

TRU Community Fund 26

Open Briefing Session

Monday 21st September

Open Briefing Session Agenda

Agenda item	Details	Who	Timings
Welcome & Introduction	Introduce presenters, purpose of the session, agenda	Jamie	16:00 - 16:10
Neighbourly's Platform	Who are Neighbourly? • Neighbourly's role in TRU Community Fund • Wider benefits for good causes Basic navigation to Neighbourly's platform • Navigation • Eligibility and registration • Accessing Grant application	Hannah	16:10 - 16:20
Neighbourly Q&A	Open to audience to questions relating to: • Neighbourly platform, and • Registration.	Hannah	16:20 - 16:40
TRU Community Fund 2026	TRU Community Fund 2026 • Eligibility criteria & Key Themes. TRU Community Fund 2026 Application Form • Application questions, • Past examples of successful grants that meet scope.	Jamie & Arica	16:40 - 16:55
TRU Community Fund 2026 Q&A	Open to audience to questions relating to: • TRU Community Fund 2026 eligibility criteria, • TRU Community fund 2026 focus, • TRU Community Fund 2026 application and questions	Jamie & Arica	16:55 - 17:30

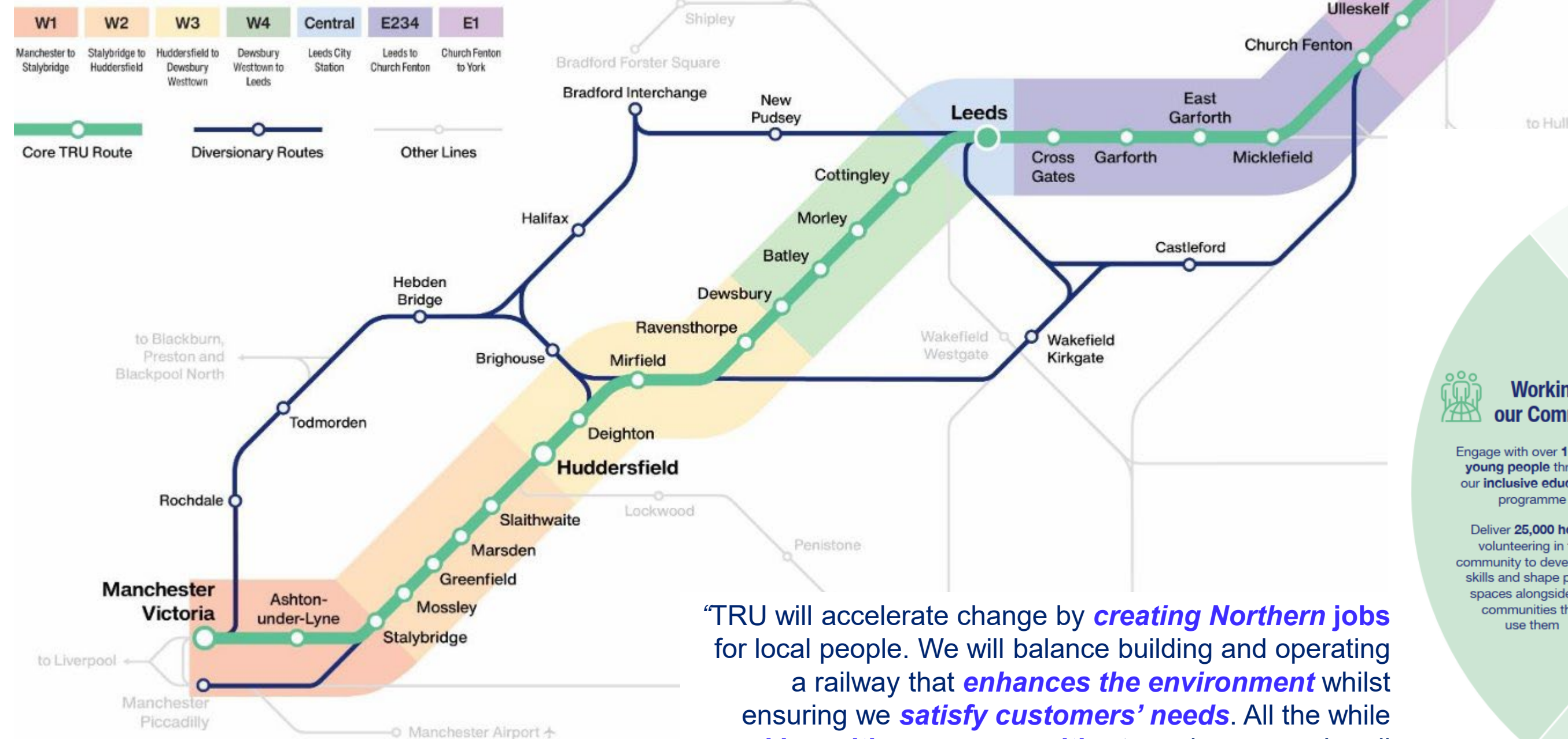
Please hold questions until the designated section.
To ask a question:

