

Potential sources of grant funding

Here you will find funding available from external bodies that have relevance to community rail projects.

If you are aware of other funding streams available that may be relevant to community rail, please [email us](#) and we'll feature it.

Architectural Heritage Fund

The AHF is dedicated to the preservation and renewal of buildings of architectural or historic significance which have failed to find a viable re-use on the open market. The AHF can provide grants, subject to eligibility, to help with assessing the viability of a project, or to fund development costs.

Project Viability Grants of up to 50% (£3000 maximum) are to fund short studies to look at potential uses for a building and at its current condition.

The Project Development Grant scheme also offers grants of up to 50% (£25,000 maximum) and is intended to assist an organisation to cover some of the costs of developing and co-ordinating a project and taking it towards the start of work on site.

Applications for Viability Grants can be submitted at any time. Applies to England, Wales and Scotland.

<http://www.ahfund.org.uk/grants.php/>

Railway Heritage Trust

The objectives of the Railway Heritage Trust are to assist operational railway companies in the preservation and upkeep of listed buildings and structures; and to facilitate the transfer of non-operational premises and structures to outside bodies willing to undertake their preservation.

To be eligible for a grant, a project should concern the repair, conservation and restoration of a building or structure owned by, leased from, or to be sold by Network Rail or the Highways Agency Historical Railways Estate.

[Find out more](#)

Building Connections Fund | Big Lottery Fund

The £11.5 million Building Connections Fund is a partnership between Government, Big Lottery Fund and the Co-op Foundation which was set up in response to the Jo Cox Commission on Loneliness to support projects that prevent or reduce loneliness.

[Find out more](#)

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) | UK Government

A range of regional funding for project including rural tourism infrastructure, business development and SME support.

[Find out more](#)

Changemaker | Santander / Crowdfunder

The Changemaker Fund has been created to support projects that help disadvantaged people to have confidence in the future by building skills and knowledge or innovative ideas that help communities prosper

[Find out more](#)

Heritage Lottery Fund

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funds projects which focus on heritage. HLF offer a range of different grant programmes with grants from £3,000 to over £5million. In assessing applications, HLF take account of the broad range of outcomes for heritage, people and communities that projects will achieve.

[Find out more](#)

Grants for the Arts | Arts Council England

Grants of between £1,000 and £100,000 are available for eligible individuals, organisations, libraries and museums for a range of activities including: Audio-visual, broadcast and transmission, buildings and infrastructure, capacity building, commissioning, digital creation, diversity and equality, education and learning, exhibition, festival, organisational development, original work, participation, performance, production, professional development, publishing, research and development, sector development, talent development and touring.

[Find out more](#)

Reaching Communities England | Big Lottery Fund

Reaching Communities provides funding between £10,000-£500,000 for voluntary or community groups. The funding will enable you to use your local knowledge, strengths and



resources to make positive changes in your community. The fund particularly want to hear about projects that support lasting and sustainable changes to places and spaces, communities to develop happier and stronger relationships with each other, and projects that take action to focus on the root causes of social problems to tackle them at the earliest possible stage.

[Find out more](#)

Smarter Choices Smarter Places Fund | Scotland

The Smarter Choices, Smarter Places (SCSP) Programme is Paths for All's grant scheme to support behaviour change initiatives to increase active and sustainable travel. The programme is funded through Transport Scotland (Sustainable Transport team) and aims to make walking and cycling a mode of choice for short local journeys in our towns, cities and villages. It also encourages other forms of sustainable choices such as public transport use and car share.

[Find out more](#)

Stations Community Regeneration Fund

ScotRail and Transport Scotland are seeking applications for a £1.5million community fund, designed to breathe new life into old and disused railway station premises. The Stations Community Regeneration Fund enables business and community groups to transform redundant station rooms into facilities to benefit local people.

Any projects that will aid communities or rail passengers will be considered for grants of between £5,000 and £75,000. Bids may also be made for larger sums, dependent on in-depth feasibility studies. Grants can be used to contribute towards the costs of any structural repairs and to assist with the costs of fitting out station premises for their intended use.

