



Ramsgate Pride in Place Community Action Grant

Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Ramsgate Pride in Place programme?

Funded by the UK Government, the Pride in Place Programme is a £20 million, 10-year investment programme for Ramsgate. Crucially, the programme ensures decisions are made in Ramsgate, by the people of Ramsgate—not in Westminster. It is here to help us build a stronger, thriving town.

The programme is guided by a 10-year community plan and a new vision for the town. You can [read the full 10-year plan and learn more about the community's goals](#)

You can read more about the [Ramsgate Pride in Place programme on our website](#).

A dedicated Ramsgate Neighbourhood Board, made up of the people of Ramsgate, businesses, and community leaders, has been set up to lead this work and decide where the funding will be spent.

What is the Community Action Grant?

While the larger, long-term Pride in Place regeneration projects are being developed, we want to start making a difference immediately.

The Community Action Grant is a £150,000 first-year revenue fund designed to deliver visible, locally led improvements right now. Ramsgate is a town with a strong community spirit and real talent, and this grant is here to empower local groups, businesses, and residents to turn their ideas into action.

To be funded, your project must contribute to making impact towards one or more of Ramsgate's five community-chosen priorities:

- **Open It Up:** Bringing back our town centre and jobs.
- **Clean It Up:** Creating cleaner, greener streets and restoring civic pride.
- **Light It Up:** Designing safer, brighter streets and improving accessibility.
- **Raise It Up:** Investing in our young people, their skills, and their future.
- **Join It Up:** Connecting health and support services so no one is left behind.

What should projects work towards for each priority?

The Ramsgate Neighbourhood Board has set out clear aims based on the 10-year 'We are Ramsgate' Vision and Plan and the change the community wants to achieve. For a community grant of this size, your project is not expected to change town-wide statistics on its own. Instead, you should aim to deliver local activities that contribute towards at least one of these short and long-term goals:

Priority	What immediate or medium-term difference we want to see (Outcomes)	What longer-term PiPP outcome will the project contribute towards?
Open It Up	Contributing to local footfall and dwell time, supporting a local enterprise, or sustaining/creating local jobs or flexible workspace.	A diversified and resilient local economy with sustainable job growth and a thriving, active town centre
Clean It Up	Delivering a visible aesthetic or environmental uplift to a specific area, improving local green spaces, or enhancing biodiversity or sustainability, helping to increase civic pride and resilience	Sustained restoration of civic pride and a consistently clean, cared-for physical environment that is safe and usable for all
Light It Up	Improving the feeling of safety in a specific location, supporting local anti-social behaviour reduction, or fixing specific physical accessibility barriers.	Long-term reductions in crime and anti-social behaviour, and a truly inclusive, accessible town where fear of crime no longer shapes daily life
Raise It Up	Engaging young people in positive activities, supporting local skills development, or providing targeted pathways toward training and employment.	A reduction in youth unemployment, uplifted career aspirations, and a generation of young people who see a viable future in Ramsgate.
Join It Up	Connecting residents to community hubs to reduce social isolation, improving local access to support, or supporting targeted wellbeing initiatives.	Reduced levels of deprivation, substance misuse, and social isolation across Ramsgate's neighbourhoods.

What is meant by a year-round economy?

A year-round economy refers to a local economic model that is not solely dependent on seasonal summer tourism. Instead, it incorporates a diverse mix of industries, employment opportunities, and services that generate income and sustain the community throughout all twelve months of the year.

Key Characteristics:

- **Economic Diversification:** The development of sectors such as healthcare, higher education, information and communication technology and the arts to provide stable, year-round employment.
- **Stable Employment:** A core goal is to create genuine, long-term jobs that allow residents, particularly younger people, to stay in the area rather than migrating to larger cities for work.

Resilience: By reducing reliance on the volatile summer holiday season, the local economy becomes more resilient to fluctuations in tourism numbers and broader economic down turns.

All grants will need to contribute to a year-round economy.

What are the two grant streams?

Both streams are funded from the programme's £150,000 'Revenue' pot, which means the money is intended for day-to-day project running costs. However, the two streams are designed to achieve different types of impact:

- **Grants up to £10,000:** This stream is all about Building Stronger Communities through rapid, visible, grassroots action. It is designed to empower local residents and groups to deliver hyper-local projects that build social trust and address immediate neighbourhood priorities. If your project is about taking more immediate, direct action that brings people together and proves to the community that real change is happening, this is the stream for you.
- **Grants between £10,000 and £15,000:** This stream is focused on Creating Thriving Places and tackling bigger, more complex local challenges. We expect these projects to be more ambitious, perhaps addressing multiple Ramsgate priorities or bringing different organisations together to try new ways of working. Because this is a larger investment, you will need to explain how you will use the funding to build a sustainable model that keeps the work running after the grant ends. We also encourage applicants in this stream to bring match funding (money or resources from other sources) to get the best value for money.

You will need to choose the stream that best fits your project's goals. The same project must not be submitted to both streams.

Is there a minimum amount?

No. Smaller projects may still deliver significant community benefit.

Who can apply?

