Pensioner Support Fund

Southend Emergency Fund

Southend-on-Sea City Council

Background

In September 2026, Southend City Council announced the launch of the new Pensioner Support Fund to help alleviate poverty in the community.

The Southend Emergency Fund is pleased to announce it will be hosting the Pensioner Support Fund, which seeks to empower pensioners in the city of Southend-on-sea.

Open to charities and constituted groups based in Southend-on-sea for awards up to **£2,000.** The Southend Emergency Fund Panel will be accepting applications in October 2026 for projects based around the funding aims outlined below. We expect all funding to be spent by the 31st March 2027.

Funding Aims

Your project should meet one or more of the following aims:

- Strengthen the capacity and sustainability of local pensioners.
- Increase access to targeted practical support for older residents.
- Help pensioner groups respond to identified needs, including financial pressure, isolation and barriers to independent living.
- Provide clear evidence that grant funding has directly benefited pensioners and the groups supporting them.

What can be funded?

Eligible expenditure

Funding may be used for:

- Essential venue hire or premises costs required for a pensioner group to continue providing support.
- Equipment, materials or accessibility improvements that directly strengthen the group's ability to support pensioners.
- Transport or outreach costs that enable pensioners to access the group's support.
- Volunteer expenses, training or safeguarding requirements directly related to supporting pensioners.
- Targeted practical support that responds to identified needs among pensioners, including financial hardship, isolation or barriers to independent living.

What can’t be funded?

Ineligible expenditure

Funding must not be used for:

- General organisational running costs that do not directly strengthen support for a pensioner group.
- Stand-alone social, leisure or recreational activities, including clubs, trips, events, classes and hobby-based sessions. These costs are ineligible even where pensioners would participate, unless the expenditure itself provides an essential and evidenced support function.
- Activities primarily benefiting non-pensioner groups.
- Political activities.
- Retrospective funding.
- Activities outside Southend-on-Sea.
- Projects that duplicate statutory services.

Reporting

Post-funding, two reports will need to be completed by the awarded organisations: a short, mid-point review in December 2026 and a final report in March 2027. Some of the details required will include:

- Evidence of impact
- Number of beneficiaries reached
- Quote from service user
- Case study (final report)
- Post-funding plans (final report)

A reporting link will be available from the QR Code on the next page when ready.

How to apply

Southend Emergency Fund

Please apply on the Southend Emergency Panel website via the QR code below:

Southend-on-Sea City Council