[Find out more](#)

Big Lottery Fund - National Lottery Awards for All (England)

A quick and simple way to get small National Lottery grants of between £300 and £10,000

[Find out more](#)

Big Lottery Fund - Partnerships (England)

grants over £10,000 for organisations who share responsibility and influence with others, who have a shared set of goals and values, and achieve their mission by starting with the bigger picture rather than just what their organisation can do on its own

[Find out more](#)

Comic Relief - Core Strength Local Communities Grants

UK Community Foundations is supporting Comic Relief to deliver a £2 million investment into supporting small community led organisations across the UK. Grants between £1,000 and £10,000 for up to 12 months are available to small local community organisations with an annual income of up to £100,000

[Find out more](#)

Coastal Communities Fund: round 5

Funding supporting the economic development of English coastal communities.

The Coastal Communities Fund Round 5 is now open with £40 million available for spend from April 2019 to end of March 2021.

Funding goes to projects over £50,000 that will ultimately lead to regeneration and economic growth whilst directly or indirectly safeguarding and creating sustainable jobs.

Within this round 5 there are 2 separate funding rounds, each with their own timetable set out in part 7 of the guidance notes:

- a 'fast track' early round for revenue projects only for which some funding will be available in 2018 to 2019. Stage 1 closing date 2 April.
- the main funding round for which funding will be available from 1 April 2019. Stage 1 closing date 30 April.

Expression of interest form and guidance see here :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coastal-communities-fund-round-5>

Locality.org

Ownership of land and buildings.

Making Buildings Work for Your Community – PDF

The Making Buildings Work for Your Community guide introduces the design process and practical advice on how to ensure that your building can be the best possible facility for your community.



Green Asset Guide – PDF

The Green Asset guide is for community organisations planning to improve or develop land or buildings as assets for their organisation or community.

Pillars of the Community: the transfer of local authority heritage assets – PDF

Pillars of the Community looks at the community asset transfer of heritage buildings. The publication includes key considerations for local authorities in transferring heritage assets including strategy development.

To Have and to Hold: Asset development for community and social enterprises – PDF

The To Have and To Hold: Asset development for community and social enterprises guide to long-term community ownership and development of land and buildings.

<https://locality.org.uk/services-tools/resources/resources-for-community-organisations/>

MyCommunity - Neighbourhood Planning

2018-2022 funding and support

Locality will continue to deliver the Neighbourhood Planning Support Programme over the next four years, from 2018-2022. The programme builds on the 2015-18 programme and any support that you have previously received will be taken in to account. The programme will provide anyone working on a neighbourhood plan with support from the Locality team, AECOM and other partners/specialists through:

a basic grant of up to £9,000, additional grants for eligible groups with an extra £8,000, technical support through expert partners AECOM and other specialists.

Groups wanting to apply for funding and support in the 2018-2022 programme, which opens for applications on 3 April 2018, must have completed an end of grant reporting to be eligible to apply.

<https://mycommunity.org.uk/2018/03/15/new-neighbourhood-planning-programme-changes-to-my-community-everything-you-need-to-know/>

Other funding options are here:

<https://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/raising-finance-options/>



Association for Industrial Archaeology - Restoration Grants

The AIA runs several annual award themes, open to those in industry history projects, study or excavation at all levels. It also supports the British Archaeology Awards.

The AIA has Restoration Grants for range of historic and industrial archaeology purposes. These Grants are made available thanks to a generous donation.

Criteria for awarding the grants are:

the grant is for the restoration of historically, technically, architecturally, and/or archaeologically important industrial buildings, structures, machinery, vehicles and vessels within the UK;

the application will usually relate to a single, tangible structure or artefact;

the heritage asset must be covered by a Conservation Policy and/or Statement;

the heritage asset must be sustainably managed, displayed and interpreted for the public, therefore, the public must have full access to the asset;

the grant must not result in another body reducing its revenue funding;

the grant will be for up to £15,000;

the grant is to be used as partnership funding, the applicant being in the process of or having already raised matching funding from their own resources, fund raising, an HLF, PRISM or another grant award;

the grant from the AIA must be a significant part of the total project cost, not just a small contribution to a very large project so that the AIA grant has significant impact;

the grant can be either for new projects or ones which have begun but need further funding for completion;

the grant is for capital funding only, not on-going revenue funding

<https://industrial-archaeology.org/aia-awards/restoration-grants/>

The Ballinger Charitable Trust

Founded in 1994 and seeks to support charities, voluntary organisations and community groups through grants and funding.

