

Pitch Together Fund Application Guidance

A partnership between:



Pitch Together Fund
Fund Guidance
November 2025

Thank you for your interest in the ***Pitch Together Fund***

The Fund Guidance is designed to give you an overview of the Pitch Together Fund, including its purpose, eligibility criteria, and application process. This document aims to help you understand how the fund can support your project and guide you through the key steps to apply successfully.

We encourage you to review this guidance thoroughly before applying to ensure your project aligns with the fund's objectives and requirements.

If you have any queries regarding the application form or the application process, please don't hesitate to contact us at enquiries@pitchtogetherfund.co.uk

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1. Introduction

The Pitch Together Fund is a new facilities loan scheme designed to help **hockey clubs improve or develop Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) and related facilities**, such as LED Sports Lights and clubhouses. Over the lifetime of the Fund, we aim to develop high-quality, multi-sport facilities across England through access to affordable loans and expert support.

Why This Fund Could Be of Interest to Your Club

If your club is looking to replace, refurbish, or develop an AGP or associated facilities, the Fund offers a unique opportunity to access financial support. With a focus on sustainability, inclusivity, and multi-sport use, the Fund is designed to help clubs strengthen their future and deliver greater value to their communities. In addition to the financial support, the fund in conjunction with its partners can provide wrap-around assistance, including guidance on project development, and practical tools to help clubs plan, deliver and operate projects confidently. This ensures clubs are supported every step of the way, making the process as straightforward as possible.

2. Fund Summary

Funding Available:	Funding will be available in the form of repayable loans. Pitch projects that include a recycling element may also be eligible for Grant funding.
Loan Size:	£25,000 to £300,000 (higher amounts by exception), with an average loan of £150,000.
Repayment Terms:	Average 7.5 years, with a total term of up to 8 years, including a 6-month capital repayment holiday.
Interest Rate:	6%
Arrangement Fee:	2%
Loan Type:	Unsecured (security may be considered on a case by case)
Grant size:	Grant Funding will be available specifically to support the recycling of existing pitches. Grant awards are expected to contribute towards the cost differential between landfill disposal and responsible recycling.
Funding Period:	Funding currently available until October 2027.
Funding Deadlines:	The deadline for funding will be rolling, if your Expression of Interest is successful, you will be provided with a target submission date.

3. Eligibility criteria

Below, we have outlined the eligibility criteria for receiving investment from the fund. Please note that the Capacity Building Programme may be able to support you in meeting this criteria.

What will we fund?

The fund will support the development and improvement of Artificial Grass Pitches and related facilities to deliver hockey and wider sport and physical activity. The aim is to fund projects that help clubs to support their local communities to be active, and benefit from improved health, wellbeing and social value.

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We expect to support projects that:

- Refurbish existing AGPs
- Develop new AGPs
- Refurbish or develop ancillary facilities (e.g. LED Sports Lighting, broader ancillary facilities such as Clubhouses or Changing Rooms) where these enhance the club's delivery and social impact.

We recommend reviewing the separate Pitch Procurement Guidance, if you are applying to the fund for an AGP facility.

Who will we fund?

The Fund has four pillars (see below) which must be met for organisations to receive investment. These will guide how applications are screened and assessed, and how funded projects will be monitored over time.



The fund can only invest into organisations and projects that meet all the funds' eligibility criteria. This is set out below.

Structural Criteria

For the Fund to make an investment, the Applicant must meet the following requirements:

- **Location:** Must be based in England (and project must be delivered in England).
- **Legal Status:** Must be incorporated AND either be
 - a regulated organisation (Incorporated Charity, CIC, etc); or
 - constituted so that the organisation:
 - has a mission lock.
 - has restrictions on profit distribution and an asset lock.
 - be for public benefit; and
 - be transparent.

Registered Club

- **Registered England Hockey club:** The Applicant must be a registered England Hockey club, or a registered England Hockey club must be associated with the project and actively use the facility ("Primary User").
- That club must not be subject to any significant ongoing investigations, inquiries, or disciplinary actions by England Hockey.
- The club must be a Clubmark Club or be committed to working towards this in the next 12 months.

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Financial and organisational strength

- **Security of Tenure:** Must have security of tenure either in the form of a Leasehold or Freehold. Tenure must sufficiently exceed the agreed loan terms so that there is a reasonable expectation the loan can be repaid.
- **Financial Health:** Must demonstrate that they can pay back the loan (capital and interest), without putting the Applicant under undue financial stress. Investment decisions will be made based on realistic and robust financial models and business plans.
- **Directors / Trustees:** All Applicants must have at least three independent, non-cohabiting directors / trustees.

