

# Achieve Together

## Community Anchor Organisations Funding Invitation to Bid Guidance



**People | Places | Power**

Building Stronger Communities in North Yorkshire



Building on the success of the Covid-19 model of Community Support, North Yorkshire Council's Stronger Communities' Programme is looking to partner with and invest in a network of Community Anchor Organisations.

Grants of £15,000 a year for up to 3 years are available from April 2023 for place-rooted organisations, based in principal service towns or centres and who are also able to serve a wider hinterland.

We are looking for empowered organisations who are proactive and who have a track record of responding to the needs of their communities.



## History & Background

- The intention to try and establish a Community Anchor model for North Yorkshire started in 2019 as part of our emerging People, Places & Power strategy
- Work was put on hold during the pandemic however our experience of working with local place based organisations during that time has really helped to inform the model
- We have worked with a range of partners from the public and voluntary sector to co-design this programme of funding over the past year.
- Funding is now available under the 'Achieve Together' element of the Stronger Communities 'Inspire, Achieve, Innovate' Investment Prospectus

This investment will help us to deliver against the core aims of the wider Stronger Communities Programme

- **Prevention and reducing health inequalities**
  - Supporting people to live longer, healthier and independent lives within their community
- **Community resilience**
  - Supporting communities to become more resilient and able to respond to local challenges
- **Social Regeneration**
  - Ensuring that the places where people live, now and in the future, create new opportunities, promote wellbeing and reduce inequalities so that people have better lives, in stronger communities and achieve their potential
  - Supporting community development, social action and the creation of community wealth



Core Aims  
for this  
Investment

What will  
Community Anchor Organisations  
look like and do?

What are their key characteristics?

- We have identified a number of characteristics and activities which we would hope to see in a Community Anchor Organisation.
- We have developed these by gathering insight from other local authorities and community development programmes and from feedback from many of our voluntary and community sector organisations, including those involved in the community response to covid-19 as “Community Support Organisations”.
- However, because we see this as a development process we do not expect to see any organisation demonstrating all of the characteristics or delivering all the activities at the point of application.

# A Community Anchor Organisation is...

## ...crucial to the place and community where it is based

- You will have a physical base in the place you provide services to.
- You will have the support and backing of other community groups in your place and be valued by your peers in the voluntary and community sector. Having a good understanding of the needs of your local community you will be the “spark” that brings people and organisations together to address local needs.
- Making a positive difference to your community and the people who live there is what makes your organisation tick. You will have stories to tell about how you support people and the community despite economic and other challenges.

## ...a voice for local people

- Your organisation will hear and amplify the voices of residents to help them shape and obtain the community services they need.

## ...collaborative, open and encouraging of other contributions

- You will know your strengths and play to them whilst supporting others in the community to meet needs which fall within their area of expertise.
- You’ll be a great partner and will involve other local groups and organisations so that the community benefits from the most appropriate support and the collective strength of the local community assets.

## ...proactive with a 'can-do' mindset

- Your can-do mind-set will allow you to move outside your comfort zone to see what you can do to respond to unmet needs if no other local organisation has the skills, knowledge, confidence or capacity to take the lead in helping find a local solution.

## ...already delivering services

- Your organisation will already be delivering a range of services & activities to tackle some local challenges, you may also be acting as a gateway to help people access other services. You will be committed to helping make your local community better with a focus on social, economic or environmental wellbeing. Your organisational structure will enable you to do things. This is likely to include managing community assets - like buildings, employing staff, and managing and using volunteers effectively to benefit both local residents who use your services, the volunteers themselves and your organisation.

## ...independent and community led

- We think you will be an independent local organisation, rather than part of a bigger, national set-up, and local people will be involved in the running of your organisation, for example as trustees, directors, staff and volunteers.

## ...financially resilient

- Your organisation will be financially resilient with a range of income streams. We would anticipate these might include trading goods and services in the future if not already. We'd also expect your structure to mean that you will re-invest any surplus funds which you generate into providing your services and into projects which make the community better.



