

St. James Street Big Local

Introduction to our Grants Programme

1. Context – SJBL supporting local community and charitable initiatives

The purpose of St James Street Big Local is to support our community become more able to identify local needs and take action; residents acquire confidence and skills; our collective priorities turned into real initiatives. Through consultation with the community, the SJBL identified four themes in our overall plan: People, Charities, Businesses, and Spaces. All our activities should contribute to our four priorities:

Creating a more inclusive space for local residents

Transforming the urban realm

Growing the local economy and encouraging entrepreneurship

Supporting local community and charitable initiatives

During the SJBL consultation, many residents made wishes to support our local charities and volunteers. St James Street is home to a wide range of charitable endeavours that benefit people living in and around the area. These range from the large — our flagship charities, The Mill and Crest, as well as an Oxfam shop with a large pool of volunteers — to the small, such as the service-led user groups, working with and led by local people, (e.g., offering peer support on particular health issues).

We are therefore introducing a grants programme with **two types of grants**:

1) Big charities grants: Organisations will be able to apply for grants of between **£5,000 or £10,000** based on clear business plans that demonstrate the activities will contribute to the intended outcomes of the St James Street Big Local plan. Each funding cycle will last one year. Funding will primarily be focused on improving quality and reach of new and existing activities that benefit the residents of the St James Street Big Local area, and secondarily on developing infrastructure, supporting innovations and strengthening the financial position of the charities.

2) Residents' grants: Groups and individuals will be able to apply for grants of **£100 to £1,000** for activities that improve the community, are not-for-profit, and contribute towards intended outcomes of the St James Street Big Local plan. Funding will be focused on improving quality and reach of existing activities and supporting innovations in local volunteer-led activities. All established and new charitable endeavours in the St James Street Big Local area are eligible, including service-user led groups, volunteer-led activities (not necessarily in groups), and other endeavours that may or may not be linked to big charities.

For the purposes of the SBBL Big Local plan (published 2016), we defined the following:

- charities are registered charities, community interest companies, or social enterprises that are recognised legally and may have some professional leadership;
- 'charitable endeavours' is a broad category of non-profit making activities led by residents that rely largely on volunteers and are of benefit to the community, including service-user led groups; and

- 'volunteers' who are people that give their time for free to organise and support local activities that benefit the community (i.e., not necessarily associated with a registered charity)

St James Street Big Local will only support activities that benefit residents of the St James Street Big Local area, though charities may themselves operate outside the area. In these instances, it must be clear that the people supported by the activity include a substantial number of residents from the St James Street Big Local area.

St James Street Big Local area:



These applications will be screened by a decision panel of St James Street Big Local volunteers with the required skills to decide on investments. All decisions will be clear and transparent, with feedback provided to successful and unsuccessful applicants.

2. Big Charities – Grant Application Criteria

Charities will be able to apply for grants of between **£5,000 to £10,000** based on clear business plans that demonstrate the activities will contribute to the intended outcomes of the St James Street Big Local plan. Applications for plans with budgets outside the guided funding bracket will be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Each funding cycle will last one year, with two application points through the year. Applicants can apply for multiple grants from the fund, and successful and unsuccessful applicants can reapply in consecutive rounds.

This funding can be awarded for a range of activities, including capital expenditure and organisational support, where the application satisfies St James Street Big Local assessment criteria (see section 5 below) as applied by the decision panel.

Funding will primarily be focused on improving quality and reach of new and existing activities that benefit the residents of the St James Street Big Local area, and secondarily on developing infrastructure, supporting innovations and strengthening the financial position of the charities.

All funding must be spent within 12 months of the grant being made, unless agreed with SJBL within the grant selection process.

The organisation holding the grant must submit monitoring reports to SJBL every 6 months on the progress being made, impact of activities, and beneficiaries within the St James Street Big Local area. The monitoring report should be in the SJBL format, and may be subject to a monitoring visit by a member of the SJBL committee.

The organisation holding the grant agrees to participate in publicity activities by St James Street Big Local, and must inform beneficiaries that any funded activities are supported by SJBL.

Big Charities Application Timeline:

Applications open: See <http://www.stjamesbiglocal.co.uk/charities>

Application deadline: **One month later**

Follow up questions by committee: Within a month of the application deadline

Applicants notified: Within 6 weeks of the application deadline

Grants disbursed: As soon as possible

First monitoring report due: 6 months after grant disbursement

3. Residents' Grants – Grant Application Criteria

Groups and individuals will be able to apply for grants of **£100 to £1,000** based on applications that demonstrate the activities will contribute to the intended outcomes of the St James Street Big Local plan.

Funding will be focused on improving quality and reach of existing activities and supporting innovations in local volunteer-led activities.

All established and new charitable endeavours in the St James Street Big Local area are eligible, including service-user led groups, volunteer-led activities (not necessarily in groups), and other endeavours that may or may not be linked to big charities.

Activities must take place within the St James Street area, or be proven to benefit a substantial number of residents from the area (preference will be given to endeavours located within the area).

Each funding cycle will last one year, with two application points through the year. Applicants can apply for multiple grants from the fund to a defined ceiling and successful and unsuccessful applicants can reapply in consecutive rounds.

All funding must be spent within 6 months of the grant being made, unless agreed with SJBL within the grant selection process.

There must be one accountable individual named as the lead contact on the grant application form, this person must be a resident of the St James Street area, and/or provide a reference by a resident of the St James Street area.

The group or individual holding the grant must submit a monitoring report to SJBL on the progress being made, impact of activities, and beneficiaries within the St James Street Big Local area. The monitoring report should be in the SJBL format, and may be subject to a monitoring visit by a member of the SJBL committee.

The group or individual holding the grant agrees to participate in publicity activities by St James Street Big Local, and must inform beneficiaries that any funded activities are supported by SJBL.

Charitable Endeavours Application Timeline:

Applications opened and publicised: See <http://www.stjamesbiglocal.co.uk/charities>

Application deadline: **Two months later**

Follow up questions by committee: Within a month of the application deadline

Applicants notified: Within 6 weeks of the application deadline

Grants disbursed: As soon as possible

First monitoring report due: 6 months after grant disbursement

4. Assessment criteria

Criteria	Weighting
Alignment with SJBL's four priorities	Max 10 pts
Tangible benefit to residents of the SJBL area	Max 10 pts
Financial responsibility and clarity of the budget	Max 10 pts
Monitoring and evaluation plan	Max 5 pts
Advertising plan	Max 5 pts
Inclusivity	Max 5 pts
Overall quality of application, e.g., clarity, innovation, etc.	Max 5 pts
Total potential score	50 pts

5. Questions

If you have any questions, please refer to our FAQs, then contact us on stjamesbiglocal@gmail.com if you need further application support.