

Invitation for Expressions of Interest: Provision of bespoke support and management of the Liverpool City Region Beacons: **Building Community Evidence, to System Influence: Evaluating Collective Health and Wellbeing Impact in five Big Local Areas.**

Deadline: 12 pm, Monday 23rd March 2026

Local Trust is seeking an organisation or collective to administer and manage grant funding for an ambitious health and wellbeing impact-and-influence project in the Liverpool City Region. The successful organisation(s) will work with and provide support to a cluster of resident-led community organisations and associations to embed their legacy, evaluate their impact and share key learning from 10+ years of delivering community-led initiatives through Big Local.

About Local Trust and Big Local

[Local Trust](#) was established in 2012 to deliver the [Big Local](#) funding programme. Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, Big Local committed £1million each to 150 neighbourhoods across England, enabling residents in those areas to make decisions on how to use the money to make their community an even better place to live. The funding could be spent in any way, provided residents organised themselves locally to plan and manage that funding, involving the wider community in the decision-making process.

The timeframe for Big Local extended over 10-15 years, allowing communities to take their time and build confidence and skills. The activities and initiatives Big Local areas chose to take forward in their plans reflected the diversity of communities involved. This included building affordable homes; tackling antisocial behaviour; creating or preserving community facilities, parks and sports centres; tackling local health and environmental issues; addressing community cohesion; and providing more activities for young people.

While Big Local comes to an end in March 2026, a number of Big Local areas have set up organisations and networks - which we call '*Big Local legacy organisations*' - that will continue to deliver resident-led activity and have lasting impacts in their communities for years to come.

As we approach the end of the programme, Local Trust has launched a range of legacy initiatives that focus on sharing and embedding learning from the Big Local programme and demonstrating the impact of community-led, place-based approaches – with the aim of informing future policy and programmes, ultimately ensuring better outcomes for communities. This includes the establishment of the [Independent Commission on Neighbourhoods](#), [3ni \(the National Network for Neighbourhood Improvement\)](#) and the [Centre for Collaboration in Community Connectedness](#). Local Trust is also supporting an [action research programme in partnership with the NHS Confederation](#) exploring community-led approaches to health and wellbeing (see [Appendix 1](#)) and is now launching a new initiative called Big Local *Beacons*.

About the Beacons project

Local Trust wants to support and build connections between organisations which have developed out of Big Local, to help them sustain their work, grow their impact and raise the profile of the legacy of the Big Local programme.

Through the Beacons project, Local Trust will provide funding to support four clusters – or *Beacons* - of legacy organisations across London, the Black Country, Liverpool City Region and the North East. This funding aims to support connections and practical collaboration between legacy organisations and relevant local partners and use the learning from delivering Big Local to influence their local funding and support ecosystems and help sustain the programme’s impact at a regional level.

Beacons funding will run from **May for approximately 9 to 12 months, depending on submitted applications** and will be awarded against priorities identified jointly by the Beacons cluster and Local Trust, through a co-design process.

Beacons funding will be awarded to a relevant local partner who can receive, administer and manage this funding on behalf of each Beacons cluster. Ideally, the successful organisation will also deliver elements of this funding directly as set out in the objectives and deliverables below.

The Liverpool Beacon project:

The Liverpool Beacon consortium is made up of a cluster of organisations across five areas, which were set up or supported by Big Locals in the Liverpool City Region:

1. Beechwood, Ballantyne and Bidston Village - The Little Centre
2. Clubmoor - MyClubmoor Liverpool – (formerly Clubmoor Big Local)
3. Northwood - Northwood Together Community Group (formerly Northwood Big Local)
4. St Oswald and Netherton (L30 Million Project) - Fun 4 Kidz and the L30 Community Centre
5. Windmill Hill - Windmill Hill Together (formerly Windmill Hill Big Local), Litter Networks, and St Berts Church, Norton Parish (both connected to Windmill Hill Big Local)

These organisations are strongly invested in the Beacons work and its potential impact. As many projects are delivered voluntarily, the capacity to engage may be limited. The successful commissioning organisation(s) are therefore asked to design engagement and planning arrangements that are mindful of these constraints.

More information about the activities of each consortium partner is included in [Appendix 2](#).

The Liverpool City Region Beacon project will focus on two themes:

- 1. Building a Collaborative, Influential and Sustainable Big Local Legacy Consortium**
- 2. Strengthening Community Research Capacity to Influence Policy and Practice**

The project unites five Big Local areas to evidence their collective health and wellbeing impact using participatory ripple-mapping, share learning with stakeholders, and strengthen the consortium's long-term sustainability.