# Community Anchor Organisation's Typical Activities

Community Anchors will already be delivering services that contribute to two or more of the areas listed below. It is likely that they will be doing this through a mixed economy of funding which may include grants and charitable donations, service level agreements, contracts and earned income.

**Building local partnerships and alliances to deliver services** – this could include providing local customer access points for a range of partners such as police, council, libraries, health or local businesses e.g. post offices and banks

**Improving physical and mental wellbeing and reducing health inequalities** – this could include delivering health, wellbeing & prevention activities that help to reduce pressure on health and social care systems, digital inclusion & helping people to get online, improving outcomes for children and families

**Regeneration of their communities** – this could include creating opportunities for more people to be involved in place based social action, providing community transport services, running a social enterprise or community business, delivering education and skills services and creating work opportunities, net zero and environmental projects

**Building community resilience** – such as being part of the local community emergency response arrangements

**Improving people's financial resilience** – such as supporting people experiencing food & fuel insecurity



# Invitation to Bid

- Our approach is about building stronger strategic and operational relationships with a network of Community Anchor Organisations in order to work together to achieve shared ambitions.
- This opportunity is not a contract for specific services. You will already be delivering a range of services which will be funded in a variety of ways.
- This investment is intended to support your capacity to further develop your role as a trusted, place based 'system partner', who is well placed to further strengthen local relationships and who routinely works with other local partners to improve community well-being and resilience.
- We are seeking applications from voluntary, community and social enterprise sector organisations, rooted in place, to work with us over the next three years to establish a supportive, collaborative and enabling resource that delivers improved partnership working across and between sectors.
- **The outcomes we are seeking from you are to:**
  - increase community resilience for both good times and in emergency situations
  - increase local capacity to deliver services by utilising local partnerships and alliances
  - create or support opportunities for more residents to be involved in place based social action which contributes to the five ways to wellbeing (Connect; Be Active; Take Notice; Keep Learning; Give).



**Investment Strand 1:  
Grants for  
Place-Based  
Community Anchor  
Organisations**

**Investment Strand 2:  
Co-design Grants**

**Investment Strand 3:  
Development  
Grants**

There are three separate funding opportunities available through this investment.

- 1. Community Anchor Grants** - awarded to successful bids from place based Community Anchor Organisations.
- 2. Co-design Grants** – Funding to develop urban area anchor model options in Harrogate Town & Scarborough Town. Recognising that in our larger urban areas there are a number of distinctive neighbourhoods, we are interested in carrying out some further exploration, working with a local partner, to understand what the optimal options for investing in Community Anchors are in those areas.
- 3. Development Grants** - In places where no grants are awarded through ‘Investment Strand 1’, funding will be made available to support the development of anchors in those places.

# Investment Strand 1: Place-Based Community Anchor Organisation Grants

<b>Context</b>	Our model assumes a single Community Anchor Organisation per place (see page 14 for list of places). If we receive applications from more than one suitable organisation, we will work with those organisations to find a way forward in that place.
<b>Investment amount</b>	£15,000 per annum for three years
<b>Process</b>	<p>Submission of applications evidencing how you meet the criteria.</p> <p>Bids will be evaluated against criteria.</p> <p>Applicants will be notified if they have been successful or not.</p> <p>We anticipate that some successful organisations will be more established in the role of a community anchor organisation than others. As one of the aims of this investment is to support the capacity of organisations to further develop their role as a trusted, place based ‘system partner’, following the offer of grant we will work with you to carry out a diagnostic assessment of further development priorities and needs</p>
<b>Deadline for applications</b>	20th March 2023 – <b><u>Please use Application Form CAO-01 Community Anchor Organisations Grants</u></b>
<b>Decision date</b>	31st March 2023

# List of Places

- We are seeking to partner with one Community Anchor Organisation for each of the 32 places listed on page 14.
- We expect the Anchor will have both a physical base within that place and also the capacity to reach into the neighbouring hinterland - which it will identify for itself. It is likely that boundaries between the outer edges of those hinterlands will be permeable and could overlap. Anchors will operate cooperatively with their neighbours.
- If we do not receive appropriate applications for any of the places and therefore do not award a grant, we will undertake a further process – Investment Strand 3: Development Grants - in order to develop options for that area.

