



MAKE IT  
HAPPEN WITH  
**Big Local**



A TOOLKIT TO HELP BIG LOCAL AREAS  
MAXIMISE THE IMPACT OF THEIR  
FUNDING IN SHORT TIMEFRAMES



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# ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit is full of great ideas to help you maximise the impact of your Big Local funding. As we approach the end of the Big Local programme, we know that areas remain committed to spending well and are keen to learn from tried and tested examples from other Big Local areas.

As you explore these ideas remember to link back to your Big Local plan.

- If any of these options fall outside your plan your partnership needs to be confident that your local community support the idea, for example through recent community consultations.
- Don't forget to include this reasoning in your decision to fund the activity and minute it at your next meeting.

## Close out timelines



All Big Local funds must be spent locally and grant closure completed before March 2026. We recommend that **all funds are spent by September 2025** to allow for any delays or underspend. This also gives your partnership time to wind down and complete the steps required for close out.

NEED SUPPORT OR LOOKING FOR EVEN MORE IDEAS?

REACH OUT TO YOUR AREA COORDINATOR OR AREA ADVISOR OR EMAIL  
[SUPPORT@LOCALTRUST.ORG.UK](mailto:SUPPORT@LOCALTRUST.ORG.UK)

# 1. (CREATE A COMMUNITY SPACE FROM SHIPPING CONTAINERS

**Essential:** You need to already have access to land and where appropriate the relevant permissions.

Repurpose shipping containers (or other prefab units) into community spaces for social, cultural and business activities. There are loads of good examples online.

## Key steps to take

- Create a project timeline for negotiations and installation. Consider costs, permissions or other requirements relating to land ownership and the location of the site.
- Consider access to utilities if needed.
- Establish partnerships with local businesses, community groups or the local authority/parish council to support the long-term management and maintenance of the space. Who will look after it in the long run, and how will they cover costs.



Par Bay Big Local (Photo: Local Trust / Charlotte Sams)

## For sustainability and community interest

- Engage members of the community in the design and planning to ensure the space serves diverse needs (e.g., social gatherings, pop-up shops or educational workshops).

## Timeframe and cost

- Between 3 to 6 months.
- For a basic, unmodified shipping container, delivered and placed on a level site, you can expect to pay around £1,500 to £6,000. For a more complex installation with modifications (insulation, utilities etc) and site preparation, the cost could range from £5,000 to £15,000 or more.

## TOP TIPS

- Have an awareness of who owns the land and how long it might take to negotiate access.
- Select a location that is visible and accessible in the area to ensure frequent local use.
- Think about installation, maintenance costs, and how to obtain local permissions.

## 2. COMMISSION A FEASIBILITY STUDY

***Essential: The potential project must meet Big Local outcomes and benefit people in the Big Local area. At this stage, Big Local funding can't be used for large capital projects, only the preparatory work that can be completed by March 2026.***

Is there a potential project within your existing external partner networks that would benefit from a feasibility study?

### Key steps to take

- Review any benefits to your Big Local community.
- Understand that if the feasibility study was successful, appropriate funding channels would need to be scoped.
- Speak to external partners and understand their capacity and capability to manage the potential project.

### For sustainability and community interest

- Will there be future maintenance or resource costs that need to be considered, and is the partner organisation in a position to ensure these are met?

### Timeframe and cost

- It will take at least 60 to 90 days to complete.
- Small projects typically range from £4,000 to £9,000. Larger or more complex projects may be £16,400+

### TOP TIP

It's always a good idea to get multiple quotes and detailed proposals to understand the full scope and cost for your specific project.

# 3. REPAIR COMMUNITY ASSETS

**Essential:** You'll need a good working relationship with the community organisation and enough time (and funding) to complete the work.

Fund repairs to assets such as community halls, community centres or playgrounds.