This comes at a time when neighbourhood-level health is a clear policy and funding priority, reflected in strategies such as the Government's 10-Year Health Plan, National Lottery Community Fund Strategy 2023-2030, and the Sport England Strategy 2021-2031, and the principles set out in the [Civil Society Covenant](#).

Closer to home, the [VS6 Partnership](#) have set out a powerful vision for transforming public service delivery across the Liverpool City Region by placing the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector at the heart of innovation. The Liverpool Beacons project is therefore well placed to share knowledge and influence policymakers and funders on *how* health and wellbeing can be embedded at the neighbourhood and community level in practice.

The Liverpool Beacons consortium unites Big Local partnerships to demonstrate the value of community-led approaches to health, connection and wellbeing, with the ambition of influencing public services and policymakers to adopt, embed and invest in these approaches across the Liverpool City Region.

The consortium has identified two aims, prioritised and weighted accordingly.

1. Building a Collaborative, Influential and Sustainable Big Local Legacy Consortium (70%)

1.1. Consortium development and shared learning

To establish and support a consortium bringing together the five Big Local areas to share learning, best practice, and resources, and to maximise the value of their collective experience, assets and leadership. The consortium will create practical mechanisms for peer learning, collaboration and joint problem-solving across areas.

1.2. Futureproofing and sustainability

The consortium will invest in tailored support for each organisation to develop a mixed funding strategy, with a focus on income generation, organisational resilience and capacity building. This will support the sustainability and growth of flagship projects and help ensure the long-term impact of Big Local legacy activity beyond the lifetime of the programme.

2. Strengthening Community Research Capacity to Influence Policy and Practice

2.1 Development of skills and research

To work with existing community employees and volunteers to build confidence, skills and capabilities to participate meaningfully in community-led evaluation activity.

Through Participatory Research training, local people will be supported to act as community researchers. They will gather ongoing qualitative and quantitative evidence and undertake a ‘Ripple Effect Mapping’ exercise to identify and evidence the positive impacts of Big Local legacy activities on residents’ health and wellbeing across all five areas.

This two-pronged approach—combining participatory research with ripple effect mapping—will both generate robust, community-led evidence to inform future strategy and investment, and build long-term community capacity by increasing residents’ skills, confidence and ability to continue shaping and evaluating activity beyond the life of the project.

2.2 Learning, influence and system change

The consortium will actively share learning and evidence of the impact identified through ‘Ripple Effect Mapping’, through a coordinated learning-and-influence campaign. We’d expect the successful organisation/s to continue to develop what this looks like with the consortium.

Current ideas include:

- A podcast series and other accessible outputs highlighting the value of Big Local, resident-led decision-making, and community-led approaches to improving outcomes for residents and communities.
- The campaign will culminate in an event for Liverpool City Region stakeholders, aimed at influencing current and future policy, investment and strategic decision-making affecting these communities.

Scope of work and funds available

Local Trust and the Liverpool City Regions Beacon consortium are looking to fund an organisation or partnership of organisations that will confidently manage, co-design and co-deliver the following elements:

Theme 1: Building a Collaborative, Influential and Sustainable Big Local Legacy Consortium (30%)

Key purpose: Strengthen collaboration, amplify resident voice and learning, and future-proof Big Local legacy organisations, to develop a foundation for the consortium that will continue after the Beacons project.

Theme 1 Deliverables

1.1 Consortium Development and Shared Learning

- Administer flexible grants of £15,000 per Big Local area to support capacity for day-to-day activities related to the wider project. This includes engaging local people through events, coordinating involvement in the research project, and providing opportunities to further develop legacy projects that complement the ongoing evaluation of health and well-being determinants.
- Formal establishment of a five-area Big Local Legacy Consortium, with agreed principles, governance and ways of working.

- Regular consortium meetings and peer-learning sessions bringing together residents, staff and volunteers from all areas.
- Practical mechanisms for sharing best practice, tools, learning and resources across the consortium.
- Joint problem-solving activity to address shared challenges and opportunities.
- A strengthened, collaborative consortium with the capacity and confidence to continue joint working, influence and delivery beyond the life of the programme.

1.2 Futureproofing and Sustainability

- Tailored support for each consortium organisation to explore and develop a mixed funding strategy, with support offered to submit one funding application per organisation.
- Support focused on:
 - income generation opportunities
 - organisational resilience and capacity building
 - sustainability of flagship projects.
- Practical sustainability plans for each organisation, identifying next steps beyond the funded period.
- Shared learning across the consortium on sustainable models and approaches.

