

March 2017

What is the Community and Environment Fund (CEF)?

The CEF is designed to give communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of HS2.

There are two types of CEF grants available:

- The CEF Local grant is for smaller projects that focus on quality of life and the environment in individual communities. Grants are available up to a maximum of £75,000 per project.
- The CEF Strategic grant is for larger projects that will benefit multiple communities and address strategic rather than purely local concerns. Projects may cross a number of local authority areas. Grants are available from £75,000 up to a maximum of £1 million per project.

CEF is additional to the statutory compensation for communities that are disrupted by the construction of HS2 along the Phase One (London and West Midlands) route.

What type of things could the CEF be used for?

Some examples of how the CEF could be used are to develop, improve or refurbish:

- pedestrian, equestrian, or cycle access;
- landscape and nature conservation projects to increase biodiversity;
- sports and recreational facilities;
- access to public open space;
- community facilities; and
- historic buildings and monuments.

Who can apply for the CEF?

We invite applications for both CEF funds from:

- community-based voluntary organisations;
- charitable and not-for-profit bodies;
- social enterprises;
- schools; and
- local authorities.

How do I apply for the CEF?

You can find guidance on how to apply at:

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/hs2funds>



HS2 is a new railway that will support fast, frequent, reliable journeys to over 100 cities and towns, including eight of our largest cities. We plan to build HS2 in phases. Phase One will connect Birmingham to London from 2026. We also plan to build a route between the West Midlands and Crewe, to open in 2027.

We are committed to being a good neighbour by treating the communities we operate in with respect and compassion, and building the railway with care and consideration. This means we are working hard to mitigate the impact of building and operating a new railway.

The Department for Transport and HS2 have provided £40 million to the Community and Environment Fund (CEF) and the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) to leave a sustainable legacy.

What is the Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF)?

The BLEF is designed to support local economies that may be disrupted by the construction of HS2. BLEF grants are for local business support organisations and local authorities to help maintain business activity in local communities.

Grants are available from £10,000 up to a maximum of £1 million.

What type of things could the BLEF be used for?

Some examples of how the BLEF could be used are for:

- schemes to improve the local public realm, especially in retail and tourist areas;
- local cycling and pedestrian access to local economic centres;
- general promotional activity;
- creating and running events to increase footfall or promote business activity during seasonal periods; and
- projects to increase tourism.

Who can apply for the BLEF?

We invite applications from local business support organisations, including local authorities.

How do I apply for the BLEF?

You can find guidance on how to apply at:

<https://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/hs2funds>

Who runs the funds?

An independent grant management body called Groundwork runs the funds. They promote the funds, work with bidders to develop applications, and monitor the progress of projects.

Who decides which projects qualify for a grant?

For decisions on grant awards under £75,000, Groundwork assesses bids against the published criteria.

For decisions on grant awards above £75,000, Groundwork passes applications to an independent panel appointed by HS2 Ltd. This panel makes recommendations to the Secretary of State and the Department for Transport.

The panel is made up of six members. Four independent members were appointed by HS2 Ltd following an open recruitment process. They are Lisa Smart, John Roseveare, Talbinder Kaur and Sara Turnbull. Together they have experience of delivering successful community-led environmental projects, a track record in providing advice and support to small- and medium-size businesses, and experience of managing local government and third sector grant programmes. They sit alongside Cathy Elliott, the Independent Chair of the Fund, and HS2 Ltd's representative, Peter Miller, Director of Environment at HS2 Ltd.



Are there any other funds to be aware of?

The Road Safety Fund (RSF)

The RSF is designed to give communities the opportunity to share in the benefits of HS2. It is for road safety schemes that improve the flow and operation of local roads.

The RSF is additional to the statutory compensation given to communities along the Phase One (London and West Midlands) route that are disrupted by the construction of HS2.

The Community Investment Plan (CIP)

We also require our contractors to participate in our Community Investment Plan by sponsoring local initiatives.

Initiatives under a similar community plan for the Crossrail project include refurbishing the playground of a local primary school, and designing and installing a professional kitchen and utility area for a local community centre.

Where can I find detailed information papers?

See information paper: Community and Environment Fund and Business and Local Economy Fund (C12) at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hs2-information-papers-property-and-compensation>

If you have any questions or would like to find out more, you can get in touch:



Write to: HS2 Helpdesk, 2 Snowhill,
Queensway, Birmingham B4 6GA



Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk



Telephone:
020 7944 4908



Minicom text service:
020 7944 6500

Contact us if you would like this information in large print, braille, audio, easy read and in other languages.

You can ask someone to represent you in any discussions with HS2 Ltd.



For questions about HS2,
call our helpdesk on 020 7944 4908

Keeping you informed

We are committed to keeping you informed via various channels



Residents' Charter and Commissioner

The Residents' Charter is our promise to communicate as clearly as we possibly can with people who live along or near the HS2 route. You can read it by visiting:

www.gov.uk – search for *HS2 residents' charter*

We also have an independent Residents' Commissioner whose job is to make sure we keep to the promises we make in the Charter and to keep it under constant review. The first of the Residents' Commissioner's reports is published at:

www.gov.uk – search for *HS2 residents commissioner report 1*

You can contact the Commissioner at:

residentscommissioner@hs2.org.uk

Project updates

For more information about Phase Two, visit

www.gov.uk – search for *HS2 Phase Two: from the West Midlands to Leeds and Manchester*

And for details of events in your area, visit

www.gov.uk – search for *HS2 events*

Contact us

HS2 Helpdesk

Tel: 020 7944 4908

Email: hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Property and compensation

You can find out all about HS2 and properties along the line of route by visiting:

www.gov.uk – search for *HS2 property*

You can also find out if you're eligible for compensation at:

www.gov.uk – search for *HS2 compensation*

Jobs and skills

To see what jobs are available on HS2 at the moment, check our careers page:

<http://careers.hs2.org.uk>

If you're a student wondering what careers in STEM subjects are like, check out articles and have a look around our Plotr World:

www.plotr.co.uk/careers/worlds/hs2

And if you're a business wondering how to get involved with HS2, have a look at our guides and updates on:

www.gov.uk/hs2 – search for *HS2 business*

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