

Local Funding Guidance: Physical improvements or 'Public Realm' Funding





What does 'public realm' mean?

The 'public realm' is any space that belongs to everyone, and is open and accessible to anyone. This includes roads, pavements, rivers, parks, and other green spaces.

What is the Public Realm programme?

Sutton's public realm programme provides grants for small projects which improve public spaces in Sutton.

Examples of improvements that have been funded include:

-  Inclusive play equipment for children's play areas in parks
-  Planting trees on residential roads
-  Adding lighting to paths across parks
-  Creating or improving road crossing points

What types of local funding are available from Sutton Council?



Funding for a physical improvement/s to a public space:

There are two main routes for this 'Public Realm' and the 'Neighbourhood Fund':

- 1) Public Realm Grants are for **smaller projects** which improve the Public Realm in Sutton (e.g. seating, trees, and signs)

2) [The Neighbourhood Fund](#) is for **larger projects** which help to address the extra demands that development (e.g. more housing) can place on local areas.

Funding for community projects and costs surrounding these:

3) Funding for the community event, activity or project itself; this was previously known as a '[Neighborhood Grant](#)'

4) Funding to cover [additional fees and charges](#) for an event (e.g. insurance)

Please read the [Neighbourhood Fund](#) webpage or the Local Funding Guidance: Community events, activities and projects guidance (available on [this webpage](#)) if you wish to apply for either of these.

What does Public Realm funding cover?

Public Realm funding covers:

- ✓ Small scale physical changes or improvements
- ✓ The purchase and installation of physical items
- ✓ Initial staffing costs, such as for design or installation of items
- ✓ Projects which improve public areas
- ✓ Projects which meet the council's corporate priorities in [Ambitious for Sutton](#)
- ✓ Projects which benefit local Sutton residents within a Local Committee area

What can't be funded by the Public Realm programme?

The Public Realm programme does not cover:

- ✗ Projects related to activities or events, as these are covered by the Neighbourhood Grant or Events Fees and Charges programme (this includes the purchase of items for a group activity or event)
- ✗ Improvements outside the London Borough of Sutton

- ✗ Improvements on privately owned land which does not have a community benefit
- ✗ Projects which don't benefit Sutton residents
- ✗ Ongoing costs for projects, such as maintenance
- ✗ Staffing costs beyond the initial installation
- ✗ Projects which have already taken place
- ✗ Projects which are coordinated by private individuals and not a constituted group - for assistance with becoming a constituted group, please contact [Community Action Sutton](#)
- ✗ Defibrillators

Who can apply for funding?

Anyone can submit a request for the council to make an improvement.

If you are looking for funding to make an improvement yourself, you must be a constituted group with a governing document. For assistance with becoming a constituted group, please contact Community Action Sutton:

<https://www.communityactionsutton.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/>

020 8644 2867

enquiries@communityactionsutton.org.uk

Who will deliver the improvements?

Requests for improvements can either be:

- A request for the council, or a provider contracted by the council, to make an improvement (e.g. for the council to add lighting to a path in a park)
- A request for funding to be allocated to a community organisation to make an improvement (e.g. for a park Friends group to make small scale improvements to a park)



- A request for a specific third party provider that you or your organisation will approach to make an improvement (e.g. for a defibrillator which you will purchase directly from another organisation)

Do I need to know how much something will cost?

If you are submitting a request for the council to make an improvement, you do not need to know how much this will cost.

If you are applying for funding to be allocated to a group you are a part of, you will need to specify how much funding you are requesting.

How much funding can I apply for?

There is no limit to the amount of funding that can be allocated to specific projects. Each local committee has a yearly budget for public realm improvements. This means it may not be possible to fund every project which is submitted and meets the public realm programme criteria.

Most projects funded by the public realm programme cost between £500 and £10,000.

When do I need to apply?

There are two application windows for requests, one in Spring and one in Autumn. The application window will be open for approximately five weeks.

We do not generally accept applications outside of these windows, but will consider applications concerning urgent community safety issues, such as lighting or CCTV. You should get in touch with us at publicrealm@sutton.gov.uk regarding these, outside of the funding windows.

The Application Process



How do I apply?

You can fill out this [online application form](#). We will get in touch with you if we need any further information following this.

If you have problems filling out this form, please get in contact with us at publicrealm@sutton.gov.uk and we can assist you with filling the form out.

What information do I need to provide?

You will need to provide:

- A brief description of the improvement you are requesting
- The specific location of the improvement
- Information on costs (if you have this, don't worry if not)
- How the improvement will benefit residents



How are applications approved?

Applications are reviewed for approval by councillors in the local committee area where the project or improvement will be delivered. You will find a list of ward councillors on the [Sutton website](#).



Your information

We collect personal information when you use our services. We will use this information to provide the services requested, maintain records and, if you consent, to send you marketing or newsletter information.

We will not share your information with other organisations for marketing purposes unless legally required to do so. For more information explaining how we use your information please see our privacy policy.



Get in contact with us:

If you have any questions or would like to discuss a proposal prior to making an application, please contact publicrealm@sutton.gov.uk.