- Raise your hand via the Teams function, or
- Post a question using the Q&A function



Transpennine Route Upgrade

Transpennine Route Upgrade Project Areas



TRU will transform journeys across the North, better connecting towns and cities through more frequent, faster, greener trains, running on a better, cleaner and more reliable railway.

“TRU will accelerate change by **creating Northern jobs** for local people. We will balance building and operating a railway that **enhances the environment** whilst ensuring we **satisfy customers’ needs**. All the while **working with our communities** to make sure we’re all heading in the right direction.”





neighbourly

Global change starts locally.

Hannah Keel

Welcome to Neighbourly



Certified



Corporation

This company meets the
highest standards of social
and environmental impact

About Neighbourly

Neighbourly is a free-to-use giving platform, with a network of over **45,000 community causes** across the UK and Ireland.

Through partnerships with companies including **M&S, TSB Bank, B&Q, JD Sports and TRU**, Neighbourly offers regular giving programmes throughout the year, offering **time, money and surplus products** to local good causes across the UK and Ireland.

By registering with Neighbourly, you will be able to take part in a **range of giving programmes** across our corporate partners (subject to eligibility).



Neighbourly's giving pillars

What support can you access by signing up to Neighbourly?

Funding and Grants: Once your page is published, Neighbourly will send you an application invite if a relevant grant fund or donation from one of our partners becomes available. Grants typically range from £500 – £10,000, depending on the programme.

Volunteer Support: You can add your volunteering needs to your Neighbourly page, and we will match you with corporate volunteers that can help in your local area.

Food and Products: Sign up to collect surplus food and non-food products from supermarkets and depots to support services such as food banks, community fridges and lunch clubs.

Please note that support may not be offered immediately, as it depends on programmes and availability in your local area.



How to get started

The first step is to create a page on Neighbourly for your organisation. You will be guided through the steps to set up an account and create and publish a page.

Prior to setting up your page, **we recommend checking to see whether one has already been created for your organisation** – you can use [this link](#) to search our database and navigating to the 'causes' section.

There is a detailed [FAQ page](#) on our website with more information on setting up your profile that you may find useful.



Your page should include:

- A detailed summary of your organisation
- Information about the people you support (i.e. how many people, who they are, why you're supporting them)
- How you would make use of any donations or support received
- A good community photograph or your logo
- Your website and social media links

Remember to keep your page and links up to date to ensure Neighbourly and its partners know what your current activities and needs are

Who is eligible to sign up to Neighbourly?

Organisations eligible to join Neighbourly and participate in programmes as a 'good cause' include:

- Registered charities and CICs verified via the Charity Commission or Companies House
- Community groups, centres and organisations
- Schools, not-for-profit nurseries and family centres
- Projects and services run by NHS Trusts should sign up under the Trust's registered charity only

Additional eligibility requirements and checks:

- Private Companies Limited by Guarantee may be approved if Companies House registration confirms this
- If either Companies House and/or Charity Commission filings are overdue, the organisation will be declined

Not eligible as 'good causes':

- Private Limited Companies
- For-profit companies, even if they engage in community activities
- Local authorities, councils and parish councils
- Fee-paying schools (including those with charity status)

Vetting checks

All good causes registering with Neighbourly must **pass our vetting checks** before receiving any support.

These checks are intended to confirm you are operating as described, and verify you have the necessary controls in place to be a suitable recipient of our giving programmes.