# Investment Strand 1 - Places - Principal Towns and Service Centres

Bedale	Kirkbymoorside	Ryedale Rural
Boroughbridge	Knaresborough	Selby
Colburn & Catterick Garrison	Leyburn & Middleham	Settle
Easingwold	Malton & Norton	Sherburn in Elmet
Eastfield	Masham	Skipton
Esk Valley	Northallerton	South Craven
Filey	Pateley Bridge	Stokesley
Grassington	Pickering	Tadcaster
Hawes	Reeth	Thirsk
Helmsley	Richmond	Whitby
Ingleton & Bentham	Ripon	

# Investment Stream 1 – Application Information

- Only 1 award will be made for each place. The successful applicant will work in that place as our system partners
- Organisations must already be able to demonstrate that they meet many of the characteristics of Community Anchor Organisations and commit to further development
- Organisations will have a strong track record of service delivery and should be – or have plans in place to be - financially viable
- Organisations can only apply for one place and will have a physical base there.
- We expect that boundaries between the outer edges of self-defined hinterlands may not meet and/or will be permeable.

## Investment Strand 2: Co-Design Grants - Harrogate Town & Scarborough Town

<b>Context</b>	<p>Recognising that in our larger urban areas there are a number of distinctive neighbourhoods and the model of a single place-based community anchor may not work, we are interested in carrying out some further exploration, working with a local partner, to understand what the optimal options for investing in Community Anchors are in those areas.</p> <p>We are seeking a partner from the VCSE sector to co-design with us, and with other local partners, options for investment in a community anchor model for both Harrogate &amp; Scarborough.</p>
<b>Investment amount</b>	<p>There is <b><u>ONE</u></b> grant award of £15,000 available for a co-design partner in each town.</p> <p>Following the completion of the co-design phase, further 'Investment Stream 1' funding will be available for the chosen option for Harrogate and Scarborough towns.</p>
<b>Process</b>	<p>Submission of applications evidencing how they meet the criteria.</p> <p>Bids will be evaluated against criteria.</p> <p>Applicants will be notified if they have been successful or not.</p> <p>Successful applicant will work with us and our learning partner to develop options for a CAO model for the respective town.</p> <p>We anticipate this will take no longer than six months.</p>
<b>Submission date</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 <b><u>Please use Application Form CAO-02 Co-Design</u></b>
<b>Decision date</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> March 2023



## Investment Strand 3: Development Grants

### Context

In places where no grants are awarded through Investment Strand 1, funding will be made available to support the development of anchors in those places.

We are committed to exploring the potential for a VCSE organisation to develop into a Community Anchor, or to explore alternative models that will work, so that eventually each place has an Anchor.

Expressions of Interest will be invited from:

1. Organisations who have an ambition to become a Community Anchor within their place; and
2. Organisations who can act as an 'honest broker' to work with local VCSE organisations, and other partners, in a defined geographic area to develop an Anchor model for that area.

### Investment amount

We will work with organisations that come forward with an Expression of Interest to assess and agree the scope of work and how it will be delivered. Resource allocation will be dependent on the scale and type of work to be undertaken.

### Process

This investment strand will only be triggered where no Community Anchor Organisation has been selected for one of our defined places through the Investment Stream 1 application process.

- To apply for funding from the **Community Anchor Organisation Fund** please complete the appropriate Application Form. When submitting your form please send it as a word document.
- **Investment Strand 1 – Place Based Community Anchor Organisations** should complete Form CAO-01
- **Investment Strand 2 – Co-design Grants** should complete Form CAO-02
- Completed application forms should be emailed to [stronger.communities@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:stronger.communities@northyorks.gov.uk)
- Deadline for applications - **20 March 2023**

# How to Apply