Briefing note
Milton Keynes Tech Week Community Fund.

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Purpose   Proposal: Community Fund

Community Fund [Events for Milton Keynes Tech Week 2025]

Overview:

Milton Keynes Tech Week (22–26 September 2025) will be the city's flagship technology event—bringing together industry leaders, innovators, educators, and residents for a week-long celebration of innovation, creativity, and collaboration. Following the success of last year's Artificial Intelligence Festival, which drew over 2,000 attendees, this year's programme is set to be even more ambitious, inclusive, and city-wide. The event forms a significant part of Milton Keynes City Council's long-term strategy to position MK as a national centre of excellence for tech, AI and smart city innovation. With more than 2,400 tech businesses operating locally, contributing an estimated £3.4bn to the economy, and with one in every three local jobs now in the tech sector, Milton Keynes is fast becoming one of the most important places in the UK for digital transformation and technological progress.

Our Aim:

While much of Tech Week will spotlight major organisations like Santander, Red Bull Technologies, HMGCC and The Open University among others, we are also deeply committed to ensuring local communities and grassroots innovation have a strong voice throughout the week. We are aware Community-led events are essential to embedding the theme of technology and innovation into the heart of the business community. Ensuring local creatives, diverse communities, and specialised groups are a key part of the weeks activity.

Community Event Support Fund

To support this, the City Council has allocated £10,000 from the overall Tech Week budget facilitated by Milton Keynes City Council, Santander and Cranfield University to fund local community organisations in hosting their own tech-inspired events during the week. We are inviting community groups, CICs, social enterprises, startups and community branches of companies in Milton Keynes to apply for individual grants to run events that reflect their own vision for what technology, digital creative engagement and innovation means to their prospective already-existing communities [Please note the group must be registered as a business, with a business account].

We expect to support up to six organisations from this pot, leveraging on previous experiences from our events of this scale. Events can take place in any local venue that fits your

format. They must happen between 22–26 September and be accessible to the public, a clearly defined group, or a previously existing group.

The amounts will be rewarded in the following format:

- £5000 awarded to one organisation and £1000 rewarded to five additional companies [6 organisations in total].

Eligibility: [We're particularly interested in proposals that consist of the following:]

• Have a proven record of delivering tech, digital or career/innovation-themed events in MK

• Engage communities that are often underrepresented in the tech world

• Feature high quality event standards, based on a record number of previous events. With a range of event styles (e.g. workshops, talks, mini-exhibitions, networking sessions etc.)

• Align with the values of Tech Week: inclusion, creativity, and innovation

Support and Expectations:

Successful applicants will receive grant funding along with branding support, access to Tech Week promotional channels, and the opportunity to be included in the official Tech Week programme.

Funded events will be expected to:

Collaborate with Milton Keynes City Council and inform council representatives of event management and logistics on a bi-weekly basis, as well as an openness to creative direction on event styles and content.

• Include clear promotional messaging around Tech Week

• Collect basic feedback and attendance figures

• Include media pieces from the day and collaborate with the MK Tech Week Media Team.

• Participate in a short post-event debrief with the Council representative.

Next Steps

If your organisation is interested in applying for funding and meets the eligibility criteria, please complete the application form below by [5pm 7th July deadline]. We aim to notify all successful applicants by [The week of the 14th July].