We look at:

- The information provided on your Neighbourly page
- The information on the Charity Commission/ Companies House
- Social media and press mentions
- Online evidence that you are actively supporting the community

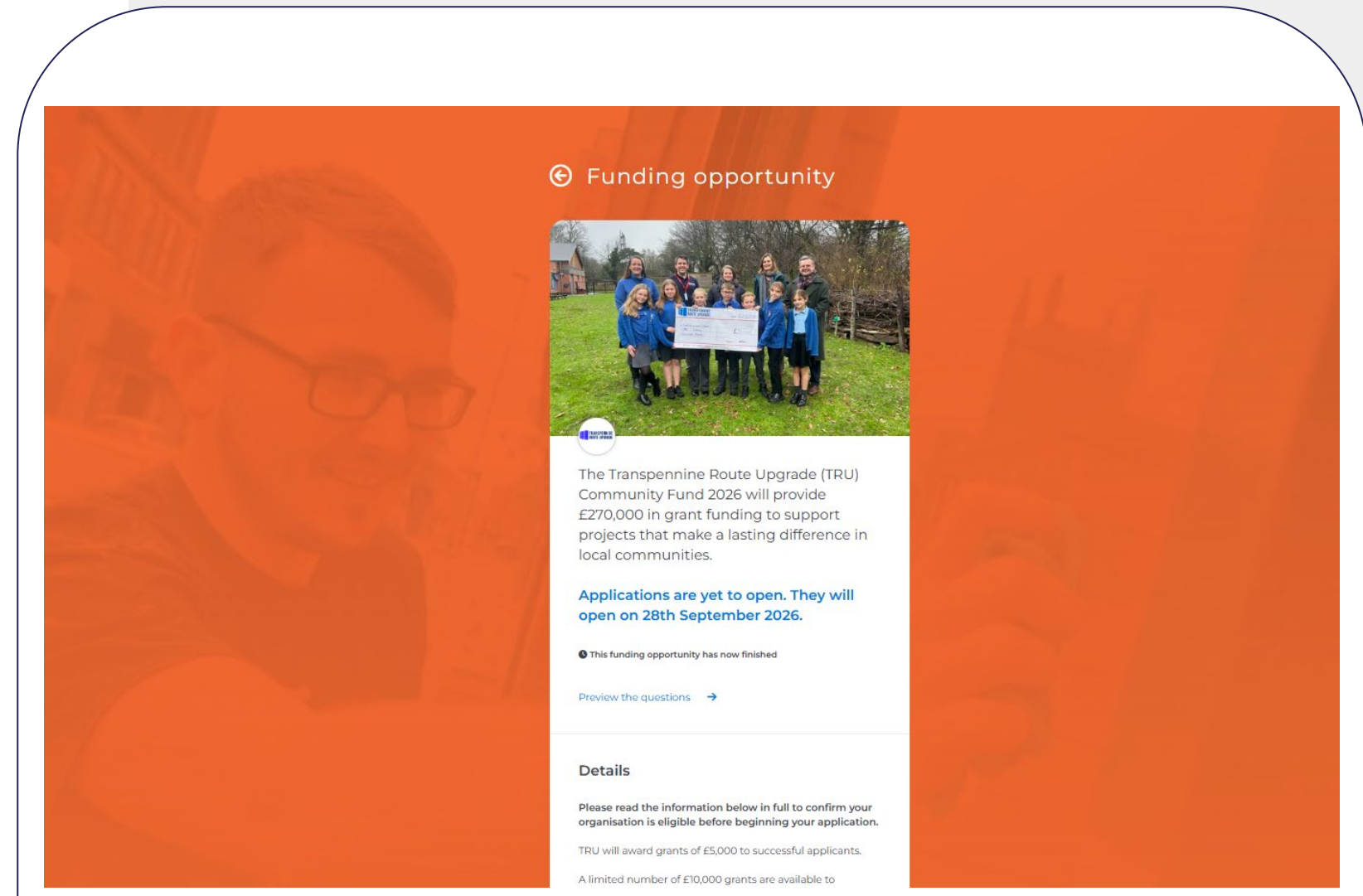
Applying for a TRU grant



All applications for a TRU Community Fund 2026 grant must be submitted via Neighbourly between **28th September – 9th October 2026**.