## Key steps to take

- Meet with local community organisations that hold assets, to discuss funding repairs.
- Prioritise repairs based on community needs and the potential for long-term local use.
- Ensure repairs can be completed by September 2025 to allow for contingency to March 2026 by agreeing a project timeline with all stakeholders.



Elthorne Big Local (Photo: Local Trust / Zute Lightfoot)

## TOP TIPS

- Prioritise repairs that increase the asset's usability and lifespan.
- Secure trusted, cost-effective contractors for rapid completion.
- Clarify responsibilities for longer term maintenance beyond Big Local.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Involve community groups in maintaining the asset long-term, to ensure it continues to serve residents.

## Timeframe and cost

Timeframe and costs will vary depending on what is being repaired. If planning permission is required, the time for this process needs to be considered.

## For community centres

- A minimum of 6 months
- Estimate cost between £25,000 to £100,000 depending on site, planning and local agreements.
- Hiring contractors and skilled professionals to handle repairs can cost between approx. £150 to £500 per day.



Windmill Hill Big Local (Photo: Local Trust / Danyelle Rolla)

## For playgrounds and gym equipment

- Under 6 months.
- Minor repairs (e.g., fixing broken swings, repainting, re-tightening bolts) can range from approx. £200 to £2,000. Medium repairs (e.g. replacing some equipment, repairing flooring) can cost £2,000 to £10,000. Major repairs or replacements (e.g. replacing large equipment, safety surfacing, or upgrading the entire area) could cost upwards of £10,000 to £50,000 or more.

## 4. MAKE YOUR COMMUNITY (ENTRES MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT (RETROFITTING))

*Essential: You'll need a good working relationship with the community organisation and enough time to complete the work.*

Make energy-efficient upgrades to community centres, such as installing solar panels or insulation.

### **Key steps to take**

- Contact your area coordinator or area advisor to access support through the Centre for Sustainable Energy.
- Read our action plan on retrofitting your community building for a clear guide on what's involved.
- Develop a post-upgrade strategy, to maintain the reduced running costs of the building.



*Mablethorpe Big Local (Photo: Local Trust / Harriet Marsden)*

## For sustainability and community interest

- Partner with local eco-friendly businesses.

## Timeframe and cost

- A minimum of 6 months.
- Between £25,000 to £100,000 depending on site, planning and local agreements.
- The cost to retrofit a community centre varies significantly depending on several factors, including the size of the building, the scope of the retrofit, the types of upgrades needed, and the location. Here are some approximate figures for different types of retrofits:
  - Basic Retrofit (e.g. improving insulation, upgrading lighting, minor repairs): £50 to £100 per square metre. For a 500 m<sup>2</sup> building, this could be around £25,000 to £50,000.

- Mid-Level Retrofit (e.g. energy-efficient heating systems, window replacements, solar panels): £100 to £250 per square metre. For a 500 m<sup>2</sup> building, this could range from £50,000 to £125,000.
- Comprehensive Retrofit (e.g. major structural changes, full energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy installations): £250 to £500 per square metre or more. For a 500 m<sup>2</sup> building, this could cost £125,000 to £250,000+.

### TOP TIPS

- Seek grants or incentives for energy-efficiency projects to maximise impact.
- Involve the community in planning, to help minimise disruption during the retrofit.

# 5. SLOW COOKER PROJECTS

**Essential:** Ensure there is local need for this project and that a similar project doesn't already exist.

Big Local areas have found that poverty is often connected to a lack of warm meals and knowledge of how to cook healthy food. Organising a slow cooker project provides the tools and knowledge to create hot and healthy food at a lower cost.

## Key steps to take

- Identify a local organisation that could deliver the course. Courses usually include meal planning, recipe preparation, and sometimes live or recorded sessions to guide you through the process
- Identify how many slow cookers you can supply.

## For sustainability and community interest

- The slow cooker equipment provides sustainability for continued healthy eating after the duration of the course.

## TOP TIP

- Check if potential participants already have a slow cooker.
- If you have a 'Warm hub' in your community, the course could be run in partnership.

