

# Orsted

## Community Benefit Funds

Spring newsletter  
2021





## Over the last six months, we have continued to provide financial support to organisations who have been profoundly affected by the pandemic.

In this edition of our newsletter, you will read some examples of how all three of the Ørsted Community Funds have been used to sustain organisations through the crisis. Many organisations have had to make extraordinary changes to the way in which they operate so that they can ensure that members of the community continue to receive their invaluable support. The grants we have provided have meant that many essential services and facilities are still operating and will continue to do so into the foreseeable future.

We recognise that providing grants of this nature remains crucial in supporting groups through to recovery. This is clearly evidenced by the fact that over 120 organisations have applied across all three Funds for projects specifically related to the impact of Covid-19. Of these, 32 applications have been awarded grants totalling nearly £550,000 in funding.

We have therefore taken the decision to extend the criteria changes introduced last year for all 2021 rounds of each of our Funds. It is hoped that this will ensure that more groups and organisations will feel supported at this challenging time. This is all balanced alongside our continued commitment to provide funding through each of the Funds for important conventional grants and pledges towards STEM education through the Walney Extension and East Coast Community Funds.

Lastly, on a slightly lighter note, we are proud to report that our Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund has reached a significant milestone. We've now been funding our coastline community in the Liverpool area for the past five years. Witnessing results from this funding have been particularly rewarding and we look forward to supporting many more projects in the future.

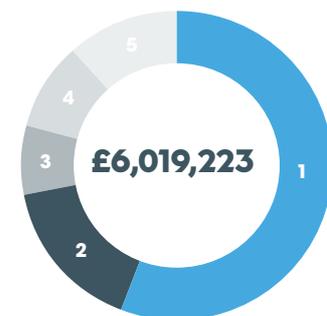
**Imran Nawaz**  
Stakeholder Advisor & CBF Manager, Ørsted

### Ørsted provide Community Benefit Funds for the following offshore wind farm projects

- Burbo Bank Extension in Liverpool Bay – £225,000 per year
- Walney Extension in the Irish Sea off the Cumbria coastline – £600,000 per year which includes £100,000 Skills Fund
- East Coast – Hornsea Projects and Race Bank located in the North Sea off the Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and North Norfolk coastline – £465,000 per year which includes £75,000 Skills Fund



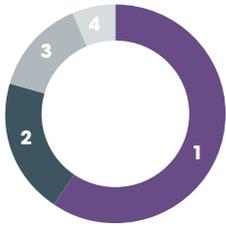
### Funds awarded to date:



1. Community activities and services
2. Community buildings and facilities
3. Nature and public open space projects
4. Sports, recreation and play
5. Skills Fund projects

# Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund

The Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund provides £225,000 each year and has so far awarded 136 grants across Merseyside and North Wales.



**£1,238,664**  
awarded  
since the Fund  
launched in 2015



**Counselling and  
therapeutic services**



Parenting 2000 was awarded £11,859 to deliver counselling and therapeutic services to children and young people in Sefton with issues including low self-esteem, anxiety, depression, anger, bullying, bereavement and stress. With referrals up 69% from the previous year the aim was to reduce waiting lists in line with national health targets to four weeks or less and redesign their therapeutic services to better meet the increased need. Janine Hyland, Parenting 2000's Chief Executive said: "The grant enabled us to fund much needed additional capacity for children and young people to access therapeutic counselling. This included us working with individuals referred through our existing services such as our targeted youth provision, and from the families we work with on our Early Help project. Many of these young people are traditionally from disadvantaged backgrounds, as such they are 'hard to reach' so would struggle to engage with a new provider and without this funding they would not have benefitted from receiving counselling. This has been ever more important in the final five months of the project where Covid-19 has had an additional adverse effect on the mental health of children and young people."



**Lifeline to the world**



£3,293 was awarded to British Wireless for the Blind Fund towards the provision of specially adapted radios for blind and partially sighted people in Sefton. By providing the equipment on a free loan to those who are unable to afford a specially adapted radio this helps improve the daily lives of visually impaired people. Miss Bennett, 67, who was one of the first recipients of the radios funded by the grant said: "The radio is a respite from Covid-19. It gets overpowering when you're by yourself and can't talk to anyone. It's in your head all the time. But I put my stations on and just chill – so it's a total escape. It's such a positive thing!"