Applications should take no longer than **30 minutes** to complete via our easy-to-use portal.

Scan the QR Code to check your eligibility and preview the questions:



Applying for a TRU grant

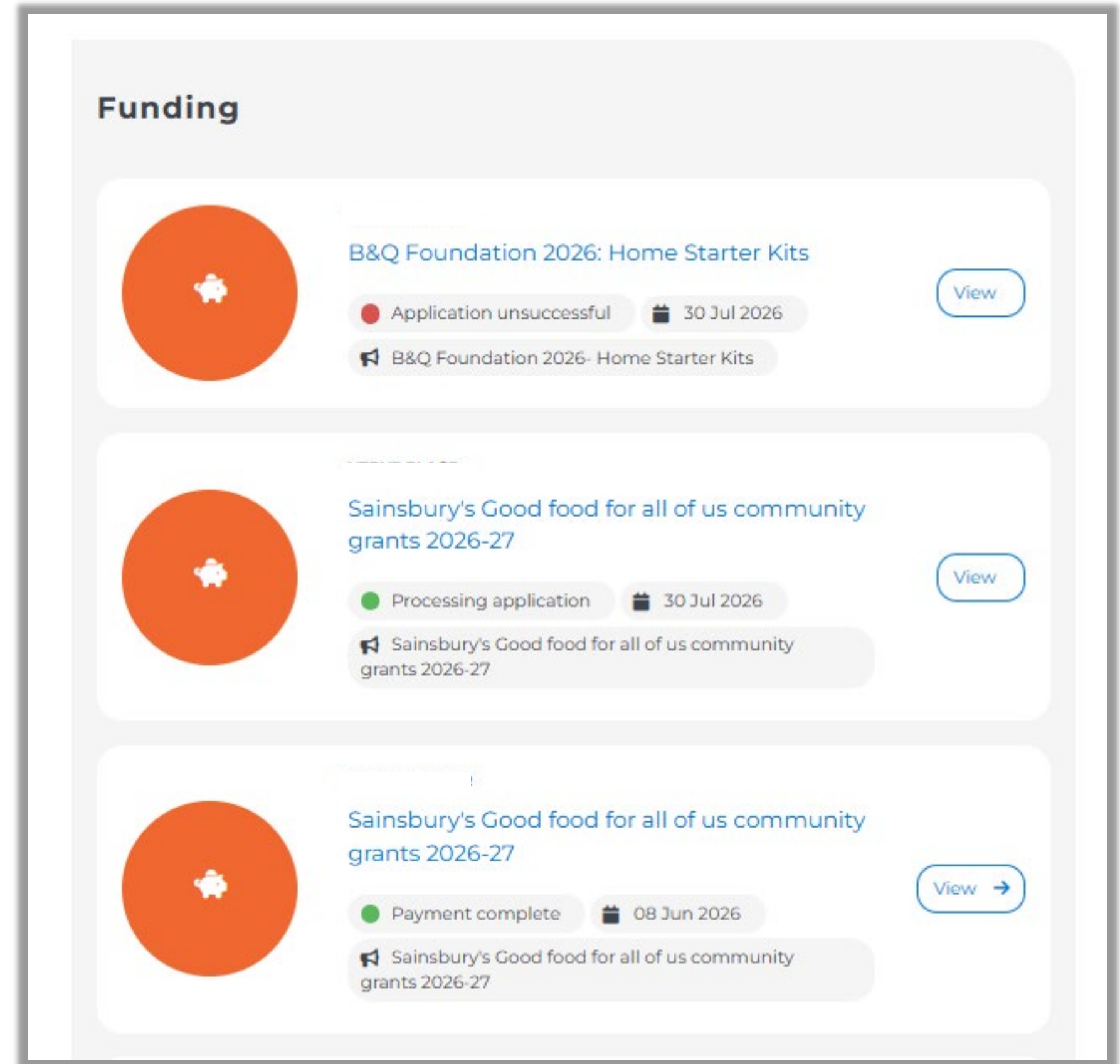
You must be **logged in to Neighbourly** before beginning your application, so please ensure you have registered and logged in as the first step.