The focus of the Trust is currently to support projects in the North East of England, principally by providing funds that:

- Improve the quality of life for people and communities;
- Promote cultural / arts projects based in the North East of England.

There is no minimum or maximum threshold limit to the funding that can be applied for. However, please consider the genuine costs of your proposal, any other grants awarded or that you have applied for elsewhere. The Trust will review your budget on the application

form where appropriate. The larger the fund applied for, the greater the amount of detail will be required in the Application Form.

An online application form is available on the Trust's website (see below).

<http://www.ballingercharitabletrust.org.uk/>

English Heritage - Historic Buildings, Monuments and Designed Landscapes

These grants are available for the repair and conservation of some of England's most significant historic buildings, monuments and designed landscapes. They are mainly offered for urgent repairs or other work required within two years to prevent loss or damage to important architectural, archaeological or landscape features. Under this Programme, English Heritage can also grant aid project development work which can involve the preparation of specialist reports and studies, as a basis for repair or future management. Eligible applicants: Applicants must be organisations or individuals who have a legal responsibility for the repair of an historic building, monument or designed landscape. Those responsible will normally need to own the building, monument or landscape, hold a full repairing lease which 21 years has at least to run, or be able to demonstrate that they have an agreement to acquire the property in question. Eligibility criteria: To qualify for a grant under this scheme, English Heritage would normally expect the project to involve the following:

- A building listed at grade I or II*;
- A scheduled monument;
- A designed landscape that is included in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens at grade I or II*.

Exceptionally, English Heritage may offer grants to projects that are within a Conservation Area or a London borough and involve one of the following:

- A building listed at grade II;
- An unlisted building of significant historic or architectural merit; To qualify for a grant under this scheme,

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- A scheduled monument;
- A designed landscape that is included in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens at grade I or II*.

Exceptionally, English Heritage may offer grants to projects that are within a Conservation Area or a London borough and involve one of the following:

- A building listed at grade II;



- An unlisted building of significant historic or architectural merit;
- A designed landscape that is included in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens at grade II;
- Public realm work of historic importance. In addition, an applicant must also be able to show that:
 - the project meets one of EH's regional priorities;
 - the work needs to be done within two years;
 - there is a financial need for an EH grant.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/grants/our-grant-schemes/>

www.english-heritage.org.uk/

If your station deserves a prize see Heritage Angels info here:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/get-involved/angel-awards/>

Heritage Help

There are many ways in which we can protect our heritage. One of the most effective is designation. Designation offers a legal framework for the protection of historic buildings and sites at a local, national and international level. Read about the different types of designation and how the system works. Funding and conservation advice also available here:

<http://heritagehelp.org.uk/>

Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts

The Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts is the operating office of 18 grant-making trusts established by members of the Sainsbury family. Each trust works autonomously as an independent legal entity with a separate board of trustees. Many of the trusts work closely with their chosen beneficiaries over a long period to achieve objectives and much of unsolicited proposals received by the Trusts are likely to be unsuccessful. As a rule, the Gatsby, Glass-House, Indigo, Linbury, Staples and Tedworth trusts do not consider unsolicited proposals.

<http://www.sfct.org.uk/>



Tesco Charitable Trust

The Tesco Charity Trust aims to help Tesco support the local communities in which we operate. On a local level, to support the needs of employees, customers and communities around our stores in the year ending February 2013, the Tesco Charity Trust made cash grants of over £2 million to local, national and international charities. This figure includes: Community Award donations to local community charities totalling almost £700,000; Donations to other charities totalling almost £600,000; Over £700,000 in 20% top up on staff fundraising our Tesco Charity Partnership with Diabetes UK and other charities. By 2020, we'll have donated over £400 million to charitable causes in the decade. £25.4m contribution via Local Community Partner programme to >1,000 local and national groups.