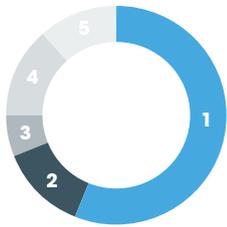
**Leave no one behind**



Waterloo Quilters was awarded £4,814 towards their project to run a sewing group. The project is designed to use the skills of people affected by loneliness, poor mental health and deprivation to create sewn items for people in need. As the focus of the project, members create drawstring bags for sanitary products for homeless women, syringe driver bags for people undergoing cancer treatment to increase mobility, quilts for young people leaving care, lap quilts for end of life patients and face coverings for NHS workers. Laurel Byrne, a volunteer at Waterloo Quilters said: "The overall feeling from members is one of using our skills to support others. Those who have been living in isolation have benefitted from being involved in the various projects and knowing that someone will be calling to collect their work, maybe the only person they have contact with, has meant so much."

# Walney Extension Community Fund

The Walney Extension Community Fund is linked to the offshore wind farm off the Walney Island coast in Cumbria and has £600,000 available annually. To date, 165 local projects have been supported.



**£2,924,904**  
awarded since  
the Fund launched  
in 2016



**Intercepted food depot**



Lancaster Community Club C.I.C. was awarded £51,000 to set up a local food redistribution depot in Lancaster and support local communities setting up food clubs to tackle the growing issue of food poverty. Covid-19 has created numerous challenges and the group adapted very quickly to meet urgent food access and distribution issues faced by many households in the area. Deborah Finn, Lancaster Community Club C.I.C.'s Chair said: "Like everyone else, our operation has been challenged by Covid-19. Surplus food clubs cannot run in any recognisable fashion whilst social distancing is required, but the need for food aid is greater than ever. During lockdown we were making doorstep deliveries of food parcels to people in our area in need. We also established food club outlets in Lancaster and Morecambe which are helping to reach a different audience and complement the more traditional food club model."



**Paddle boarding and windsurfing**



Photo by Victoria Sedgwick

Arnside Sailing Club was awarded £4,500 to buy new paddle boards with sails to enable the Club to offer paddle board and windsurfing lessons. It is easy to learn, is a great starting point into water sport activity and the low tide waters at Arnside create the ideal conditions.

Alasdair Simpson, Arnside Sailing Club's Commodore said: "The project was much more successful than we ever imagined. In total the boards were used in the first season by 240 people against a target of 54. The paddle boards meant we could offer people something at a time of national crisis due to Covid-19. Paddle boarding is easy to teach whilst keeping the required two metre social distance. Outdoor exercise of this kind helps improve people's physical and mental health."



**Skills Fund**

Each year, up to £100,000 of the Walney Extension Community Fund is set aside for the Skills Fund. The aim is to provide educational and learning opportunities for people within the Fund's benefit area to help to improve their skills and employment opportunities. Applications are invited from organisations to develop and deliver extra curriculum STEM training and/or education courses or a programme of targeted events. This year's closing date is 30 April 2021.

## Engineering courses at Furness College

Since 2017, Ørsted has committed part of the Skills Fund to Furness College in Barrow to support the course fee costs for a variety of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering courses. These range from one-year BTEC Engineering Bridging Courses to four-year degrees. To date, over £130,000 has been invested with 18 local students benefiting from grants to support the cost of their education. A further £40,000 has already been pledged to the College for the 2021/2022 academic year.



# East Coast Community Fund

The East Coast Community Fund is linked to the Hornsea projects and Racebank offshore wind farms and has £465,000 available each year. 141 projects have been supported so far in coastal areas of Yorkshire, Lincolnshire and North Norfolk.



**£1,855,653**  
awarded since  
the Fund launched  
in 2016



**Headway - Boston District, South  
Holland & East Lindsey**



Headway Lincolnshire was awarded £20,000 which is being used towards salary costs. The charity supports brain injury survivors and their families. With the support of its Coordinator & Development Officer and a host of volunteers, the charity provides social support groups, training sessions, activities and awareness raising workshops for the community.

Ann-Marie Smith, Headway Lincolnshire's Coordinator & Development Officer, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be supported by the East Coast Community Fund. The pledge of the grant couldn't have come at a better time for us. Due to Covid-19 we have been unable to fundraise in our normal ways. The grant will enable us to continue providing vital support and services to brain injury survivors and their families."



**The Great Escape**



Creative Start Arts in Health C.I.C. was awarded £28,600 to fully refurbish a historical building in the Kasbah conservation area of Grimsby Docks. People in recovery and Armed Forces Veterans, some with PTSD, worked with a team of recovery peer mentors, artists and volunteers to restore the building and create a united sense of purpose for all involved.