Impact

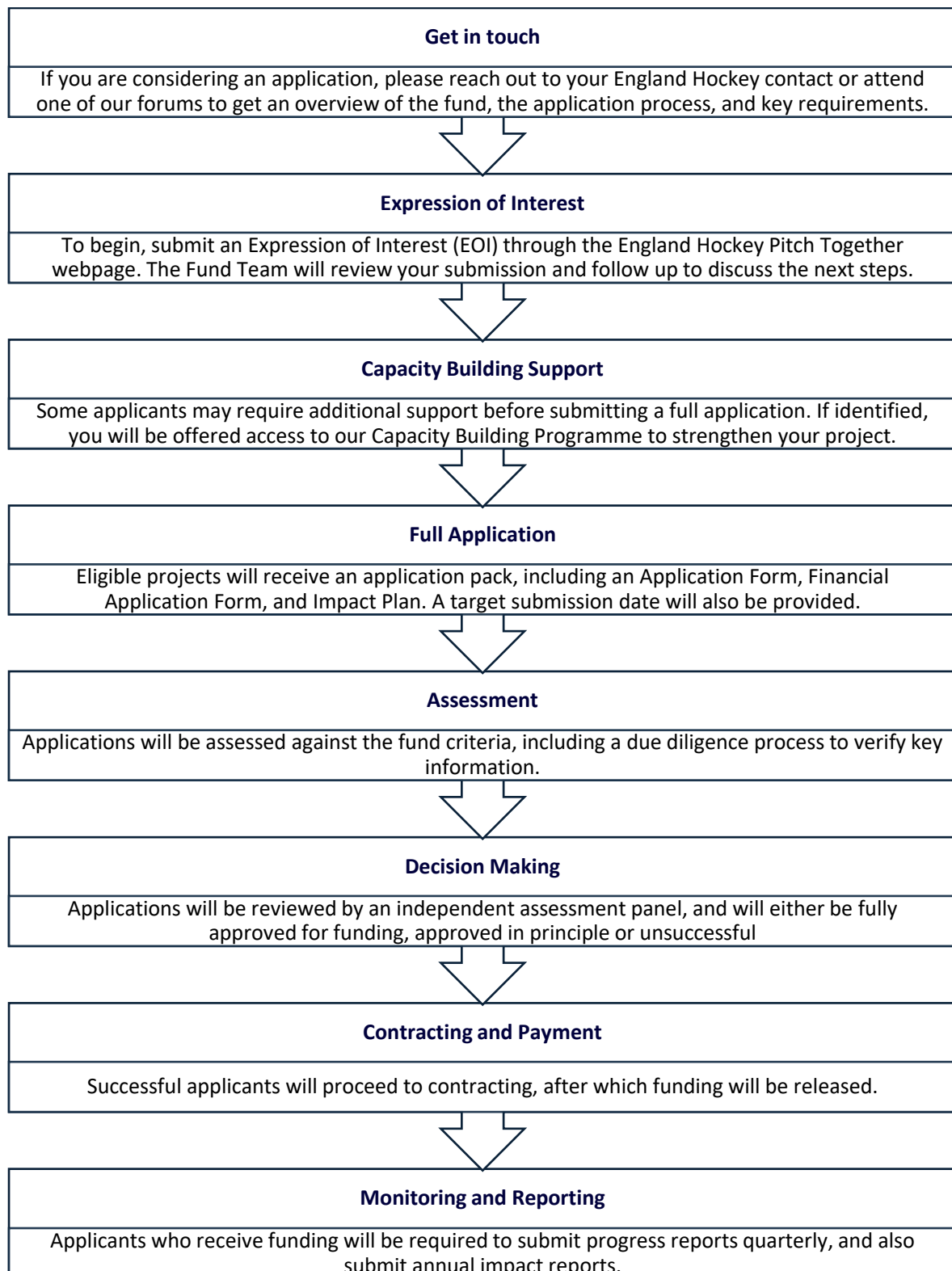
- **Hockey delivery:** Where the hockey club is the Primary User there must be an appropriate agreement in place between them and the Applicant (e.g., Service Level Agreement or User Agreement) that:
 - Enables sufficient access to deliver agreed hockey outcomes; and
 - Clearly sets out the obligations and responsibilities of each party.
- **Hockey programmes:** The Applicant or Primary User must support the delivery of England Hockey programmes.
- **Impact plan:** All projects must have an impact plan that sets out how they will enable more of their community to become active and remain active, in particular those groups where it is of most benefit. Applicants are encouraged to think about the Impact Plan early in the application process and support will be available through England Hockey to produce the Impact Plan.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** If successful, all projects must collect and provide relevant data to monitor impact throughout the duration of the loan.

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4. Application process



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We estimate that from Expression of Interest to Contracting and Payment will typically take between 3 – 6 months. Please be advised that each application may differ and should additional support be required or if all necessary elements are not in place prior to submission, the timescales may vary considerably.

5. Successful applications

If successful, clubs will receive an Offer Letter detailing the funding offer and any associated conditions. Once the offer is accepted, they will be provided with the contract documents, which should be reviewed thoroughly. As the organisation is entering into a loan, it is strongly recommended that clubs seek legal advice before signing the legal documents.

6. Accessing additional help and advice

Capacity Building Programme

The fund is supported by a Capacity Building Programme, giving clubs access to a range of support and guidance to help develop their project and strengthen their application. This support may include tailored advice or resources on areas such as facility programming, financial planning, and impact monitoring.

Support will be provided by fund partners and sector specialists where needed. When a club submits an Expression of Interest, we will assess whether additional support would be beneficial and work with the club to put this in place. General support will also be available through the England Hockey Club Support Programme.

Pitch-Specific Projects

If you are undertaking a pitch project, you may have additional questions. We recommend reviewing our *Pitch Procurement Guidance* for further information.

Frequently Asked Questions

If you have any further questions after reading this Guidance Note, please check our *Frequently Asked Questions* document. If you still need assistance with the application forms or process, you can contact us at enquiries@pitchtogetherfund.co.uk

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