## Timeframe and cost

- The shortest timeframe is 3 months from sourcing equipment to delivery.
- Courses usually run for 4 weeks for 1-2 hours per week.
- Slow cookers cost approx. £25 each.

# 6. INVEST IN GYM EQUIPMENT

**Essential:** You need to have a site, permissions and a local partner who can support the work to complete within the next 12 months.

Install outdoor gym equipment in local parks to promote health and fitness.

## Key steps to take

- Obtain necessary permissions.
- Secure a high-traffic location that is highly accessible.
- Ensure regular maintenance and repair plans are in place post-installation.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Partner with local fitness groups or support volunteers to lead activities and oversee equipment use.

## TOP TIPS

- Consider who owns the land and the length of time that negotiations might take.
- Consider paying a third party to manage and deliver the project
- Purchase durable equipment that can withstand outdoor conditions.

## Timeframe and cost

- A minimum of 6 months
- Basic installation (5-7 pieces of equipment):  
£10,000 to £20,000.
- Mid-range installation (8-12 pieces of equipment):  
£20,000 to £30,000.
- Larger installation (12+ pieces of equipment):  
£35,000 to £50,000 or more.

Prices will change based on the manufacturer, contractor rates, and specific requirements for the park or location. Ongoing maintenance and safety inspections will add to the cost.



*Clarksfield, Greenacres and Littlemoor Big Local  
(Photo: Local Trust / Lily Wakeley)*

# 7. INSTALL 'CHATTY CHAIRS' IN YOUR COMMUNITY

**Essential:** You'll need sites and permissions from land holders, (for example the local authority).

Install designated 'chatty chairs' in public areas, to encourage interaction and reduce social isolation.

## Key steps to take

- Place chairs in busy areas, such as parks, shopping centres or at bus stops.
- Involve community volunteers to monitor the chairs and build awareness.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Partner with local mental health organisations to promote the initiative.
- Have a list of local groups that people who use a 'chatty chair' can connect with after their chat.

## Timeframe and cost

- A minimum of 6 months.
- Costs depend on type, design and material of chairs/benches. Each chair could cost between £200 to £2,000 with installation on top of that.

## TOP TIPS

- Promote the initiative on social media.
- Work with the relevant authority responsible for the land. Consider the possible duration of negotiations.
- Promote the initiative on social media.

# 8. ORGANISE LITTER (CLEANUPS)

**Essential:** You'll need to check with your LTO that you have the relevant insurance in place to cover your plans.

Organise community-led rubbish collections, skips, rat traps and litter cleanups to improve your local environment.

## Key steps to take

- Organise cleanup events on a regular basis.
- Provide the necessary equipment, such as gloves, bins, and bags, for participants.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Encourage residents and schools to participate, fostering a sense of responsibility for your local environment.
- Establish regular cleanup teams to ensure the initiative continues after the initial funding.

## Timeframe and cost

- You need approx. 4 to 8 weeks to organise and deliver.
- Estimated cost is under £1,000.

## TOP TIP

Partner with local environmental and neighbourhood organisations and local authorities to offer guidance and increase community participation.



Collyhurst Big Local (Photo: Local Trust / Len Grant)

# 9. DISTRIBUTE SAFETY EQUIPMENT SUCH AS CAMERA DOORBELLS AND PERSONAL SAFETY ALARMS

**Essential:** Make sure you think about fairness of access to the scheme.

Invest in technology, such as doorbells with cameras, and distribute personal safety alarms to vulnerable residents, to support local safety and help to reduce crime.

## Key steps to take

- Work with community connectors, who are well known and trusted to identify those most at risk and help distribute items appropriately. These could be people with a particularly strong local profile and network, such as GPs, faith leaders, teachers, hairdressers, police, shopkeepers or postal workers.
- Set up training and ongoing technical support for recipients to ensure effective use of the technology.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Set up or support a mutual aid group in your community.