Sam Delaney, Creative Start Arts in Health C.I.C. Director said: "Although we have remained active and very busy throughout the Pandemic as need for support has increased, restrictions have affected the progress of our project work, as we were only able to have a certain amount of people within the buildings. This will begin to change as social distancing rules are eased and the restoration work will gather momentum."



**Skills Fund**

Each year, up to £75,000 of the East Coast Community Fund is set aside for the Skills Fund. The aim is to provide educational and learning opportunities for people within the Fund's benefit area to help to improve their skills and employment opportunities. Applications are invited from organisations to develop and deliver extra curriculum STEM training and/or education courses or a programme of targeted events. This year's closing date is 30 April 2021.

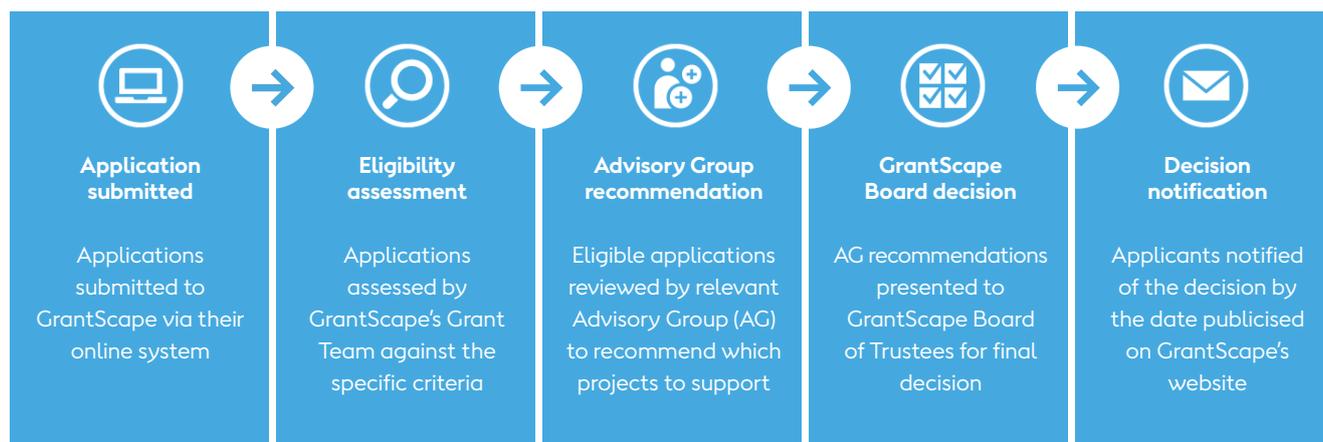
## East Coast Skills Primary Engineer Project

In May 2020, £51,000 was awarded to Primary Engineer for their 'East Coast Skills Primary Engineer Project'. Up to 60 schools within the East Coast

Community Fund boundary will benefit from the Primary Engineer Structures and Mechanisms with Basic Electrics project. Covid-19 has clearly presented delivery challenges as schools have closed, and therefore Primary Engineer has proficiently adapted the project to a virtual platform for times when physical sessions are not possible.



# Applying to the Community Benefit Funds



## Next closing dates:

### Burbo Bank Extension Community Fund

14 April 2021\* (decisions July 2021)

22 September 2021\* (decisions December 2021)

### Walney Extension Community Fund

23 June 2021\* (decisions September 2021)

7 January 2022 (decisions March 2022)

### East Coast Community Fund

28 July 2021\* (decisions October 2021)

9 February 2022 (decisions May 2022)

### STEM Skills Fund – Walney Extension and East Coast

30 April 2021 (decisions June 2021)

## Criteria update in response to Covid-19

Applications are encouraged to support communities through to recovery. The following temporary criteria changes will apply to the 2021 rounds (\*) of each Fund:

- No match funding will be required for any applications at this time.
- Re-application restrictions have been lifted. Any groups that have previously received a grant, have a live project or have been unsuccessful in the last round may re-apply.

## How the funds are managed

Independent grant-making charity, GrantScape, administer Ørsted's Community Benefit Funds. GrantScape is committed to enhancing the environment and strengthening local communities through its grant programmes. Their experience stretches back to 1997 and they have awarded grants totalling around £90 million to deserving projects over this time.

The decision-making process is supported by a local Advisory Group (AG) established for each Community

Benefit Fund. Their help and advice in the process is absolutely vital in prioritising projects at a local level. The AG members have been carefully selected to ensure all areas that can benefit from the Fund are well represented by people with good local knowledge of the community and environment.

Each fund has its own specific funding criteria and eligible funding area, available on GrantScape's website. Please contact the team at GrantScape with any queries.