From there, you will be guided through a range of **multiple choice and free-text questions**. Please provide as much detail as you can.

If you begin your application and need to pause and come back to it that's absolutely fine. **You can come back to your application any time** ahead of the deadline via your Neighbourly dashboard.

Once submitted, **a copy of your completed application** can be accessed via your dashboard. You will receive a confirmation email with a link to access this.

Neighbourly will alert you of the outcome of your application via email.



We're here to help

Need support?

If you have a question, we have a range of resources to support you.

We recommend that you start with our [FAQs](#) to see if your question has already been answered!

If you can't find what you're looking for, please chat with our [customer support agent](#) or [submit an enquiry](#) and we'll get back to you as soon as we can.



Neighbourly Q&A

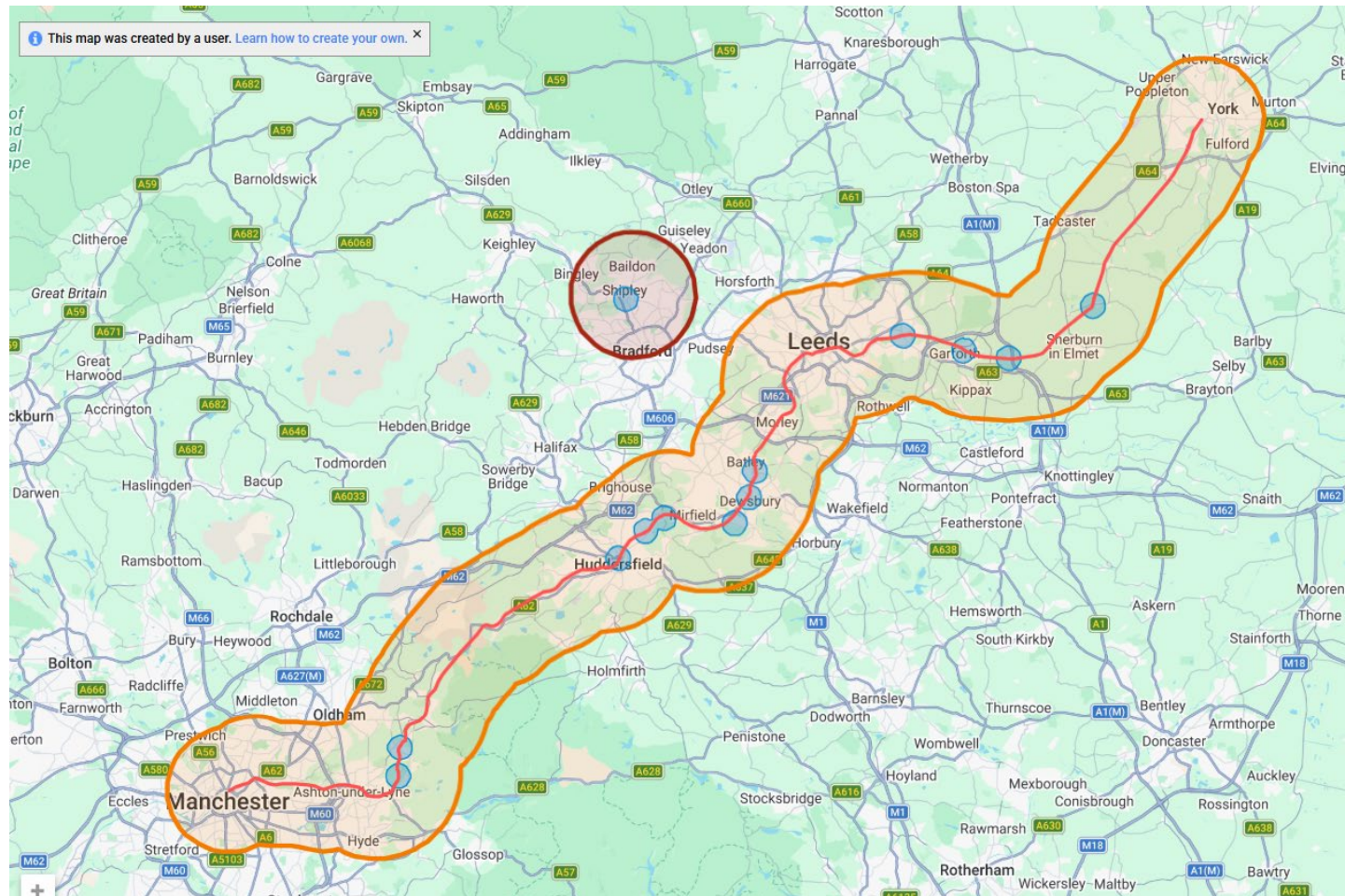
Hannah Keel

TRU Community Fund 2026

Arica Ching - TRU Programme Social Value Manager

Jamie McKinnon - TRU Programme Social Value Manager

Eligibility Criteria



Check whether the organisation/project location falls within 5km from TRU core route and Shipley Traincare centre here:



Grant size: £5,000 (with a limited number of £10,000 grants available)

Location: Organisation premises and project location are within 5km from TRU core route and Shipley Traincare Centre. Projects within high impact areas will be more strongly considered.

Successful projects must demonstrate how they will:

- ✓ Create or enhance community-focused outdoor or indoor spaces/places within 5km of the Transpennine route or Shipley Traincare Centre.