## Timeframe and cost

- You need approx. 10 to 12 weeks to organise and deliver.
- Prices of camera doorbells range from £40 to £200, depending on the features and brand. Personal safety alarms cost between £5 to £50.
- Overall estimate £5,000 to £30,000.

### TOP TIP

Allocate funds for durable safety equipment requiring minimal maintenance.

# 10. INVEST MORE IN YOUR SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS

**Essential:** The project must meet Big Local outcomes, benefit the people in your Big Local area and be 'ready to go' (not have a long lead-in time).

Build on existing projects that are already successful. Grow them to maximise their long-term impact.

## Key steps to take

- Identify current projects that are in demand from the community.
- Conduct an assessment to ensure there is community need.
- Involve local leaders to build in long-term sustainability.



*Whiteleigh Big Local (Photo: Local Trust / Press Record)*

## For sustainability and community interest

- Focus on projects that offer long-term benefits, such as educational programmes or health services.
- Encourage local leadership and participation to ensure projects last beyond grant funding.

## Timeframe and cost

- You need approx. 8 to 10 weeks to organise if replicating or growing existing projects.
- Estimate £5,000 to £30,000 depending on your local projects.

## TOP TIPS

- Allocate funds to improve infrastructure, resources, or staffing capacity.
- Measure current project outcomes to ensure further investment is aligned with community needs. Being able to evidence outcomes and the impact of the work can help with attracting funding into the future, too.
- Be clear with the recipients (and the community) about the long-term funding strategy



Shadsworth with Whitebirk Big Local (Photo: Local Trust / Orrin Saint Pierre)

# 11. ORGANISE A SOUP EVENT

**Essential:** Use your networks to attract a good range of community groups to pitch at the event.

Help spark new ideas in your community through holding a SOUP Event. A SOUP funding event is a community gathering where attendees enjoy a simple soup supper while listening to pitches from local community groups. After the presentations, everyone votes for their favourite project, and the winning project receives a small grant at the event to help bring their idea to life. Traditionally, attendees give a donation to cover the cost for the food.

## Key steps to take

- After the date and venue are secured, market the event through different channels to ensure people are in attendance both to pitch and vote for their favourite idea.
- Decide what your soup supper will be and cater accordingly.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Ask attendees to consider pitches that have a far-reaching impact.

## Timeframe and cost

- Venue, refreshments and marketing might cost up to £1,000
- Small grants may cost between £300-£500 for each successful pitch.

### TOP TIP

Does your Big Local partnership or LTO have the skills and knowledge to support new groups to pitch? If not, maybe your local community and voluntary service can help?

# 12. SET UP A SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

**Essential: Be realistic about the preparation work needed and the time you have remaining.**

Set up a small grants programme for residents to fund projects addressing local needs.

## Key steps to take

- Engage your partnership in the decision-making process to ensure transparency.
- Develop clear guidelines and a simple application and reporting process for grant applicants.
- Set-up funding limits.
- Have clear timelines to effectively disperse and monitor grants.

Below are the key milestones to demonstrate how a grants programme can be successfully implemented during the Big Local programme.

## TOP TIPS

- Consider asking a community foundation to distribute funds on your behalf. With their existing infrastructure, they can potentially implement a grants programme within two to three weeks.
- Consider any fees or charges for services undertaken by the community foundation.
- Read our toolkit on how to design a community grants programme.
- Invest in mentoring and support to help grantees navigate challenges.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Implement a community-led decision-making process.
- Encourage applications from projects that require minimal ongoing funding.
- Consider projects that will have long-term benefits and impact on the community.
- Prioritise businesses that provide essential services to your community and have the potential to grow.
- Consider offering micro-enterprise grants to local entrepreneurs.

## Timeframe and cost

- Approx. 4 months after which grants need time to spent and reported on.
- Costs are dependent on the size of grants but estimate overall cost of £5,000 to £50,000 depending on amount and length of grant awards.

