



Small Grant Application

Name of Organisation
Northumberland Community Bank

Contact Name
Scott Wilson-Laing

Position
CEO

Address for correspondence:
Town Hall, 65 Station Road, Ashington, NE63 8RU

Preferred contact for Grant Aid correspondence
Letter () Telephone ()
Email (X)

Bank Details:

Please tick to show you have read and understood the **Data Protection Statement** in the attached guidelines (/)

What is the status of your organisation? (Please tick)

Registered Charity () Voluntary Organisation () Community Group ()
Tenants' Association () Other, please specify **Non profit Community Bank**

If applying for the first time, please give a brief description of your group/organisation:

Northumberland Community Bank is a financial co-operative that operates with a unique focus: it's **for people, not profit**. Here are some key points about us:

1. Ownership and Purpose:

- Unlike traditional high street banks, Northumberland Community Bank is genuinely committed to serving its members and to community well being through financial stability. It is owned by the people who use its services, rather than external shareholders.
- The bank's primary purpose is to help its members by offering financial products and services that benefit the local community.

2. Borrowing Fairly:

- Northumberland Community Bank aims to provide fair lending options to its customers. It wants to ensure that local residents don't have to rely on payday lenders, loan sharks or store cards.
- By offering affordable loans, the bank helps individuals access credit without being burdened by exorbitant interest rates.

3. Savings and Loans:

- The bank encourages its members to save regularly. These savings create a fund that can be safely lent out to other community members.
- Northumberland Community Bank provides a safe home for savings and flexible loan options.
- The Family Loan option enables the community to have their benefits paid directly to the bank to pay back small loans and to build up excess savings enabling them to have a nest egg after their loan is completed

4. Regulation and Protection:

- Northumberland Community Bank is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (FRN Number 214298).
- Savings up to £85,000 are automatically protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.



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Please include the following with your application:

- ✓ Your constitution or governing document, or written aims and objectives.
- ✓ Up-to-date financial information, including latest accounts and bank statement.
- ✓ A set a basic core policies or statements:
 - ✓ Health & Safety
 - ✓ Equality and Diversity
 - ✓ Safeguarding
 - ✓ Data Protection and GDPR

Please contact us if you are unsure about any of the above. We will support any group to achieve the required policies, in accordance with our work to promote Equality and Diversity in Grant Aid Allocation, and our obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty 2022.

Does your organisation work in partnership with any other organisations? Yes (please circle)

If yes, please give details below:

We collaborate with prominent employers in Northumberland, including Northumberland County Council, The NHS, Northumbria Water, Bernicia, and other key organizations. Our mission is to enhance community well-being by offering savings and ethical loans to their staff.

We work with Education Partnership North East/Northumberland College to provide apprenticeships which is a cornerstone of our work and employee development ethic.

Please provide details of membership/users:

Number of Members/Users? 5254	Do members/users pay a subscription fee? Yes (please circle)	Subscription Fee? £2.75
Number of paid employees (if any)? 5	Number of volunteers? 0	

What percentage of members/users live in Ashington?

14.3%

Please use this space to tell us how your organisation serves the residents of Ashington or contributes towards the wellbeing of the town and residents.

The **Northumberland Community Bank** is committed to fostering financial empowerment and promoting ethical financial practices within the Ashington community. With the support of this £500 grant, we aim to enhance our operational capabilities and create impactful materials that will empower individuals and organisations alike.

We would use the £500 to pay for design and printing costs for marketing materials including roll down banners, flyers and leaflets.

Project Objectives:

Printed Materials for Outreach:

- The grant will enable us to design and print informative materials. These materials will serve as valuable resources for promoting financial literacy, savings, and ethical loans.



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- We envision distributing these materials to local organisations, community groups, and residents throughout Ashington.

Proposed Activities:

1. Creating Engaging Materials:

- Our team will collaborate with local designers and content creators to produce visually appealing brochures, pamphlets, and posters.
- Topics covered will include:
 - **Savings Strategies:** Encouraging regular savings and building emergency funds.
 - **Ethical Loans:** Highlighting our fair lending practices and competitive interest rates.