Theme 2: Strengthening Community Research Capacity to Influence Policy and Practice

Key purpose: Build resident capability and generate robust, community-led evidence of Big Local legacy impact on health and well-being.

Theme 2 Deliverables

2.1 Resident Recruitment and Engagement

- Work with each area to support local engagement and recruitment for the research and evaluation training.

2.2 Training and Capacity Building

- Direct delivery or sub-contraction of Participatory Research and Ripple Effect Mapping training, equipping residents with skills in:
 - data collection (qualitative and quantitative)
 - ethical and inclusive research practice
 - reflective learning and sense-making.
- Develop training materials and resources that can be reused locally beyond the life of the project.

2.3 Community-Led Evidence Gathering

- Project management of ongoing community-led collection of qualitative and quantitative evidence relating to Big Local legacy activity.
- Project management of active resident involvement in analysing and interpreting findings.

2.4 Outputs and Learning

- A set of accessible, community-friendly evidence outputs summarising:
 - the impacts of Big Local legacy activity on residents' health and wellbeing
 - wider social, relational and community-level outcomes.
- A final synthesis report bringing together participatory research findings and ripple effect mapping insights to inform future strategy, investment and policy.

The evaluation will be targeted at key stakeholders identified through the community project ripple mapping process, including local authorities, primary health care providers, policy developers, and wider system partners influencing health and wellbeing outcomes.

2.5 Learning, Influence and System Change

- Development and delivery of a learning and influence campaign showcasing the impact of Big Local and resident-led decision-making.

Suggestions have included:

- Production of a podcast series and complementary learning outputs (e.g. briefings, blogs, short films or case studies). Note: My Clubmoor have the podcast equipment.
- Delivery of a resident-led event for Liverpool City Region stakeholders, including:
 - co-design and facilitation by residents
 - presentation of learning, evidence and lived experience
 - structured dialogue aimed at influencing policy, strategy and investment decisions.
- Clear articulation of learning and evidence to support influence activity.

2.6 Outputs and Legacy

- A set of shared consortium learning products capturing:
 - what has worked
 - transferable approaches
 - recommendations for funders and decision-makers, and other stakeholders

Integration across aims

Both these aims need to work in conjunction, and if these deliverables are undertaken by several organisations, we would expect these organisations to work in partnership to ensure the learning from the ripple mapping can feed into the campaign and inform the content of the proposed programme of learning and sharing.

Providers will be expected to demonstrate how they will share learning, coordinate activity, and jointly sense-make evidence across the programme.

Available Funding

A maximum of £170,000 is available. (This must incorporate the grants to the consortium members up to a maximum of £75,000)

Funding will be awarded by Local Trust as a grant, based on the strength of proposals received. We have not specified how funding should be allocated across the elements outlined above, as we welcome proposals that demonstrate overall best value for money. Where Big Locals have the capacity to deliver any elements of this work, they should be commissioned to do so. We advise that, where possible, contact with the areas should be made in shaping the EOI.

Requirements for a successful EOI

The nature of this project requires a broad skillset which will include: expertise and track record in delivering high quality evaluation projects; ability to adeptly facilitate and cultivate relationships with a diverse range of people and partners in complex local settings; and excellent communication skills, including the ability to present evidence in compelling written reports, presentations and other materials for a range of audiences.

The successful organisation/s would also have knowledge and well-developed professional relationships and networks in the public services and health sectors.

We are open to all applications to deliver this work, including joint or partnership submissions where this would draw in strong expertise across the disciplines required.

Successful organisation (s) will be able to demonstrate:

1. Ability to take direction from and work alongside the resident-led Big Local partnership groups (the Liverpool City Region Beacons project consortium)
2. Experience of working with placed-based resident and/or community groups
3. An understanding of how communities experience or are alienated by the statutory health sector and the importance of community-based approaches
4. Have the capacity to project manage a range of different requirements and have the flexibility to respond to six projects with different needs
5. Ability to convene conversations, symposiums or forums between the projects and stakeholders
6. The ability to reimagine community delivery in partnership with strategic partners.
7. Have existing relationships and expertise in engagement with the public sector

8. Have extensive experience in researching and managing evaluation projects, particularly in community contexts
9. A willingness to share know-how and expertise
10. Strong communication skills
11. A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion throughout your work.

In addition, the successful organisation(s) must be able to pass Local Trust's due diligence checks. As part of this process, Local Trust will check if the lead organisation: is constituted and that receiving/administering this grant funding is within its objects; has the experience and capability to administer and account for the funding (we ask for the organisation's most recent set of financial accounts (published within a year); has a bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two signatories who are not related to one another or reside at the same address.