Milestone	Timeframe
<b>Grant programme development:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Identify grant distributor</li><li>- Priorities and grant processes agreed</li><li>- Launch grant programme</li></ul>	October 2024 – January 2025
Close applications and award grants	December 2024 – February 2025
Grant delivery	December 2024 – February 2026
Grant reporting and closure	December 2025 – February 2026

# 13. DISTRIBUTE GYM PASSES

***Essential: Make sure you consider fairness of access to the scheme and how you will reach those who would benefit the most.***

Fund access to local gyms or fitness classes and courses for residents.

## Key steps to take

- Promote the scheme on social media and through word-of-mouth and link with organisations who might work with those with little or no access to fitness opportunities.
- Identify individuals who would most benefit from fitness opportunities.
- Establish follow-up support to encourage continued exercise.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Collaborate with gyms to offer discounted rates after initial funding.
- Encourage participants to commit to ongoing wellness.

## Timeframe and cost

- You need approx. 1 to 3 months to implement but you need to consider promotion and evaluation outside of that timeframe.
- Estimate under £5,000 depending on the number of passes issued.

### TOP TIP

Work with local providers to negotiate group discounts.

# 14. (CREATE DIGITAL BURSARIES

**Essential:** Seek advice from your LTO on safeguards for the bursary funding.

Set up bursaries to provide internet and access to technology for disconnected individuals facing digital poverty.

## Key steps to take

- Identify individuals who would benefit from digital access.
- Partner with local organisations to manage bursary distribution and offer digital literacy support.
- Track the impact of the bursaries to demonstrate the impact on recipients' lives.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Consider individuals who could benefit from increased access to education or job opportunities.

## Timeframe and cost

- You need approx. 10 to 12 weeks to implement but you need to consider promotion, any ongoing support offered and evaluation outside of that timeframe.
- Estimate cost between £5,000 to £30,000 depending on the number and length of bursaries.

## TOP TIPS

- Purchase cost-effective technology.
- Ensure recipients are aware of support programmes available for digital literacy.



*Mablethorpe Big Local  
(Photo: Local Trust /  
Andy Aitchison)*

# 15. ROLL OUT PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT BURSARIES

**Essential:** Seek advice from your LTO on safeguards for the bursary funding.

Offer bursaries to local people to fund their personal development, such as professional certifications, courses, driving lessons or leadership programmes.

## Key steps to take

- Set clear eligibility criteria to ensure bursaries go to individuals who can reinvest their new skills back into the community.
- Partner with local training providers to offer support during the process.

## TOP TIP

Track the progress of recipients to ensure the bursaries are offering tangible benefits.

- Monitor progress and evaluate the long-term impact of the bursaries on community development.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Build partnerships with local training providers to offer ongoing discounts or mentorship opportunities.

## Timeframe and cost

- You need approx. 10 to 12 weeks to implement but do need to consider promotion, any ongoing support offered and evaluation outside of that timeframe.
- Estimate cost between £5,000 to £30,000 depending on the number and length of bursaries and what's included.



Noel Park Big Local  
(Photo: Local Trust / Press Record)

# 16. FUND CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU (CAB) SESSIONS

*Essential: Identify through your networks if this offer is already available in your local area.*

The Citizens Advice Bureau can provide support and information about welfare benefits, loan sharks, and debt.

## Key steps to take

- Contact your nearest CAB to understand their capacity to deliver.
- Identify the right venue.
- Consider how you are going to communicate the offer.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Could residents be trained up to support their peers?

## Timeframe and cost

- Hourly rate: CAB services can range from £50 to £100 per hour.
- Weekly cost: For a three hour session, this would be approximately £150 to £300 per week.
- Annual cost: Over a year (52 weeks), the total cost would be around £7,800 to £15,600.

