Please ensure your application only uses up to 8 sides

Heading	Guidance
Guidance Notes	**Welcome to the fifth round of our 'Your Station, Your Community' Funding for 2027/28.** In the last year we have made a number of changes to our grant funding programme and it is **IMPORTANT that you read the updated guidance in this document** The **Your Station Your Community Fund** continues to focus on supporting projects that address issues of shared importance to both the railway and the communities we serve. To strengthen this focus, we have refined our funding priorities to better highlight the areas where we wish to make a difference and to ensure that we can effectively measure and demonstrate the positive outcomes delivered by funded projects. It is therefore **essential that applicants clearly demonstrate how the social issues their project seeks to address align with GTR's own priority areas for action.** Successful applications will evidence a direct link between identified community needs and the social challenges that the railway is working to address, enabling meaningful and measurable impact for both communities and the railway network. We are happy to share our data and engage with you on the best ways to achieve operational effectiveness for your project prior to you submitting an application Timeline for your application • **Applications open: Thursday 11th November 2026** • **Applications close: Midnight on Thursday 17th December 2026** • Bids reviewed: December/January 2026/27 • Recommended schemes to DfT for approval: February 2027 • Successful bids informed: March 2027 • Agreed monitoring utilising the metrics in the RSVT – March/April 2027 • **Grant projects active – 1st May 2027** • Contracts and initial funding awarded: March – April 2027 • 6 monthly monitoring • **Projects completed: 31st March 2028** We are accepting bids in the categories of: • **Bids up to £7,500 – open applications** • **Bids of £7,501 - £50,000 – you MUST contact us to discuss your project before applying** Also talk to us if you think you will need longer than one year to produce the best outcomes for your programme, we can look at how we might be able to support your project over multiple years.

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Our priority areas for funding are:

- **Safer Communities & Safer Travel**
- **Suicide Prevention & Mental Health**
- **Sustainability & Climate Action**
- **Skills & Opportunity**

Please see below for the further details for each priority funding area

You **MUST** demonstrate how your project has considered **diversity, inclusion and accessibility across all aspects of your proposal**, including planning, engagement, delivery, communications and evaluation. We expect funded projects to identify and reduce barriers to participation.
Where a project is specifically intended to support a particular community or group, applicants should explain the rationale for this targeted approach and demonstrate that it is consistent with relevant equality legislation and the objectives of the project.

We also encourage partnership bids and welcome applications from:

- Registered charities
- Constituted community groups
- Community Interest Companies (CIC)
- Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- Other not-for-profit organisations including:
  - Community rail partnerships (where the project is outside of the existing funding granted)
  - Business improvement districts
  - Borough, Parish & Town councils
  - Schools and Colleges. (we can only fund activity which is extracurricular and outside the school's usual statutory remit).

You will need an organisation bank account to be able to apply

Geographic coverage

- Projects should be in and around stations **served** by Great Northern, Southern or Thameslink on the GTR network
- The communities supported by your project should be **served** by one of those stations.
- We can only accept bids for work on station property that are **managed** by Great Northern, Southern or Thameslink.
- Priority will be given to bids for projects around **managed** stations

Please talk to us regarding some of our priorities for geographically specific projects that we are interested in developing

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	The GTR network map can be downloaded here A list of GTR managed stations can be downloaded **from the YSYC webpage** **YOU MUST ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS**
1. Company / organisation name	Your operational/trading name
2. Company or charity registered number	If applicable
3. Project name	Give your project a distinctive name
4. Contact name	Contact details, should we need more information about the project/application.
5. Email address	Contact details, should we need more information about the project/application.
6. Contact phone number	Contact details, should we need more information about the project/application.
7. Priority Subject Area: **choose one only**	**Choose one primary Priority Subject Area ONLY** Indicating if the project also impacts in any other of the subject areas
8. Brief project summary (1-2 paragraphs)	A brief summary of your project proposal – If you have any questions about the project suitability to our priorities please do get in touch The fund can only support projects that will bring improvements and benefits on issues that are important to and impact local communities **AND** the railway.

9. Please explain how the scheme will address the **Priority Subject Area** you have selected above and the key issues from the guidance	**Under each of the Priority Subject Areas the key issues we are seeking to address are:**
	• **Safer Communities & Safer Travel**
	  • Violence & Intimidation Against Women and Girls (VIAWG)
	  • Hate crime
	  • Anti-social behaviour
	  • Modern Slavery
	  • Victim Support
	  • Personal safety
	  • Youth engagement
	  • Reducing trespass
	  • Support for vulnerable passengers
	  • Initiatives improving the station environment
	• **Suicide Prevention & Mental Health**
	  • Tackling loneliness and isolation
	  • Crisis intervention
	  • Suicide prevention activity

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	• **Sustainability & Climate Action**
	  • Station Travel Plans
	  • Air quality
	  • Climate resilience
	  • Water quality and management
	  • Reducing energy consumption
	  • Circular economy programmes
	• **Skills & Opportunity**
	  • Expand youth access to rail careers
	  • Rail industry career awareness
	We also have geographic priorities across the network, around these issues please talk to us for more details. We do look to ensure that our grant funding gives full coverage to the issues right across our network.

