

Darlington Building Society Community Support Guidance

The Society’s Community Impact Strategy sits at the heart of our support to the local community. It combines our commitment to donating 5% of profits to good causes, along with volunteering, financial education, and sharing facilities with local groups.

Within our strategy we have four defined key pillars. By strengthening and supporting as many local causes as possible across each of these, we believe it can have a real valuable and sustainable impact across our operating area. The four pillars consist of:



Within the strategy we also have our “Local 5” initiative in which our nine branches and head office site, work with our members and local communities to select five charities or good causes in their local areas to have a more tailored focus of support year on year.

Our more focused approach is aimed at creating sustainable, meaningful relationships with the community by bringing all these core activities together so that we can maximise the value we bring to the local areas we serve.

Our 5% pledge looks to support local charities and good causes by directing 5% of our annual profits* back into our own communities each year. Grants are available to be applied for ranging from £250-£15,000 annually and are considered, discussed, and voted for by our Community Impact Group who meet four times a year. In 2021, the Society recognizes the significant impact the pandemic has had across the region, through working with local charities and foundations we have recognized the following as key areas of focus to support under the pledge:

Mental Health & Wellbeing

Unemployment & skills development

Stay Connected

* (5% pledge fund is take after tax)

Our funding criteria?

Funding principles Underpinning our strategy are a number of the United Nations, Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). When we receive an application for funding, there will be a need to meet at least one of the principles detailed below.



In addition to these the following eligibility criteria will be used to initially assesses any application meets the Society's overall strategic goals, it is therefore worth assessing your grant against these prior to submission.

Eligible funding locations

Darlington Building Society will predominantly, but not exclusively, support communities of County of Durham, Tees Valley and North Yorkshire.

Postcode	Accepted
DH	Yes
DL	Yes
HG	Yes
SR	Yes
TS	Yes
YO	Yes

Can we apply?

Below provides an overview of the foundations organisation/charitable objective acceptance criteria:-

Organisations/charitable objective	Accepted
Registered charities	Yes
Charitable incorporated organisations	Yes
Constituted groups	Yes
Companies limited by guarantee	Yes
Community interest companies	Yes
Social enterprises	Yes
Unincorporated sports clubs (with a constitution)	Yes

Funding exclusions

Below provides an overview of exclusion criteria.

Criteria	Accepted
Profit-making organisations	No
Animal welfare, unless the project benefits people (e.g. disabled riding schemes)	No
Religious or political activities	No
Financing or spending which has already taken place	No
Deficit or retrospective funding (i.e. grants for activities which have already taken place)	No
Projects where there is statutory responsibility to provide funding	No
Statutory bodies (including schools and parish councils), unless you can prove the project is community-led, for the benefit of the whole community and not a statutory responsibility	No
Darlington Building Society has provided funding to your organisation/charity within the last 24 months	No
I am requesting funding for under £250 or over £15,000	No

How do we apply?

It's great news that you are looking to apply for funding with us. If you meet our eligible criteria, you will need to complete the community impact application form which is accessible from this link (**insert link**).

Once you have completed the community impact application form, please send this via email to community@darlington.co.uk

What happens next?

On receipt of your community impact application, we will review this to see if the application meets our funding criteria.

Your application meets criteria	Your application doesn't meet criteria
<p>Your application will be allocated to our closest Branch Manager, Head Office or a member of the CIG. A member of staff from this team will then contact you within 21 working days, from receipt of application, to chat about your funding requirements.</p> <p>Should the member of staff support your application, a recommendation will be taken to the CIG, who meet quarterly.</p> <p>Once a decision has been made on whether your application is successful or not, we will communicate this to you within 5 working days of the CIG quarterly meeting.</p>	<p>You will be informed within 14 working days, following receipt of the community impact application.</p>

How do I get in touch?

Need to chat about	Area to contact
Further clarification required on eligibility criteria	<p>Email: Caroline Bailey community@darlington.co.uk</p> <p>Contact number 01325 741039</p>
Further support required to complete the community impact application form	<p>Email: Caroline Bailey community@darlington.co.uk</p> <p>Contact number 01325 741039</p>
Volunteering opportunities	<p>Email: Trish Brown tbrown@darlington.co.uk</p> <p>Contact number 01325 741037</p>

Sharing space	<p>Email: Louise Thorpe lthorpe@darlington.co.uk</p> <p>Contact number 01325 741079 or 07974677613</p>
Community network relationships	<p>Email: Niki Barker nbarker@darlington.co.uk</p> <p>Contact number 01325 741027</p>