## TOP TIPS

- Location: Costs may vary depending on your region and the specific CAB office.
- Service scope: Additional services or specialised advice may increase the cost.
- Funding and grants: Some CAB offices may have access to funding or grants that could subsidise the cost.

# 17. RECRUIT A WORKER

***Essential: Speak to your LTO about their requirements, as they will be the employer or contract holder for a worker.***

Hire a new project manager or coordinator to help implement projects.

## TOP TIPS

- Ensure the worker is focused on maximising impact in the community within the time left in the Big Local programme.
- Contact your local VCSE infrastructure organisation for advice on appropriate freelancers or organisations that could help.
- Check out Local Trust's support offer on recruiting and managing workers.

## Key steps to take

- Clarify the purpose of the role and set clear, timely objectives.
- Talk to your LTO about offering professional development and mentoring support.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Recruit a local resident to embed skills and knowledge in the community.
- Set the role up as a fixed-term contract, with clear objectives tied to project completion.
- Consider contracting a freelancer or commissioning another organisation.

## Timeframe and cost

- You need a minimum of 8 to 10 weeks to recruit. It's useful to create a recruitment timeline to work from.
- Estimated costs are between £25,000 to £50,000 depending on role, seniority, experience and term in post.

# 18. PROVIDE TRAINING FOR BIG LOCAL WORKERS

**Essential:** You'll need to work with your LTO, who is the employer/contract holder for workers.

Strengthen the legacy of your Big Local through the workers you've employed, so they're prepared for their next role.

## Key steps to take

- Consult with workers on their training needs and encourage their participation in skill-building courses.
- Work with organisations that offer training opportunities locally.
- Ensure that any training aligns with both the workers' aspirations and community needs.

## For sustainability and community interest

- A high-quality training course over several months may also be a great way to incentivise workers to stay until the end of the Big Local programme.

## Timeframe and cost

- You need approx. 4 to 8 weeks to organise and implement.
- Estimated cost is under £5,000.

## TOP TIPS

- Work with your LTO to encourage workers to take up training.
- Be led by what your worker wants, even if the training isn't directly related to Big Local project delivery.

# 19. FUND NEW EQUIPMENT FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

***Essential: Agree with the organisations what will happen with the equipment afterwards, so that the benefit remains in the community***

Offer small grants for capital goods needed by local organisations to deliver their work (e.g. gazebos, folding tables, laptops, projectors).

## Key steps to take

- Reach out to community organisations to identify equipment needs.
- Purchase goods through local suppliers, to keep the funds circulating within the community.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Work with organisations you already have a trusted relationship with.

## Timeframe and cost

- Needs approx. 2 to 3 months to organise and implement
- Estimate cost between £5,000 to £30,000 depending on your local projects and equipment needed.

### TOP TIP

Consider adding equipment grants on top of small grants that you are distributing to cover project costs.

# 20. FUND TRAINING FOR LOCAL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

**Essential:** Make sure you consider how you can maximise take up. Fund accredited training to benefit both individuals and your community.

## Key steps to take

- Conduct a needs assessment through surveys, focus groups or public meetings to gauge the types of training that would benefit residents.
- Identify and collaborate with accredited training organisations to deliver the sessions.
- Offer flexible scheduling for sessions, ensuring participation by residents with varying availability.
- Use local community centres, social media and newsletters to promote the training and encourage participation from both individuals and groups.
- Maintain records of those who attend, the outcomes of their training, and how they plan to

## TOP TIPS

- Offer sessions at different times or provide childcare to make training accessible for all community members, particularly those with care responsibilities.
- Consider the need for ongoing costs associated with recertification for some qualifications, such as first aid, to ensure skills remain up to date.



