# Community Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme

## Guidance for Applicants – 2026/27

Background

Since 2004, the North East Transport Partnership (Nestrans) has operated a Sustainable Travel Grant Scheme (STGS) to support and encourage Travel Planning and increase sustainable travel throughout the North East of Scotland.

STGS funding has mainly been used by private or larger public or third sector organisations. Since being established, there have been some unsuccessful applications, due to issues for some smaller charities and community groups in raising the required match funding.

To alleviate this issue, Nestrans launched the Community Sustainable Travel Grant (CSTG) in 2021 with CSTG able to provide up to 100% funding for projects.

The CSTG can be used to support measures and provide support for organisations developing or implementing sustainable travel projects. Schemes funded by a CSTG could include, but not limited to:

- Secure Cycle Parking
- Shower/Changing facilities
- Improving pedestrian/cycling access to community facilities
- A survey or public consultation to develop sustainable travel in their community
- Applicable volunteer training

*Please note that the CSTG cannot be used for improvements to private residences.*

Applicants & Funding

The following organisations based in Aberdeen or Aberdeenshire may apply for funding towards measures aimed at encouraging sustainable travel:

- A constituted Community Group
- A Registered Charity
- A social enterprise

Where an application is made on behalf of a wider grouping (e.g. a group of organisations working together), a single organisation must be nominated as the applicant.

Grants are available up to a maximum of £5,000.

Assessment Criteria

*The key factors influencing a decision are the extent to which an application demonstrates:*

- The potential impact the scheme will help improve sustainable travel
- Innovation, environmental and health benefits are demonstrated by the organisations policies and actions towards sustainable travel.

*Other factors taken into consideration include:*

- The nature of the applicant
- The commitment shown by the applicant to support the proposal - this could be in the form of volunteer hours or resources

- If there are any existing planning requirements (For example the grant would not be given for items that are required, as part of planning permission)
- The application supports the Regional Transport Strategy, Nestrans 2040
- If there are other grants/assistance available
- The size and revenue of the organisation
- The distribution of funding across the region
- Potential number of beneficiaries and
- The availability of the CSTG budget.

Process

If you wish to apply, simply complete the online application form on the Nestrans website. Deadline for applications is **Thursday 11th December 2025** and Nestrans will contact you to discuss your application by **Friday 30th January 2026**. Applications that meet the criteria of the scheme (see below), will be considered by an awarding panel, which will include senior representatives from Nestrans, Aberdeen City Council and Aberdeenshire Council.

Any grant monies provided must be spent within the 2026/27 financial year. Applicants are limited to one application per year and any organisation that has been successful in receiving funding from the STGS in the current financial year (2025/26) will not be able to apply for CSTG funding.

Nestrans may pay grant monies in advance of a project commencing (Advance Payment) in certain circumstances and at its sole discretion. Advance Payment must be agreed when the Grant is awarded.

Grants are made based on the understanding that the application is accurate and honest reflection of circumstances. CSTG awards will be offered subject to certain conditions and guarantee that awarded grants are used solely for the purposes identified as part of the assessment process. Full terms and conditions of the grant are available by emailing nestransinfo@nestrans.org.uk.

Should Nestrans wish to progress your application, you should be willing and able to provide the following information:

- Constitution or memorandum and articles of association
- A recent bank statement covering a period of 3 months
- A minute of a recent meeting
- Evidence of organisations policies or actions on transport and travel

Please note that this is not a comprehensive list and Nestrans may request additional information beyond this to validate the proposed project prior to providing a written offer of a grant.

Award of the grant does not preclude further applications in future years by the successful applicant. However, in the event of competition for the scheme's resources, previous awards to the applicant will be taken into account as part of the assessment process.

Nestrans may use a successful applicant's scheme to promote the CSTG and wider Nestrans objectives. Successful applicants will be expected to label all physical investments clearly identifying that they were funded through the CSTG.

## People & Place

Nestrans (and fellow Regional Transport Partnerships) are the grant holders and distributors of the People and Place programme. This is funding provided by the Scottish Government to bring forward active and sustainable travel behaviour change initiatives across Scotland's regions. To improve coordination across the funding managed by Nestrans, this fund (CSTG has been launched in conjunction with the funding available through the People and Place programme. More information on the funding available can be found here: https://www.nestrans.org.uk/projects/people-and-place/people-and-place-apply-for-funding/

## Further Information

If you would like to discuss the application process, queries should be directed to AKench@nestrans.org.uk and CHood@nestrans.org.uk. We aim to respond to all enquiries as soon as possible but please be aware it can take up to 10 working days.

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# Grant Criteria

1. Any Constituted Community Group, Registered Charity or social enterprise may apply, **but grants are not available to enable organisations to comply with conditions of planning permission or legal agreements which require them to implement such measures.**

2. The grant may be used to **pay for the costs of the materials, implementation of schemes, consultation, research and surveys, technical advice or training or any other initiative which demonstrates potential benefits to the north east by achieving the objectives of the scheme.**

3. Applications are particularly welcome from groups working together, but a nominated person must sign the application form on behalf of the lead organisation accepting the conditions of the Grant.

4. The application must supply adequate information to justify the scheme. This should include the potential benefit of the scheme and how the actual benefit will be measured.

5. Grants will be awarded to the most worthy bids received by Friday 30th January 2026.

6. The applicant **must demonstrate commitment from volunteers/staff or other resources within the community.**

7. **Grants are not mandatory and will be offered solely at the discretion of the awarding panel.**

8. Applicants should not make financial commitments until they have received a written offer of a grant.

9. **The applicant will be solely responsible for payment to contractors and any overrun of costs. Nestrans and its constituent bodies cannot be held responsible for such eventualities.**

10. Nestrans should receive a post-implementation review of the effectiveness of any scheme carried out with CSTG support to inform the production of an impact report. This could include, benefits of the scheme, level of use, photos, lessons learnt etc.