- ✓ Support skills, education or employment opportunities. E.g. job skills, tackling unemployment, or supporting people who are not in education, employment or training.
- ✓ Benefit communities experiencing high deprivation or support under-represented or marginalised groups.

Eligibility Criteria



What can the funding be used for?

- ✓ Costs directly related to creating or enhancing the project or community space (e.g. design and construction labour, equipment and materials).
- ✗ Ongoing operational costs (e.g. staff salaries, utilities, rent or marketing)

Who can apply?

- Registered charities and CICs
- Community groups, centres and organisations
- Schools
- Not-for-profit nurseries and family centres

Applications from the following organisations are also welcome:

- Organisations previously successful in the TRU Community Fund
- Organisations seeking project co-funding
- Without conflict of interest involving a current or former Network Rail or TRU Enterprise employee (within 2 years of their employment ending)

Key Themes



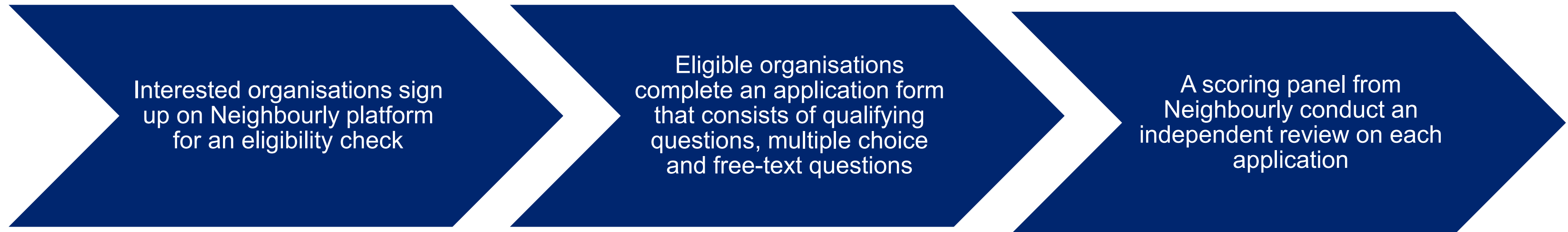
**NSAR Member Update: Government announces
Procurement Focus on Jobs and Skills.**

You can also read this update on the [NSAR website](#).

We are particularly interested in projects that also

- Support skills, education or employment opportunities linked to the rail or construction industries.
- Improve local places and environments.
- Generate benefits for local businesses and the wider local community.
- Create volunteering opportunities for the wider TRU workforce.
- Demonstrate community consultation or co-design.
- Embed environmental sustainability and strong environmental practice.