Eligible applicants may include VCSE organisations, charities, constituted groups, community interest companies, micro and small businesses, sole traders and freelancers. The applicant entering the grant agreement must be able to pass due diligence.

Can an organisation based outside Ramsgate apply?

Yes, they are eligible. Under the official Pride in Place national guidance, the government explicitly permits spending money outside the immediate boundary area, provided the core benefit is delivered to the targeted community.

The Ramsgate Neighbourhood Board is heavily committed to building local capacity and ensuring that suppliers and grant recipients have a deep understanding of the town.

To balance these priorities, the Board reached a consensus to use weighted criteria rather than a strict postcode exclusion. This ensures the programme directly benefits the local community while avoiding the exclusion of high-value and experienced stakeholders or buildings who can deliver significant benefits to Ramsgate residents.

How this works in practice: When you apply, you will be asked to state the physical/registered location of your organisation and outline your operational footprint and proven experience delivering projects specifically within Ramsgate.

This 'Local Presence & Ramsgate Experience' criteria are evaluated on a scale that balances building local economic capacity with proven local knowledge.

Our core requirement for all applicants is simple: whether you are based inside or outside the town boundary, your proposal must primarily benefit the residents of Ramsgate and align with the spirit of the programme.

What if our group is new?

A newly formed group may be asked for alternative financial evidence and may face more challenges satisfying due diligence without a track record. It might be appropriate to work in partnership with an established lead applicant. NB. The named grant recipient remains responsible for delivery, compliance and repayment if the project does not deliver what is laid out in the grant application.

Can individuals or sole traders apply?

Yes, where eligible. You will need to provide evidence of self-employed status, such as HMRC UTR confirmation, and suitable financial information such as a trial balance and, if requested, a tax return or other evidence of income.

Can Board-linked organisations apply?

Yes, organisations that have a representative on the Ramsgate Neighbourhood Board are eligible to apply. However, their intention to apply must be formally recorded through the Board's conflict of interest process. To ensure complete fairness and transparency, any member with a declared interest or material conflict will not be involved in the grant decision panel. They will not be permitted to take part in the debate, scoring, voting, or any subsequent key decisions about the grant pot for that application. (Note: Mere acquaintance with an applicant in a small community is not automatically a disqualifying conflict)

Can we submit more than one application?

Yes, where the projects are genuinely separate. However, the Panel is unlikely to fund more than one project from the same organisation and will consider fair distribution across the overall programme. Duplicate applications for the same project are not permitted.

Can the same project apply to both streams?

You will need to choose which stream is most appropriate for your needs.

What does it mean that this is a 'Revenue' grant?

This means the grant is intended to cover the running costs of delivering your project, such as staff time, venue hire, materials, and routine expenses. It is different from 'Capital' funding, which is used for buying or building major, long-lasting physical assets. Because this is a revenue fund, it cannot be used for large-scale investments like buying land, purchasing vehicles, or constructing and refurbishing buildings.

What can the grant pay for?

Eligible costs can include staff time, freelance and professional fees, project management, venue hire, participant costs, marketing, travel, insurance, materials and equipment, where they are necessary and directly related to delivery.

Can the grant support an existing project?

Yes. Unlike many grant programmes, this fund does not exclusively require the invention of brand-new projects. The Board actively welcomes applications that sustain, strengthen, scale, or add value to existing core initiatives that already deliver high impact against the Ramsgate priorities.

The intention is to allow established groups to continue doing what they do best, while providing the resources they need to focus on the sustainability of their activity or service. For example, you can use this funding to pay for things that move your organisation towards sustainable activity, such as paying for staff time to develop a new income stream, testing a new year-round service, or hiring expertise to build a long-term business plan.

Your application must explain what the grant will enable that would not otherwise happen, and how this funding will help you deliver longer-term support or contribute to a

sustainable, year-round economy in the town.

Can the grant pay core costs?

A proportion of salary, overhead or administration may be included where it is clearly attributable to delivery of the funded project.

Can we buy equipment?

Yes. Equipment, furniture, IT equipment, projectors and other assets needed for the project may be eligible. Items below £15,000 remain eligible even if the applicant records them as capital assets in its own accounts.

Can the grant pay salaries or freelance fees?

Yes, where the cost is directly related to delivery and the application explains the role, time and contribution to outcomes.

Can we receive funding from another source?

Yes, but you must declare all confirmed and pending funding. The same cost cannot be paid twice. The budget must show which funder will meet each cost. If your project is dependent on funding from other sources, grant offers will generally be held for up to six months while you await the outcome of those applications. After that, the offer may be withdrawn.

Can we apply for less than the full project cost?

Yes. Show the total project cost, grant request, cash match, in-kind support and any funding gap.

Could the Panel offer less than requested?

Yes. The Panel may support selected elements, offer a reduced amount or attach conditions. You will be asked whether the project remains viable at a lower award.

Who is the legal grant agreement with?

Thanet District Council acts as the 'accountable body' for the Ramsgate Pride in Place programme. This means they are legally responsible to the government for the funding and must make sure all public money is spent lawfully, safely, and fairly. The relationship with the Ramsgate Neighbourhood Board will therefore be through Thanet District Council, who support the board with ensuring that every funded project passes the necessary financial and legal checks before any money is handed out.

