**YOU CAN Learning Innovation Fund – Grant Guidance Document**

**Introduction**

The YOU CAN Learning Innovation Fund is a bold initiative from The City of Doncaster Council, designed to accelerate progress toward the Doncaster Education and Skills Strategy 2030. As we reach the halfway point in this strategic journey, the fund invites organisations to reimagine how learning happens across Doncaster. With up to £20,000 available for each of two successful projects, this is a unique opportunity to test bold ideas that challenge the status quo and inspire new ways of thinking.

**Who Can Apply**

Applications are welcomed from education providers, voluntary and community sector groups, businesses, and organisations that hold a business or organisational bank account. Applicants should be able to demonstrate a strong track record in delivering learning programmes and have the necessary policies and procedures in place, including safeguarding, health and safety, and public liability insurance.

**What We’re Looking For**

The fund is designed to support projects that spark curiosity through hands-on, cutting-edge learning experiences. Proposals could aim to address local skills gaps in priority sectors such as green technology, digital, health and care, and advanced manufacturing. We are particularly interested in new models of learning that promote lifelong learning and strengthen Doncaster’s learning ecosystem through collaboration and innovation. Also ways that your project will align with the Shared Principles set out in the Doncaster Education and Skills 2030 Strategy? These are (see pages 38-39 here: <https://tinyurl.com/EandS2030>)

* **Learners for life:**(1) Whole-person, (2) Whole-life, (3) Learner-centred
* **Expert and collaborative professionals:**(4) Expert-led, (5) Innovative, (6) Collaborative
* **Diverse and committed partners:**(7) Whole-system, (8) Distributed leadership, (9) Place-based

**Application Process**

To apply for the YOU CAN Learning Innovation Fund, organisations must complete the official application form and submit all required documents by **17th November 2025**. Only fully completed applications will be considered.

The form asks for details about your organisation, your proposed project, and how it aligns with Doncaster’s Education and Skills Strategy 2030. You’ll need to describe your target learners, learning activities, expected outcomes, and how your project promotes innovation, collaboration, and inclusion.

Applicants must also provide a clear budget, outlining the amount requested (up to £20,000), any additional contributions, and a breakdown of costs. Supporting documents include safeguarding and health & safety policies, risk assessments, DBS checks, insurance, and a recent bank statement.

Once submitted, applications will be reviewed and decisions made within **28 days**, subject to all evidence being provided. Only **two projects** will be funded, so proposals should be bold, well-planned, and impactful.

**Assessment Criteria**

Applications will be evaluated using a weighted scoring matrix.

| **Criteria** | **Weight** | **Key Considerations** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Innovation & Creativity | 25% | Bold, original ideas; challenges the status quo; aligned with “test and learn” ethos |
| Relevance to Local Needs | 20% | Addresses Doncaster’s priority skills gaps; rooted in community and economic needs |
| Impact & Outcomes | 20% | Clear, measurable outcomes; lasting impact; potential for scaling |
| Collaboration & Inclusion | 15% | Cross-sector partnerships; inclusive and accessible; promotes lifelong learning |
| Feasibility & Delivery | 10% | Realistic plan; appropriate resources; value for money |
| Strategic Alignment | 10% | Aligns with Doncaster Education and Skills Strategy 2030; complements existing efforts |

Each criterion is scored from **1 (Poor)** to **5 (Excellent)**.

**Delivering Your Project**

Successful applicants will have the full calendar year of 2026 to deliver their project. This flexible delivery window allows for a wide range of formats, whether aligned with the academic year or seasonal programmes. Projects must be realistic in scope, achievable within the timeframe, and offer good value for money. Applicants should also be prepared to engage in monitoring and evaluation activities, including surveys and site visits, to ensure quality and impact.

**Support and Contact**

If you need help planning your programme or completing the application, support is available from the Remake Learning team at Remake.learning@doncaster.gov.uk. For Further ideas of projects, please see some Special projects that have been happening over in Pittsburgh, USA [Special Projects – Remake Learning](https://remakelearning.org/our-network/special-projects/).