

Fastershire “Keep Connected” Grant

Information and Guidance

This Fastershire ‘Keep Connected’ grant from Herefordshire Council aims to support groups and organisations in Herefordshire who **have been forced to change their approach to delivering an activity, service or support in order to continue to engage with local people by using video or conference calls or other internet technology, that will act as a substitute for your usual meetings/interactions with groups of people which are no longer possible due to the current situation.**

The maximum grant is **£500 per organisation/group**.

We know that groups and organisations may need to make quick changes in order to continue to support or engage with your members, clients, community or the wider Herefordshire public, so we aim to turn around applications within 3 working days. We have a limited budget for this so may need to withdraw this opportunity at short notice. If this is the case, please be assured that all grants that have been offered will still be paid but only upon receipt of the required evidence of spend.

Herefordshire Council offers a range of grants. You can only apply to Herefordshire Council for one grant for this type of project/initiative.

Please contact projectdevelopment@herefordshire.gov for guidance on the most appropriate grant or funding for your project.

Please contact delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk with any enquiries about applying for this ‘Keep Connected’ grant.

Guidance on completing application form and who is eligible to apply

1. The name of the organisation/group must be the same as on your bank account.
2. Your organisation/group must be based in Herefordshire and deliver your service in Herefordshire
3. Eligible applicants must have a bank account in the name of the organisation/group.

4. Applicants must be not-for-profit and either a:
 - Community Group (you must have a current constitution which could be inspected if required)
 - Registered charity (registration number required)
 - Social Enterprise/Community Interest Company (registration number required)
 - Parish/Town Council
5. What can be considered for funding:
 - New software subscriptions, or licences for online platforms.
 - Technology eg. microphone, headset, camera, large screen.
 - Superfast broadband upgrade – one-off installation costs or fees
6. We are unable to grant funding for purchases that have already been made.
7. We will have expected you to have undertaken relevant cost comparisons to make the best choices for your solution
8. Please state whether total cost this is with or without VAT
9. The maximum Keep Connected grant that can be awarded is £500 per organisation.
10. You must plan to start your project within 2 months of the grant being offered.

Promotion: Fastershire and Herefordshire Council may be able to help you promote what you're doing locally as a result of this new way of delivering, eg. through social media or press release. There would be no cost to you and we would liaise with you before doing this. Please indicate on your application for if you could be interested in this.

Advice: To help advise you on selecting or setting-up the technology/platform/software, successful applicants can receive 2 hours free online/telephone support from a Fastershire Advisor. Please indicate on the form if this is of interest to you.

Declaration: By signing/ticking the application form, you are declaring that all statements and information provided in support of this application are accurate and true. Herefordshire Council reserves the right to reclaim any money, which has been paid as a result of fraudulent or misleading claims.

Please email completed form or any enquiries to

delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk

If successful, applicants will be required to notify us within 5 working days whether or not they wish to accept the offer.

By accepting the offer of a grant successful applicants will agree to Herefordshire Council undertaking future assessments of the impact the funding has had on any organisation/group.

Payment: A completed Keep Connected Claim Form (which will include bank account details in the name of the organisation/group) and satisfactory proof/evidence of actual expenditure (eg. copies of receipts, receipted invoices or payment confirmation) will need to be submitted prior to payment.

Faster Business:

Fastershire's well established Faster Business programme is offering free remote one-to-one business support and consultancy to any **small and medium size enterprise (SME)** to help them tackle the challenges of working from home or running a business from various locations. To register for this free consultancy email business@fastershire.com

If you would like help to understand this document or the application form, or would like it in another format or language, please phone 01432 260753 or email delegatedgrants@herefordshire.gov.uk

Herefordshire Council is the Data Controller under data protection law and will use the information you provide on the application form in order to administer the Fastershire Keep Connected grant. The legal basis for processing this data is that it is necessary for the performance of a contract with you. Information you provide will only be used for the stated purpose. Further information about the processing of your data can be found on our website www.herefordshire.gov.uk. You can contact the council's Data Protection Officer, Carol Trachonitis, by email informationgovernance@herefordshire.gov.uk