Lane Rental Surplus Fund

Questions and Answers



East Sussex Lane Rental Surplus Fund

Frequently asked questions

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to organisations wishing to access funding through the East Sussex Lane Rental Fund. The Fund is overseen by the East Sussex Lane Rental Surplus Group and supports projects that help minimise disruption from roadworks and improve the efficiency, safety and effectiveness of the highway network across East Sussex.

1. What is the East Sussex Lane Rental Surplus Fund?

The East Sussex Lane Rental Fund is made up of surplus income generated through the East Sussex Lane Rental Scheme. In accordance with Department for Transport guidance, surplus funds must be used for measures that reduce disruption caused by activities in the highway and deliver wider benefits to road users.

Funding may support projects that:

- Reduce the impact of roadworks on network users
- Improve traffic management and network resilience
- Encourage innovation in highway maintenance and construction
- Improve the planning, coordination or delivery of street works
- Enhance workforce skills and operational capability
- Deliver benefits to highway users across East Sussex

2. Who can apply for funding?

Applications are welcomed from a range of organisations, including:

- East Sussex County Council services
- District and Borough Councils within East Sussex
- Highway contractors and supply chain partners
- Statutory undertakers and utility companies
- Public sector organisations
- Academic institutions, charitable organisations and community groups where proposals align with the Fund's objectives

Applicants must demonstrate a clear public benefit and explain how their proposal will contribute to reducing disruption or improving outcomes for highway users.

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3. How do I apply for funding?

The East Sussex Lane Rental Fund is intended to support projects from the earliest stages of development through to delivery. The exact application process may vary depending on the nature, complexity and value of the funding request.

1. Initial Discussion
Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the East Sussex Lane Rental Team to discuss their idea at an early stage. This allows the team to provide advice on whether the proposal aligns with the objectives of the Fund and whether it is suitable for further development.
Contact the team: Lanerental@eastsussex.gov.uk

2. Outline Proposal (where appropriate)
Depending on the scale and complexity of the project, applicants may be invited to submit a brief outline proposal. This enables the East Sussex Lane Rental Surplus Group (LRSG) to provide initial feedback and indicate whether they would support the development of a full application.

3. Full Application Submission
Where a proposal is considered suitable, applicants will be invited to submit a full application setting out the project objectives, anticipated benefits, delivery arrangements, costs and expected outcomes.

All applications must be supported by a sponsor from the Lane Rental Surplus Group (LRSG). The LRSG consists of representatives who review and oversee the allocation of funding.

Your sponsor must:

- support your proposal
- be willing to present it at an LRSG meeting if you are unable to attend the meeting yourself

If you do not have a sponsor, you should contact the Lane Rental team using the email above. We can help you identify a suitable sponsor.

4. Surplus Group Consideration
Applications are presented to the East Sussex Lane Rental Surplus Group for consideration and recommendation. The applicant is encouraged to present their application to the Surplus Group, but this is not mandatory. Your sponsor can present the proposal on your behalf.

5. Outcome
Following review, one of the following outcomes will apply:
Approved - the application is supported and progressed through the Council's agreed governance and decision-making arrangements.

Further Information Required - the applicant is asked to provide additional information, amend the proposal or address specific queries before a final decision

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can be made.

Declined – the application is not supported because it does not sufficiently align with the objectives and principles of the Lane Rental Fund, does not demonstrate adequate value for money or is otherwise considered unsuitable for funding.

6. Approval and Award
Recommendations from the Surplus Group are progressed through the Council's agreed governance and decision-making arrangements.

Applicants may be invited to provide further information or attend a meeting to discuss their proposal at any stage. Early engagement with the Lane Rental Team is encouraged, particularly for larger or more complex projects, as it can help shape proposals and reduce unnecessary work where a project may not be eligible for funding.

4. What types of projects are likely to receive funding?

Projects that demonstrate clear benefits to the travelling public and support the objectives of the Lane Rental Scheme are more likely to be successful.

Examples may include:

- Innovative technologies that improve the management of highway works
- Initiatives that reduce road occupancy and traffic disruption
- Equipment or systems that improve network monitoring and resilience
- Projects that support better coordination of works
- Training and skills development linked to highway and street works activities
- Research and pilot schemes that demonstrate potential network-wide benefits

5. If my application is approved, when will funding be released?

Successful applicants will receive written confirmation of the funding award.

Funding will normally be released in accordance with agreed project milestones or following satisfactory evidence of expenditure and delivery. Specific payment arrangements will be confirmed as part of the funding agreement.

Recipients may be required to submit progress reports and a final evaluation demonstrating the outcomes achieved.

6. Where can I find out more information?

Further information about the East Sussex Lane Rental Fund, including application guidance and forms, can be obtained from the East Sussex County Council Lane Rental Team.

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Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss early-stage proposals before submitting a formal application to ensure they align with the Fund's objectives.

Please note that funding is awarded on a discretionary basis and approval is not guaranteed. Applications will be assessed against the objectives of the East Sussex Lane Rental Scheme, the availability of funds and the anticipated benefits for highway users across East Sussex.

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