

SURREY COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GRANT

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT STAGE 1: ACTION PLAN GRANT



Introduction to this guidance document

Surrey communities play an important role in helping local people prepare for challenges and respond when disruption occurs. Community resilience planning enables organisations to identify local priorities, strengthen support networks and take practical action to protect the places that matter most to residents.

This guidance document sets out how Surrey groups can develop a Community Resilience Plan and apply for SCC Resilience Programme funding to deliver projects identified through that plan.

Programme structure

The Community Resilience Plan is built around three key components:

- Community Resilience Toolkit – explains risks and provides guidance
- Workbook – supports longer-term planning and action development
- Community Emergency & Resilience Plan – focuses on immediate response planning

Aim

To support communities to plan for, prepare, and deliver actions that improve long-term resilience while enabling funding for impactful local projects.



Application Process

This programme has a two stage application process. This document will focus on Stage 1 only:

Stage 1: Action Plan Grant (Plan Funding – £1,000)

Communities are first required to develop a Resilience Action Plan.

There are only **15 Action Plan grants available**. Funding will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis to applicants who submit a satisfactory Action Plan.

However, once all 15 Action Plan grants have been awarded, no further £1,000 Action Plan grants will be available. In this situation, you can still submit an Action Plan and progress to Stage 2, but you will not receive the £1,000 grant for developing the plan.

- A template for this can be found in the Surrey Community Resilience: Workbook (Appendix 1)
- This should be completed and submitted via email to **greenerfutures@surreycc.gov.uk** with the header:
 - “Resilient Communities Grant: [Group name] Action Plan”
- The £1,000 funding is provided to support you in developing this plan, and paid retrospectively on satisfactory completion of your plan
- Once the plan has been reviewed and accepted, we will ask for bank details to make payment.
- The deadline to complete the Action Plan is the **16th September 2026**.

What if we have already completed a Resilience Plan?

If you have already developed a plan for your area as part of the Pilot Climate and Nature Action Plan, or via another route, you may be eligible to apply directly for Stage 2 funding.

Please submit your completed Action Plan to us before applying, and we will send you an application form for Stage 2 project funding.

Completing the Action Plan

The Action Plan template can be found in Appendix 1 of the Surrey Community Resilience: Workbook.

To complete the Action Plan, you should first work through the workbook and map your local area using the prompts provided. The purpose of this exercise is to identify the key risks, vulnerabilities, assets and opportunities within your community. The risks and issues you identify should then be recorded in the Action Plan.

As you develop your Action Plan, consider what projects, initiatives or activities could help your community adapt to current and future challenges, reduce risks and build long-term resilience.

When completing the Action Plan, please consider the following risks and themes:

- Flood Risk
- Heat Risk
- Drought
- Wildfire
- Biodiversity and Nature Recovery
- Community Resilience and Cost of Living
- Energy Resilience
- Food Security
- Transport
- Waste and Resources

Your proposed actions do not need to address every theme. However, you must demonstrate that you have considered each of these themes before deciding they are not applicable to your area. Instead, focus on the issues that are most relevant to your local area and where community-led projects could have the greatest impact.

The Action Plan should help demonstrate how your community has assessed local risks and identified practical steps to improve resilience for residents and the local environment.

Grant Summary and FAQ

Question	Summary Guidance
When is the application deadline?	The deadline to complete the Action Plan is the 16th of September 2026 . The deadline to apply for project funding is the 30th September 2026 . You may apply for Stage 2 as soon as your plan has been approved.
Who can apply?	Parish or Town Councils, Resident Associations, Neighbourhood Forums, Schools, Community Groups, Faith Group can be the lead applicant. However you must evidence collaboration between multiple organisations in the creation and proposed delivery of the plan.
How much can I apply for?	£1,000 for the action plan.
Do we need to be a legal entity to apply?	No, but you must have an organisation bank account, or have written approval to make use of a partner organisation's account
What can I apply for?	Capital measures for resilient projects, equipment or resources to build capacity (see page 6 for ideas of what can be funded)
What is the project completion deadline?	All work must be completed by 15th March 2027 . If there is a risk of work not being completed before this deadline, you must make SCC aware as early as possible.
Will we get the funding before doing the work?	Payment for completion of the plan will be made once the completed plan has been assessed. Grant funding will be paid in advance of the project commencing.
Can we match fund with other schemes?	Yes
How do I apply?	Email the Action Plan template to Greenerfutures@surreycc.gov.uk . You will be issued with a link to complete the online project grant application form.
I missed the application deadline, can I still apply?	No
Where can I find full T&C's?	Full Terms & Conditions will be found in the Grant Agreement which will be sent to successful applicants on decision by judging panel

What can be funded with the Stage 1: Action Plan Grant

- Incentivising a group or representative to complete the work within the deadline
- Holding engagement events to bring in multiple organisations
- Room hire, booking fees, etc.
- Marketing or other capacity building (e.g. software)
- Securing fundraiser support to matchfund projects within the plan



Eligibility and terms

We recommend that key stakeholders are involved and apply for the Community Resilience grant, including:

- Parish or town council
 - Residents' associations / neighbourhood forums
 - Schools
 - Businesses, especially those that are closely linked to the community
 - Faith groups
 - Community groups
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- Applicants involved in last year's grant scheme are welcome to apply, whether your organisation was successful in receiving a grant or not. However, please note that if you received a grant in 2025-26, and did not submit Reporting by the required deadline, a stipulation under the grant agreement, you will not be considered for funding this year.

Applications

- All applicants must complete and submit the Action Plan template in full. Once this has been reviewed and approved, they can proceed to apply for project funding.
- Applications for the action plan grant submitted after the deadline of **16th of September 2026** will not be considered
- Successful applicants will need to sign a Grant Agreement form, with bank details, proof of insurance and landowner permission, where relevant
- Successful applicants will be required to complete an Impact Report, including provision and consolidation of data and evidence of nature recovery action

How will this grant help residents and communities

As well as strengthening the ability of communities to respond to risk, this programme recognises that resilience delivers a wide range of wider benefits for people, place, and the environment.

This grant aims to support communities to prepare for climate impacts, reduce local vulnerabilities, and deliver lasting improvements through locally driven action.

Projects should demonstrate how they contribute to building resilience and delivering wider community benefits, relevant to their local area. Such as:

- Prioritising those most at risk, helping to reduce inequalities and improve wellbeing.
- Encouraging partnerships between organisations to build stronger, more connected communities.
- Empowering communities to develop creative, place-based solutions to local challenges.
- Delivering wider co-benefits such as improving environmental quality, biodiversity, health, and local spaces for communities to enjoy.