*Mablethorpe Big Local  
(Photo: Local Trust / Andy Aitchison)*

apply their new skills within the community.

of training and support.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Prioritise practical training that enhances skills which are transferable to the broader community, such as first aid, mental health first aid, paediatric first aid, safeguarding, Know Your Rights and Stop the Bleed.
- Focus on building a base of trained residents who can share their knowledge with others or serve in leadership roles.
- Work with local training providers or community groups to offer discounted follow-up training sessions, ensuring these skills remain accessible even after the initial funding.
- Encourage participants to use their new skills in local organisations, creating a self-sustaining cycle

## Timeframes and cost

- You need approx. 8 to 12 weeks to organise.
- Estimated costs are between £5,000 to £10,000 depending on the type of training and number of places offered.



Par Bay Big Local (Photo: Local Trust / James Ram)

# 21. HOLD A LEGACY CELEBRATION EVENT

***Essential: Book the event far in advance, so people have plenty of notice to be able to attend.***

Celebrate your Big Local legacy by holding an event and invite partners to highlight the impacts of your projects and understand what legacy could be continued through partner organisations.

## Key steps to take

- Map all potential stakeholders and collate email contacts.
- Make sure the impact of your Big Local projects are clearly communicated at the event, including any unexpected soft outcomes.
- Create interactive workshops to look at how stakeholders could contribute to continuing your Big Local legacy. This could be through adding elements of the Big Local model to established projects or looking for collaborative funding applications.

## For sustainability and community interest

- By ensuring the impact of your projects continue, you're creating sustainability!

## Timeframe and cost

- It will take 3-6 months to organise and deliver.
- It will likely cost a minimum of £1,000 for room hire, an impact report, food and refreshments etc.

## TOP TIP

To ensure a good turnout, identify partnership members and internal stakeholders who have established relationships with external stakeholders and can directly invite them to the event.

# 22. COMMISSION A COMMUNITY FRIDGE PROJECT

**Essential:** Find an accessible venue, where an organisation or project can cover the electricity costs, food logistics and safeguarding.

## Key steps to take

- Do a consultation with the local community to develop the right 'community fridge' model.
- Identify appropriate project venues that would benefit from the addition of a community fridge and make contact about the potential offer.
- Create an opportunity for projects to put forward their expression of interest, if you have more than one potential provider.
- Work with the project to align the needs of the local community in shaping the type of community fridge offer.
- Create a MOU if needed to ensure the community fridge remains on mission at least to the end of the Big Local programme.

## For sustainability and community interest

- Source an established project with the appropriate resource to sustain the community fridge project in the longer-term.

## Timeframe and cost

- It will take 3-6 months to set-up and deliver.
- Commercial fridges cost £800-£1,000.

### TOP TIPS

- Make sure the community fridge model meets the needs of the community
- Develop a marketing plan to let people know it has arrived!

# TAKING THE NEXT STEP



CONTACT YOUR  
AREA COORDINATOR  
OR AREA ADVISOR  
FOR SUPPORT.



VISIT THE BIG LOCAL  
SUPPORT CENTRE OR  
EMAIL US [SUPPORT@  
LOCALTRUST.ORG.UK](mailto:support@localtrust.org.uk) TO  
SEE IF OUR **PARTNER  
OFFERS** CAN HELP YOU.

EXPLORE OUR  
**COMMUNITY  
ACTION PLANS  
AND TOOLKITS.**



SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES  
WITH OTHER AREAS ON  
**WORKPLACE.**



*Front cover photos, clockwise from top left: Gateshead Big Local (Local Trust / Zute Lightfoot), SO18 Big Local (Local Trust / Benjamin Nwaneampeh), North West Ipswich Big Local (Local Trust / Glen Farthing Red Wren Studios), Elthorne Big Local (Local Trust / Zute Lightfoot)*

*Page 34 photos, clockwise from top left: Community Leadership Academy (Local Trust / Tessa Harri Photography), Big Local Connects 2023 (Local Trust / Richard Richards), Northwood Big Local (Local Trust / Matt Thomas), Heart of Sidley Big Local (Local Trust / Kerrie Wood Photography), Par Bay Big Local (Local Trust / James Ram)*