Application Process



Qualifying questions

Spaces and places

- Whether the project is creating or enhancing an indoor or outdoor facility

Location

- Whether the project locates within 5km radius of the key route and Shipley depot

Supporting our communities

- Whether the project is supporting an area of high deprivation or key groups (e.g. NEETs, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, homeless, carers etc)

Application Process

Project details

- Project description, budget breakdown, whether the fund will fully or partially fund the project, any other sources of funding

Theme: Northern Jobs

- Will the project create any education, employment and/or training opportunities for local people; and whether they are related to rail and construction industry?
- Examples: upskilling opportunities, accredited courses, workshops, work experience, new jobs, careers information, advice and guidance, mentoring

Theme: Supporting our communities

- Has the organisation engaged with the community to identify the need?
- What are the project impacts and outcomes?
- Will the project engage directly with people facing or at a higher risk of unemployment?
- Will there be volunteering opportunities for TRU employees?

Theme: Enhanced Environment

- Will the project help protect or enhance the local environment, and will sustainable practices be considered in the delivery of the project?

Optional: Application for an uplift of £5k

- How will the additional grant allow the project to deliver additional impacts? Considering whether it can fund an extended phase of the project, or allow the project to be completed in its entirety.

Eligibility Questions

Download

This is a preview of the grant application questions.

In order to be eligible for this grant, your organisation must be seeking funding to deliver a project which creates, enhances and/or protects indoor or outdoor facilities that support the local community. Can you confirm this is correct for your organisation?

You will be able to choose one of these options

Yes

No

In order to be eligible for this grant, both your organisation and project must be located within 5 kilometres of the Transpennine Route Upgrade. Please enter the postcode of your organisation's premises and where your project will be based below so we can verify your location. You can check if you fall within the 5-kilometer boundary via the link on the grant eligibility page

You will be able to write an answer (max 100 characters)

In order to be eligible for this grant, your organisation must be seeking funding to deliver a project in a deprived area, and/or support at least one of the key groups identified below. Which are the core beneficiaries of the project? Please select a maximum of 2 groups. If you support more than 2 groups, please select the top 2.

You will be able to choose one or more of these options

NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) or Young People at risk of becoming NEETs

Ethnic minority communities

Application Questions

Please provide an overview of your organisation's general objectives and the work you do to support the community.

You will be able to write an answer (max 1000 characters)

Please give a detailed description of the project you are looking to deliver with this funding. Please include information about the project's goals and objectives, required resources to deliver, key project activities or milestones, and project related risks or challenges

You will be able to write an answer (max 1000 characters)

Will this grant fully or partially cover the cost of delivering your project?

You will be able to choose one of these options

The grant will fully fund our project

What lasting impact will your project have on your organisation, people or communities it will serve after the funding ends and once the project is complete? Select all that apply.

You will be able to choose one or more of these options

Improved wellbeing or quality of life for beneficiaries

Increased employability, skills, confidence or personal development for beneficiaries

Strengthened community connections or networks

Enhanced organisational capacity or sustainability

Creation of lasting resources, tools or infrastructure

Continued delivery or replication of the project beyond the funding period

Increased access to services, opportunities or support

Raised awareness or changed attitudes on key issues

Please describe how the selected impacts will be achieved and sustained. You may wish to include examples, expected outcomes or how you plan to measure lasting success.

You will be able to write an answer (max 1000 characters)

Community Fund 2026
FAQ



Examples of Successful Projects Recently Funded

The Place (2024): Space for small group work and one-to-one educational mentoring for secondary school students



Friends of Ravenshall (2025): Community petting farm and café designed, built and run by people with special education needs and disabilities (SEND)



Key Changes: Positive Mental Health Through Music Limited (2025): Pop-up recording studio to build music production skills of people experiencing several mental illness



Key Dates and Next Steps

- Applications Open: **28th September**
- Applications Close: **9th October**
- Announce grant recipients: **mid-late Nov**

Create an account
with Neighbourly:



Application page:



Create an account in advance:

Organisations will first need to create an account with Neighbourly, who are administering the funding on behalf of TRU. Creating an account is free, takes around 5 minutes and means organisations will be notified when the application window opens. Creating an account can be done via [this link](#).

Submit your application: Once applications open on 28 September, organisations can apply through the TRU Community Fund application page on the Neighbourly website [here](#)

Questions: Neighbourly at community@neighbourly.com

TRU Community Fund 2026 Q&A

Arica Ching - TRU Programme Social Value Manager

Jamie McKinnon - TRU Programme Social Value Manager

Thank you!
Questions?