We expect the successful organisation to deliver the following outputs:

- An interim progress report summarising activities undertaken and funding spent to date (by September 2026)
- A formal evaluation report across all five areas with time factored in for two rounds of comments on high-quality drafts.
- A high-quality set of presentation materials (which may include reports, stories, film or audio) that can be used by the Liverpool BLC project consortium partners' individual areas as part of their ongoing advocacy and development work.

Timeline

- Invitations for Expressions of Interest published:
- Deadline for EOIs: **12noon, Monday 23rd March**
- Interviews (online): **mid-April**
- Successful organisation informed: **by Friday 24th April**
- Grant begins from **1 May 2026 and runs to 31 Dec 2026, with some leeway depending on EOI**

How to submit your Expression of Interest

To submit your EOI, please send us a short statement (max. 4 pages) outlining:

- How you meet the requirements and details of previous relevant work and/or expertise in this area.
- An indicative timeline and budget, including initial thoughts about allocation of funding to the broad areas of delivery.
- What governance of this project would look like and who within your organisation would lead on this. If you are applying as 2 or more partner organisations, please include how you intend to work together and what prior experience you have of working in partnership.
- How would you approach working closely with the Liverpool Beacons consortium members to ensure they continue to lead the direction of the project?

In addition to the short statement (max. 4 pages), please provide:

- Your / the lead organisation's most recent set of financial accounts.

To submit an expression of interest, please email the above to Programmes@localtrust.org.uk by **12 noon on Monday 23rd March 2026**.

If you have any questions or would like an informal conversation before you submit, please email Programmes@localtrust.org.uk with the subject line “*Liverpool City Region Beacons*”. We will aim to respond to general questions within 2 working days. Questions will be added to a general FAQ document and published on this web page to ensure equity. Please note the deadline for any questions is 19th March.

Appendix 1 - Local Trust legacy and research context

This project sits within the context of developing a neighbourhood model of healthcare. Local Trust has been working alongside the [NHS Confederation](#) to explore the importance of community-led health in the Big Local programme and the need for radical transformation when it comes to health and care in the UK. Some outputs of this work are listed here:

- Resetting the relationship: towards a social model of health creation and care: [Policy Sprint Write Up](#)
- [Policy Sprint Blog](#)
- [Health Starts in the Neighbourhood Blog](#)
- [10 year plan response](#)

Appendix 2 – The Liverpool City Region Beacon consortium member profiles

Beechwood in Beechwood, Ballantyne and Bidston Village

The Little Centre

The Little Centre Beechwood is a registered charity in The Wirral, aimed at improving the lives of local residents. It provides community facilities for recreation and leisure, promotes social inclusion for those in deprived areas, and offers activities for young people. It serves as a community hub to support social welfare.

Clubmoor

MyClubmoor Liverpool – (formerly Clubmoor Big Local)

MyClubmoor aims to create a network of committed, active, inspirational people working together towards raising aspirations and making Clubmoor the best that it can be.

Northwood

Northwood Together Community Group (formerly Northwood Big Local)

NTCG is a volunteer-led community group in Northwood. Their main priority is to relieve food poverty in Northwood and the surrounding areas. They have had great success since they started and have helped thousands of people who would otherwise have nowhere to turn for help.

L30 – St Oswald and Netherton

Fun 4 Kidz and the L30 Community Centre in St Oswald and Netherton (L30 Million Project)

The L30 Community Centre is a welcoming place in the heart of the Netherton community, where they work alongside community members to provide the space for them to get to know each



other, and through connections being made enable them to share their skills, talents and passions to make a positive difference to the community.

Windmill Hill

Windmill Hill Together (formerly Windmill Hill Big Local)

Windmill Hill Together is to ensure Windmill Hill becomes an even better place to live, work and grow up. They are a group of residents along with supportive partners who are passionate about making change to their great community.

Litter Networks (connected to Windmill Hill Big Local)

Litter Networks aims to make the process of litter picking as frictionless as possible for group and solo pickers through the provision of digital/physical resources, support and guidance:

www.litternetworks.org

St Berts Church, Norton Parish (funded and connected to Windmill Hill Big Local)

St Berts is a lively and friendly Church, serving the homes and businesses of Windmill Hill, Norton and Murdishaw, which together comprise Norton Parish. They are actively involved in the local community, run a community space which was made possible through the Big Local, and work closely with the other churches of Runcorn.