

Quick Wins Grants – Diocese of Leicester

Notes for Applicants

Background

In their funding allocations for the 2023-25 triennium, the Church Commissioners agreed to provide a fund of just over £6m for grants towards small-scale repairs and improvements to local churches. The Quick Wins (QW) fund forms part of this and has been devolved to dioceses to distribute, and the Diocese of Leicester has secured up to £58,850 to distribute during 2025 which will be released in tranches over the year. All of the money must be allocated and all funded works completed by 31 December 2025.

Grants of up to £10k are available to PCCs to support churches with their Net Zero Carbon ambitions by providing funding for small scale efforts towards decarbonisation.

Any PCC can make an application provided they have a project that meets the eligibility criteria set out in the accompanying document.

Meetings of the grant awarding panel

Parishes are advised to contact Atarah Adams, Historic Churches Support Officer (HCSO) Atarah.Adams@LeicesterCofE.org if they are interested in making an application.

The panel will meet every 8 weeks, whether in person or online, to discuss and review applications received. This panel also make decisions for the Minor Repairs & Improvements Fund, also currently being administered by the diocese.

With the support of the HCSO, a report will be produced that outlines the urgency of the works and the deprivation ranking of the parish concerned, along with other pertinent information relating to the works and context of the parish.

A written decision will be given as soon as practicable following the meeting. Successful applicants will then receive information regarding the process for accepting and drawing down the grant.

Additional Terms of Reference and Policy

Grants will be awarded for eligible works only according to the criteria set out in the separate Eligibility Criteria document.

Grants will only be awarded subject to availability of funds in each tranche of funding.

Repeat or further applications will not normally be considered unless funds permit later in the funding cycle and priority will be given to first time applicants. As the fund is very limited, we anticipate allocating all funds before an opportunity for repeat applications arises.

Where funds are restricted in any funding period but a clear case is made in a non-time-critical situation, the panel may reserve the right to consider an application in the next funding window.

Generally, parishes will be expected to contribute a minimum of 10% of the total cost of the works, and the maximum grant that can be awarded is up to £10k. The panel has discretion to vary this if need can be demonstrated by an applicant from a parish in the 20% most-deprived parishes, where the requirement for 10% contribution may be waived. There are 12382 parishes nationally so to be in the top 20% the overall deprivation score for the parish needs to be under 2476. The level of deprivation of a parish can be found using the Church Urban Fund Look Up Tool ([CUF Look Up Tool - CUF](#)).

There is a presumption that grants will not normally be awarded retrospectively. However, each application will be assessed according to its own merits and the Panel has the right to determine this on a case-by-case basis.

Before any grant monies are paid over, evidence of relevant permission for the work in question must be provided e.g. a copy of a faculty, Archdeacon's Written Notice ('List B'), etc.

All applicants will be expected to have completed the Energy Footprint Tool (EFT) before applying (unless it is closed). Please follow [this link](#) for more information.

The decision of the Panel in relation to any application is final. The Panel consists of:

The Archdeacon of Leicester (or a nominated representative).

A Trustee of the Diocesan Board of Finance (DBF): **tbc**

A nominee of the Chair of the DBF: Simon Britton

Michael Taylor, a trustee of Leicestershire Historic Churches Trust

The panel is assisted by the Church Buildings Team.