<http://www.tescopl.com/index.asp?pageid=121>

Waitrose Community Matters

If you are a local charity or not for profit organisation and you would like to be considered for Community Matters in one of our branches, please go to your local branch, complete a nomination form and hand it in at the Welcome Desk. If you are successful, the branch Community Matters Champion will be in touch. All applications are held for 6 months.

Grants are available here:

www.resourcecentre.org.uk/information/waitrose-community-matters/

ASDA Foundation

Aims to transform communities, improving lives now and in the future. As a charitable corporate foundation, we give independent grants and support locally relevant projects throughout the UK. Whether it is helping, charities, local good causes or community activity, all make a real difference to your local community.

<https://www.asdafoundation.org/what-we-fund>

The Morrisons Foundation

Supports charities making a positive difference in local communities. Since launching in 2015 we've donated over £18m to help good causes across England, Scotland and Wales.

How we do it:

We award grants for charity projects which improve people's lives and match fund the money that Morrisons colleagues raise for their chosen charities.

How we're funded:



We receive all our income from Wm. Morrison Supermarkets PLC, which founded the Foundation in 2015.

How we work:

Morrison's colleagues act as ambassadors for the Foundation. They help to raise awareness at a local level, encourage charities to apply for funding and organise cheque presentations.

<https://www.morrisonfoundation.com/about-us/>

The Transport Trust

The Trust is the UK's only national charity established to promote and encourage the preservation and restoration of Britain's transport heritage. Its remit covers all forms of road, rail, air and water transport. The Trust's aims, for the benefit of the nation, are therefore to promote and encourage the permanent preservation of transport items of historical or technical interest, and books, drawings, films, photographs and recordings of all forms of transport by road, rail, air and water. To further these aims, the Trust acts as the hub of the United Kingdom's transport preservation movement by:

- advising and assisting in all aspects of preservation, including the raising of funds;
- arranging displays and rallies of historic transport;
- ensuring that future generations will enjoy the opportunity to understand and enjoy our achievements in the development of transport by preventing the loss of irreplaceable relics and material;
- working to provide accommodation and appropriate maintenance facilities for heritage items saved. Its plan of action is to:
 - support, both independently and in partnership with corporate members, specific restoration campaigns;
 - help establish covered storage for vehicles awaiting restoration to avoid further deterioration;
 - organise many visits during the year to places of transport interest;
 - extend award schemes and grants at critical points in the progress of restoration projects;
 - introduce young people to restoration projects in specially funded workshops (Heritage Skills Centres);
 - act as custodian for items of transport history bequeathed or given to the Trust for safekeeping;
 - work with, and advise, the Heritage Lottery Fund on matters concerning transport heritage and preservation. The Trust presents a range of awards each year to give recognition to the most outstanding contributions to the preservation of our transport heritage.

<http://www.transporttrust.com/>

The Plunkett Foundation

Plunkett Foundation helps communities to take control of their challenges and overcome them through co-operation. We support people, predominantly in rural areas, to set up and run life-changing community co-operatives; enterprises that are owned and run democratically by large numbers of people in their community. They help people to tackle a range of issues such as isolation, loneliness and poverty, and come in many forms including shops, cafes, pubs and land-based initiatives, and anything in between.

Plunkett's Strategy

Today, we actively represent a network of over 500 rural community co-operatives that are trading across all parts of the UK and we support these organisations to thrive. Our strategy, which runs from 2015-17, aims to grow this sector by raising awareness of the co-operative model to more communities than ever before, and to particularly reach geographic areas and individuals most in need. Our mission statement is: To inspire a movement of people who solve their challenges by running community owned co-operatives in rural communities and beyond.

<https://www.plunkett.co.uk/>

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation

Aims to improve the quality of life for people and communities throughout the UK both now and in the future. We do this by funding the charitable work of organisations that are building an inclusive, creative and sustainable society.

The Foundation is one of the largest independent grant-makers in the UK. In 2016 we made grants of £42.4 million towards a wide range of work within the arts, children and young people, the environment and social change. We also have a £45 million allocation to social investments for organisations with the aim of creating social impact.

<https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/what-we-fund>