letter setting out any special conditions, outcomes and the period during which the service/project needs to be completed, and the grant offer claimed. Offers are valid for **4 weeks**, and after this period the offer will expire.

If any service/project fails to meet any of the conditions contained in the grant offer letter or the agreed targets/outputs, then consideration will be given to the grant offer being withdrawn and any grant monies already paid being recovered together with any interest applicable.

9. Payment

The payment process differs per Grant. For capital projects, no payments will be released until copy invoices/receipts are produced and may be calculated on a percentage basis of the invoices provided as per stated in the offer letter. Revenue projects will be paid on receipt of a signed grant offer acceptance.