

Thank you for contacting Avenue Services about the 'Avenue Services Surplus Fund' (referred to as discretionary projects in our Business Plan 2020-2023).

We are now inviting you to complete an application form with the details of your investment proposal.

We recommend you have this document to hand when completing the form.

The fund is currently accepting applications for community projects that will make a significant difference to the lives of our residents and the Blacon community.

Who can apply?

- Blacon residents
- Blacon community and resident groups
- Local businesses and social enterprises
- Local schools and educational institutions
- Local charities
- Statutory organisations providing services to the Blacon community

Applicant groups must have a bank account, equal opportunities policy and constitution as a minimum.

Projects should support one or more of the following priorities outlined below:

### **Employment, Education, Skills and Training**

We aim to support residents in developing skills and accessing training opportunities in order to enter into, and sustain, employment. We are particularly interested in projects which aim to increase employability, gain qualifications and help people progress into work.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

We aim to support residents to live happy, healthy and fulfilled lives, with access to the care and support services they need. We are particularly interested in projects which aim to reduce isolation, build connections and friendships.

### **Community safety and infrastructure**

We aim to ensure that our communities are safe places to live and are equipped with the infrastructure they need to shape their aims and aspirations. We are particularly interested in projects which aim to make our communities feel safer and increase a sense of belonging and pride.

### **Environment**

We aim to make our neighbourhoods greener and cleaner places to live and to assist our residents to live more sustainable lifestyles. We are particularly interested in projects which actively engage people in improving spaces or places as well as projects which support greener lifestyle choices.

### **Financial inclusion**

We aim to ensure that everyone is able to access the basic financial services products that are needed to participate in a modern society. We are particularly interested in projects which increase the confidence of people to manage their money.

## Eligible projects

Your project should fit one or more of our five priority themes. It must benefit Blacon residents and should aim to make a positive difference to the community. We are committed to supporting the communities that we work in. Our 'Surplus Project Fund' supports larger scale projects that will provide a significant impact on the local community. Below are some examples of projects that have been partially or fully funded from our surplus plan.

- Bike and scooter trail (Pump Track) located next to Blacon Adventure Playground.
- Refurbishment of the main office building and the Activity Centre at Blacon Adventure Playground.
- Purchase and refurbishment of a permanent facility for Blacon Youth Football Club and young people at Cairns Crescent.
- Blacon High School 3G football pitch.

It would be ideal, but not essential, for you to demonstrate effective partnership working as part of the project or activities you're planning and to have secured or anticipate securing additional investment to contribute to the project from other sources (for example cash or materials or volunteer time). Projects which only benefit one person will not be eligible for funding.

## How much funding can you apply for?

We will accept applications for projects over £5,000. If you have a great idea for a smaller scale project (up to £5,000) please complete our '*Avenue Services Surplus Project Fund Application Form*'.

## What happens once you have submitted your application?

We will contact you within five working days to confirm receipt of the application. All applications will be assessed on the first day of the following month (or the next working day if the 1st is a weekend). You will be notified of the decision the same week by email or by phone. You should have a minimum of 6 weeks between submitting your application and the project starting to ensure adequate time is given. If your application is successful, we will expect you to agree to the conditions of the funding which includes: recording your expenditure, working with us to monitor your progress and sharing stories. We will provide you with a contact to help you to make sure that your project is a success.

## Is there anything you can't use the money for?

Yes, there are a few things that our funding cannot be used for.

- Ongoing running costs; for example, insurance, utility costs, rent or salaries.
- Funding individuals or projects which only benefit one person.
- Fixtures and fittings; for example, chairs and tables (unless the project cannot run without the specialised equipment).
- Sponsorship or projects which are motivated mainly by marketing or branding.
- Alcohol

## Find out more

If you would like to talk your idea through with someone, or ask a question about the '*Avenue Services Surplus Project Fund*' please call us on 0300 123 1741 or email [avenue.services@sanctuary-housing.co.uk](mailto:avenue.services@sanctuary-housing.co.uk).