

Aberarder and Corriegarth Local Fund



Introduction

- SSEN Transmission's approach to Community Benefit funding
- UK Government Guidance – Transmission Community Funds
- Aberarder and Corriegarth Wind Farm Connections - Community Benefit Funding
- Community Engagement and Consultation Timeline
- Q&A



Approach to Community Benefit Funding

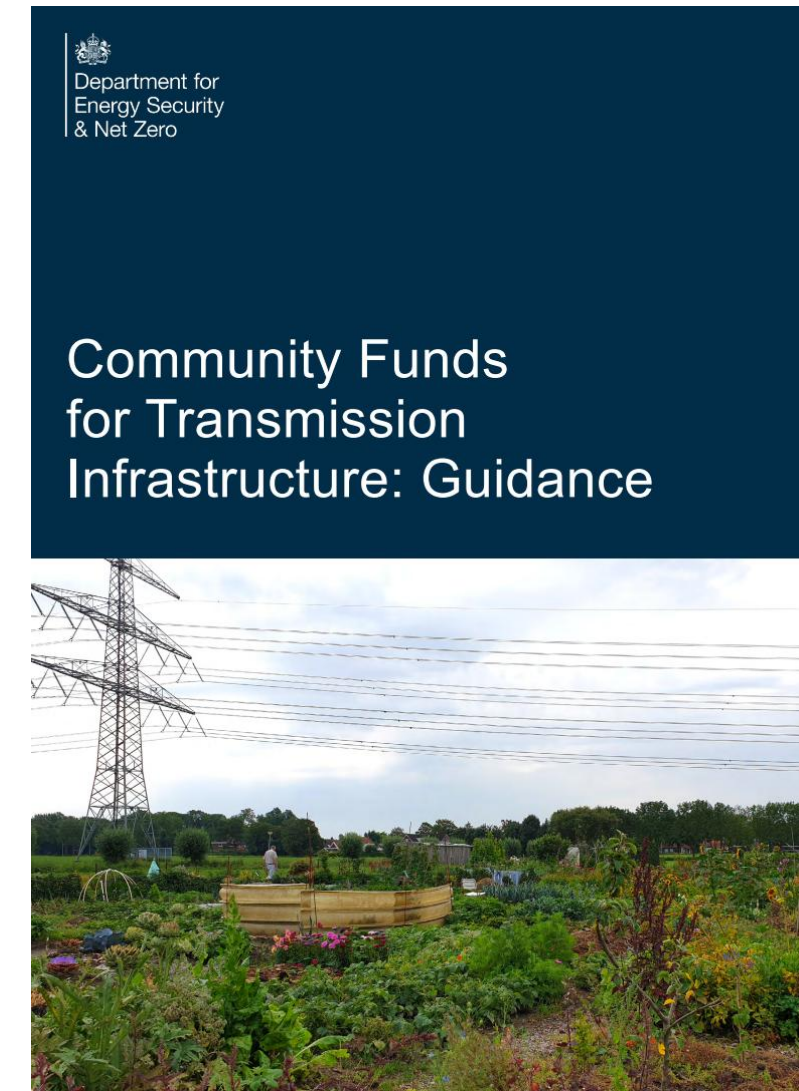
Regional Fund

- Established in 2024 to support initiatives that will have strategic, transformational impact across multiple communities.
- Open to all communities across SSEN's network area throughout the north of Scotland
- Two rounds so far, decided upon by an independent panel selected through an open recruitment process.
- Consultation this year to ensure the Regional Fund continues to deliver for communities as it grows.



Approach to Community Benefit Funding

- Only eligible projects which started main construction works after **10 March 2025** are able to receive funding.
- This guidance will underpin the development of new local funds, including levels of benefit, community engagement and governance arrangements.
- Each local fund will be made up of a series of different elements of connected infrastructure (e.g. one local fund could be made up of the funding from two or more substations and the overhead line connecting these).
- Our aim is to make applying to funds as simple as possible, by minimising the number of local funds (by connecting the elements of infrastructure), and ensuring that you can see all the local funds available to you in one place.



Aberarder and Corriegarth Community Benefit Funding

- As per UK Government Guidance, the total amount generated by these projects is £2.1m.
 - £200,000 per km of overhead line
 - £530,000 per new or significantly upgraded substation
- In line with SSEN Transmission's governance for community benefit funding, half of this will be made available via the Regional Fund.
- **£1,050,000** will be used to create a dedicated fund for communities close to the infrastructure.

Community Engagement & Consultation

- Key aims of the consultation are to define:
 - The area of benefit for the fund (i.e. the area eligible to receive community funds)
 - The priorities for the fund (i.e. what is most important to the communities and how the money should be best used)
 - The structure of the fund (i.e. how many years the fund should be available and what level of funding should be available for community projects).



Consultation: May – June 2026

In-person events (3-7pm)

- Strathnairn (date tbc)
- Stratherrick and Foyers (date tbc)

Information webinars x1

Online survey



Decision-making Panel

- Independent decision-making panel made up of local residents.
- Open recruitment process, advertised to all communities along the route.
- Aim to recruit a panel that reflects a range of interests, experiences, skills and characteristics.
- Will not include community council members, anyone working for the local authority, or local representatives (e.g. local councillors).
- Fee paid to help remove financial barriers to participating and offer fair compensation of their time and responsibilities.
- However, I am aware that the Strathnairn Community Benefit Fund (SCBF) administer funds for Strathnairn, and the same with Stratherrick and Foyers Community Trust (SFCT) for Stratherrick and Foyers.

Aberarder and Corriegarth Local Fund: Timeline

Area research & early engagement

Review local plans to identify key priorities.

Plan community engagement with input from support organisations.

Panel Recruitment: Autumn 2026

Open recruitment process for anyone wishing to join the Decision-making Panel.

Fund launched: Autumn 2026

Agreed fund proposal to be published on SSENT website.

Applications opened.

Consultation: Summer 2026

In-person events (Strathnairn and Stratherrick and Foyers).

Online session & online survey (open for four weeks).

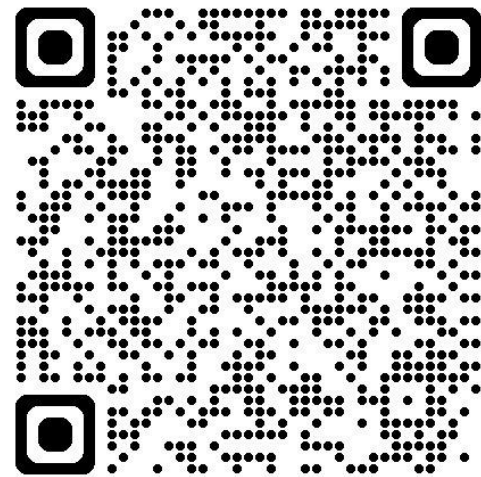
Fund Proposal: Autumn 2026

Fund proposal produced based on outcome of consultation and local plan.

Proposal sent to key community representatives for feedback (community councils, development trusts etc)

Find out more

Register for updates via email. It only takes two minutes, and you'll also receive information about our events.



Website: <https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/information-centre/community-benefit-fund/>

Contact: community.benefit@sse.com



Questions?