In short: the Ramsgate Neighbourhood Board sets the priorities and decides which projects receive funding, but your official legal contract and grant payments will be handled by Thanet District Council.

What is due diligence?

Due diligence involves a series of checks to ensure public money is paid lawfully and responsibly. Because Thanet District Council is legally responsible for the funding, they undertake these checks to confirm that successful applicants have the financial and resourcing ability to actually deliver their projects.

These checks are typically carried out by the council's Finance Team. To keep everything safe and fair, they will look at:

- Your group's setup: Confirming your legal status and looking at who is leading the organisation.
- Your finances: Checking you have a suitable bank account and that your group is financially healthy enough to run the project.
- Official records: Reviewing your company or charity records, if you are a registered organisation.
- General rules and risks: Ensuring the grant complies with legal funding rules (like 'subsidy control') and doing basic risk checks.

If the council spots anything unclear during these checks, they may ask you for further information to assist you in passing the relevant checks. For a full list of the potential documents you will need to provide to help with this process, please see the 'Due diligence and assurance process' document.

When are due diligence checks carried out?

Detailed checks will be undertaken after the Grant Panel has shortlisted organisations for funding. A conditional decision is not a final award, and no payment can be made until checks are complete and the grant agreement is signed.

Do the names and addresses on our documents need to match?

Yes, exactly. The name of the applicant organisation and the registered address on your application must match the name and address on your bank account. If the details do not match, we cannot proceed with your application and the grant cannot be paid. Please ensure all your bank and organisational records are fully updated to match before you apply.

Do we need quotes?

Provide proportionate evidence that costs are realistic and offer value for money. This may include quotations, supplier estimates, catalogue prices, screenshots or published rates. Larger or unusual items should be supported by stronger evidence.

What if a permission is not yet in place?

You may apply, but any award may be conditional on obtaining landowner consent, planning permission, licensing, building control approval or another required permission before funds are released or the relevant activity begins. Funds are generally held for up to

six months from the award date.

What insurance is needed?

You are responsible for appropriate insurance. Public liability insurance will be expected for many activities. Other cover may be needed depending on the project. An eligible one-off insurance cost may be included in the budget.

What if the project involves children or vulnerable adults?

You must have suitable safeguarding arrangements and provide the relevant policy. Safe recruitment, DBS checks and consent arrangements should be appropriate to the activity. A safeguarding policy should be submitted with your grant application.

How will applications be assessed?

Ramsgate Town Council will carry out administrative completeness and eligibility checks. Decision panel members from Ramsgate Neighbourhood Board organisations will score applications against the published criteria, record reasons and meet to agree funding decisions. Thanet District Council undertakes due diligence and sets up the legal grant agreement and terms with successful applicants. Ramsgate Town Council officers administer the process only; they do not make the grant decisions.

Can officers ask clarification questions?

Yes. Clarifications must be factual and explanatory. Officers cannot allow an applicant to rewrite or materially improve the proposal after the deadline. The original application and clarification response will both be available to the Panel.

Will unsuccessful applicants receive feedback?

Yes. Applicants will receive a meaningful explanation of the main reasons for non-award, based on the recorded scoring and Panel discussion.

When will awards be announced and paid?

Subject to any unexpected delays it is intended that successful candidates will be informed on Friday 11th December 2026. Payment depends on due diligence, supplier set-up, accurate bank information and return of the signed grant agreement, funding may be received before Christmas, but early January is more likely.

How long can projects run?

Projects should start as soon as practical after award and must finish by 31 March 2028. Seasonal or longer projects are permitted where the timetable is justified.

What monitoring is required?

All successful applicants will provide proportionate progress information and a final report. A short interim update may be requested in March and/or September to support

programme reporting and communications. Larger or longer projects may receive additional monitoring conditions.

What evidence should we collect?

Keep financial evidence, delivery records, participant or audience numbers where relevant, photographs or video with appropriate consent, feedback, examples of change, and evidence linked to your chosen outcomes. It is best to collect this from the outset of the funded work and through the process, rather than at the end. Doing it this way, will save you a lot of time at the end.

What happens to unspent or misused funding?

Unspent funds must be returned. Funding may also be recovered where it is used outside the grant agreement, obtained through false information or where material conditions are not met. If there are any material changes to your project, permission to repurpose the funds must be sought in advance and approval is not guaranteed.

What publicity is required?

Successful applicants must acknowledge Ramsgate Pride in Place Programme support and use the supplied UK Government and Ramsgate Neighbourhood Board branding in accordance with the grant agreement. A Publicity Agreement will form part of the grant acceptance paperwork.

Who owns equipment purchased with the grant?

The grant agreement will specify any asset conditions. The applicant should explain who will own, maintain and use equipment after the funded project ends.

Where can I get help?

Contact Hannah Rowe at office.admin@ramsgatetowncouncil.gov.uk / 01843598751 who can clarify the process and accessibility requirements, but all applicants remain responsible for their own proposal.