10. Project scope	It is essential for a successful bid that you ensure that you have answered these questions: 1. What is the identified need? 2. Explain how diversity, inclusion and accessibility are considered in the design and delivery of your project. 3. What is the geographic area of your project? 4. How will you spend this grant to address the need in your area? 5. What positive changes would this grant make to the lives of people who use your project/service? 6. How will you communicate the project to supporters and funding partners?
11. Please list who the primary beneficiaries will be and the number who will be impacted by the project	Please include details of who the primary beneficiaries are and the number who will be impacted by your project.
12. What is your organisations experience in engaging with the proposed participant group?	**You must be able to demonstrate and evidence your engagement and/or consultation with your primary beneficiaries** Which may include co-design, inclusive participation and where participants are engaged in decision making
13. Organisations aims & activities / background	Tell us about: • Your organisation, and its experience of working with communities • The impact of your previous work

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	• The people involved in your project and why you are confident in their ability to make your proposed project succeed
14. Project benefits	This should include a brief overview of: • What success will look like at the end of the project for the community and for the rail industry. • The short-term and longer-term benefits you expect to achieve. • How the project will improve outcomes for the beneficiaries • How you will promote the project, recognise funding support from GTR and share learning and good practice with stakeholders and partners. • How the benefits of the project will be sustained beyond the funding period, where applicable.
15. Total amount of funding requested	Please confirm the amount of YSYC funding that is being requested. **For projects requesting £7,500 or more please email ysycfund@gtrailway.com to arrange a meeting BEFORE submitting your application to ensure that your project proposal exactly matches our funding priorities – both priority subject area and key issue/s** **We WILL NOT accept any unverified bids over £7,500** We **will** consider funding applications that include: • Up to 20% of the project budget attributed to core costs of the organisation. • Salary costs – where directly related to the project proposal • Capital costs – where directly related to the project proposal • Up to two years of funding
16. Any confirmed match funding?	Funding is available for 100% of project costs. Groups should however be aware that the panel will also favourably consider applicants that are offering some contribution to the project costs, this could be financially through their own fundraising efforts or 'in kind' for example through the support of volunteers active in your organisation, getting involved and giving their time.
17. Total cost of project	The proposal should set out the total cost of the project, and detail on one separate sheet how the costs have been calculated. (Excel or Word format) A brief indication of the overall financial health of your organisation There is a Project Budget Sheet (Excel) available to help set out your costings if required

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18. Any statutory consents required?	Any statutory consents that you are aware of that will be needed. And how you will achieve them. **Please take time to consider the requirements of your project especially if it is at a GTR station – make sure you have the consents needed (or understand the process for those consents)**
19. Risks and mitigation measures	Please provide a breakdown of any known risks to your project and mitigations you will put in place. You must also indicate that your organisation has the proper policies and practices in place to undertake your project
20. Timescales	A breakdown of the key activities and timescales over the life of the project, should be included in this section.
21. Monitoring	Please demonstrate: • How will you measure and report on the positive changes and demonstrate social value? • How you will capture feedback, case studies and other evidence of impact. It is essential that you ensure you have looked at the outline metrics on the Rail Social Value Tool (RSVT) see the YSYC webpage for details. **It is important to give an outline of how the monitoring you conduct in your organisation will be reflected in the metrics of the the RSVT**
22. How did you hear about the fund?	Where did you hear of YSYC?
23. Name of your local Thameslink, Great Northern or Southern managed station	The GTR network map can be downloaded here The list of managed GTR stations is here

Privacy statement

We will only use your personal details to communicate with you in regards to your application. Your data will be stored securely, it will not be processed for any other purpose, and it will not be shared with anyone outside GTR. We will keep a record of your data for the next funding round. If you would like to be excluded from the list for any future potential funding, and have your details removed from it, please contact us community@gtrailway.com.

ALL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS **MUST** BE SENT TO: **ysycfund@gtrailway.com**

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NOTES - IMPORTANT

- Please complete your bid in the YSYC Grant Application Form doc and **SAVE IN WORD FORMAT – NOT PDF**
- **Please make sure you have read ALL the guidance notes.**
- Please ensure that you have answered all the questions as set out in this guidance and listed on the application form **– incomplete applications WILL NOT be accepted**
- **Don't go over 8 sides**
- **If you have any questions about the guidance or the suitability of your project please do get in touch** – we will attempt to get back to you as soon as possible

Grant Manager - Rob Whitehead - E: rob.whitehead@gtrailway.com - M: 07971 489325

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