

Charitable Giving and Funding

Our vision is to be the most loved, progressive and responsible way to travel for generations to come.

What we support

Our charitable programmes focus on those areas with a demonstrable link to our business, vision and values, where we believe we can achieve the greatest impact:

Inclusive Communities

Supporting **diverse and inclusive** community projects, creating opportunities for learning and the social mobility of vulnerable groups. Our ambition at LNER is for an inclusive culture where customers and colleagues feel able to be themselves and that we create a diverse workforce that is representative of the communities we serve.

Skilled Communities

Promoting **employability and education** amongst marginalised groups by investing in the skills required now and, in the future, supporting a healthy talent pipeline for LNER and the economies of the East Coast.

Connected Communities

Creating a culture of positive **mental health**, bringing people and communities together and taking positive action to prevent suicide; something that has a devastating and far-reaching impact on our people, customers and communities.

Environmental Sustainability

Supporting environmental projects and encouraging sustainable mobility to reduce the impact of congestion on our customers and communities, cut emissions including from our operations, improve air quality and help to reduce the impacts of climate change.

As part of this, there are three areas we would like CCIF applications to focus on, which are outlined below. Examples have been included, but if you have any questions please contact CCIF@lner.co.uk.

- Biodiversity – projects on rewilding areas, creating new or extending existing wildlife corridors and regeneration of urban spaces
- Sustainable Travel – projects that encourage communities to travel more sustainably, to and from LNER train stations.
- Waste Reduction and the Circular Economy – would be open to projects that would help LNER reduce or would convert waste into a reusable asset.

How we support

There are four keyways we support charitable programmes and community initiatives on our route:

1. Direct funding through our Customer and Community Investment Fund (CCIF), enabling LNER to support charities, our customers and the communities located along the LNER route.
 - a. Funding of up to £50,000 is available for individual projects, and the minimum funding amount is £1,000.
 - b. *Our preference would be to use the fund to support small and medium charities to deliver projects that align with the four areas outlined above, in place of larger charities.*
 - i. We define a large charity as a voluntary or community organisation with an annual income of more than £1 million per annum.

- ii. Applications from charities that exceed this will not be declined, but preference will be given to applications from charities who have an annual income of £1 million or below.
- 2. By working with our official charity partner to support our mutual aims through skills support, fundraising initiatives, gift in kind donations, as well as signposting to their services and raising awareness of their work to our people, customers and communities.
- 3. Supporting local and national charities and community organisations by connecting our people with communities that need volunteering assistance through the LNER Reserves. LNER Reserves is our volunteering network, that launched in March 2020.
- 4. By granting charitable requests for raffle and auction prizes to initiatives that align with our dedication to Mental Health, Employability, Environment, Diversity and Inclusion. Each individual request is assessed on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to availability, with our donation being a pair of standard class complimentary tickets for travel on London North Eastern Railway Services.

What we do not support

Please note that this Exclusion List applies to requests for charitable giving and funding – not to commercial sponsorships, which are managed through the usual commercial channels.

LNER is not able to fund:

Organisations and charitable causes that do not fall into LNER's areas of focus outlined above	<i>LNER is dedicated to creating a legacy and having a lasting impact on the key social issues that are the most important to our people, customers and communities.</i>
Political parties or organisations who promote a specific political party	<i>LNER is politically neutral/ non-affiliated, and as such does not support charities in this area.</i>
Organisations that promote or require beneficiaries to be of a specific faith, convert to that faith or accept information or teaching about that faith as a condition of taking part in or benefitting from programmes and or services	<i>LNER aspires to be a diverse and inclusive organisation because we believe that diversity brings benefits for our customers, communities and our people, and as such does not support charities where any of the restrictions outlined may apply.</i>
Any organisation that could be deemed to have a controversial or negative impact on the reputation of LNER	<i>LNER reserves the right to reject applications that could be deemed to have a controversial or negative impact on the reputation of the organisation.</i>
Crowd-funded appeals	<i>LNER only supports registered charities and institutions, therefore requests to support appeals of this nature will be viewed on a case-by-case basis, and only if monies go to a registered charity. This protects all parties from potential fraud or corruption issues.</i>
Core costs for a charity, including buildings, salaries, general running, management, travel	<i>Our support will always be directed at the core objective of a charity rather than ancillary costs.</i>

costs and the renewal or replacement of essential items.	<i>We will consider funding some staff costs that relate to the delivery of a CCIF project. But this should not equal more than 40% of the overall funding amount requested.</i>
Works that should be picked up by local authorities such as the refurbishment of school buildings, public buildings etc.	<i>Our support will always be directed at the core objective of a charity rather than ancillary costs.</i>
Projects that require ongoing funding.	<i>LNER cannot support projects that require ongoing funding. LNER will only support projects that will be delivered within a year of the project commencing.</i> <i>This refers to funds that are appropriated annually with the expectation that the funds will continue to be appropriated. Which is not the case with CCIF, which must be reapplied for each year.</i>
Projects that have any commercial gain	<i>LNER will only support projects that are not for profit and do not produce commercial gain for the beneficiary.</i>
The Arts (e.g. theatre, choirs, cultural projects) unless specifically focused on our priority issues	<i>LNER aims to support charities and institutions that most closely align with our business, vision and values. Our focus is around mental health, education and employability, diversity and inclusion and environmental sustainability. For this reason, arts programmes are currently excluded unless they are deemed to align with one or more of the areas of focus outlined above.</i>
Sports charities and clubs, education entities, groups and animal welfare charities, unless for projects specifically focused on our priority issues	<i>LNER aims to support charities and institutions that most closely align with our business, vision and values. Our focus is around mental health, education and employability, diversity and inclusion and environmental sustainability. For this reason, these groups are currently excluded unless they are deemed to align with one or more of the areas of focus outlined above.</i>