2. Distribution Campaign:

- We will strategically distribute these materials to:
 - Local schools and colleges
 - Community centres
 - Libraries
 - Non-profit organisations
 - Social clubs

Hoped for Impact:

1. Increased Financial Literacy in Ashington:

- Empowering individuals with knowledge to make informed financial decisions.
- Reducing reliance on high-interest loans, loan sharks and payday lenders.
- Reducing debt.
- Increasing financial independence

2. Community Engagement:

- Strengthening ties with local organisations and community groups ensuring they know what levels of financial support and opportunities are available to them.
- Encouraging dialogue and openness around financial wellbeing.

The Northumberland Community Bank is dedicated to creating a financially resilient community in Ashington. With this grant, we will amplify our impact, reaching more residents and organisations. Together, we can build a stronger, financially healthier community.

Thank you for considering our application.

Northumberland Community Bank *Empowering Communities, For People Not Profits*



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Amount of small grant requested (up to £500)

£500

Small Grants can be awarded towards specific projects, 'start-up' costs or maintenance/running costs (see Small Grant Guidelines) and must be spent in the financial year awarded, for the purpose given. You can only receive one small grant in any financial year.

Please give full details of the purpose of your Small Grant application:

Northumberland Community Bank: For People Not Profit

The Northumberland Community Bank has been committed to providing safe and secure loans and savings in the north east for over 30 years. We are a not-for-profit organisation, playing a pivotal role in the heart of Ashington. Our mission is to serve the residents by promoting financial wellbeing through the administration of savings accounts and ethical loans. We work tirelessly with transparency, kindness and care to ensure that all members of our community have access to financial services, especially those who face challenges engaging with traditional high street banks.

Our Impact:

1. **Financial Inclusion:** We act as a safety net, shielding individuals from the clutches of loan sharks and illegal money lending. Our commitment to ethical practices ensures that our community members can access credit without falling prey to exploitative schemes.
2. **Local Employment:** We believe in investing in our community. By hiring local talent, we not only strengthen our team but also contribute to the economic growth of Ashington. Currently, we employ five dedicated and diverse staff members, each deeply rooted in the local area.
3. **Apprenticeships and Learning Opportunities:** Our track record speaks volumes. Four of our current staff members began their journey as apprentices or through the Kickstart scheme. We are proud to provide learning pathways and mentorship, nurturing the next generation of financial professionals.

Our Vision for the Future:

As we continue to grow, we remain committed to our core values: community, integrity, and empowerment. We are actively seeking another apprentice to join our team, further enriching our local talent pool.

With support to achieve our mission we can create a resilient, financially empowered Ashington. Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive community for people not profit.

Please attach a copy of your latest financial statement together with a copy of your most recent bank statement for each bank account your organisation maintains.

UNRESTRICTED BALANCES WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT WHEN AGREEING AWARDS

DECLARATION

- ✓ I confirm that to the best of my knowledge and belief, all the information in this application is true and correct.
- ✓ I agree to any disclosure or exchange of information about this application which Ashington Town Council deem appropriate for the administration, evaluation, monitoring and publicising of Small Grants.
- ✓ I understand that acceptance of this application by Ashington Town Council does not in any way signify that the organisation is eligible to or will receive a Small Grant.



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- ✓ I have included the documents and policies required.
- ✓ I have included an up-to-date Financial Statement and copies of bank statements.
- ✓ I understand that the Council will *freeze* or *withdraw* funding or *reject* future applications if certain conditions are not met and/or there is evidence of unlawful activity, malpractice, or other behaviour that the Council deems improper.
- ✓ I agree to verify that Grant Aid has been spent for the intended purpose.
- ✓ I agree to inform the council of any significant changes to the membership or running of the organisation.

Signed	Print name Scott Wilson-Laing	Date 02.05.24
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Date application received	Application successful? Yes/No	Proposed Award £
Any additional information requested:		