



# Ward Flexibility Funding Application Form

Thank you for your interest in Stockport Council's Ward Flexibility Fund. To give your group the best chance of success please read the guidance notes and the questions on the application form carefully.

Please ensure that all boxes on this form are completed. You must also include all additional information that is requested.

## 1. About Your Organisation

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### 1. Name of Organisation/ Group

The East Cheshire's Musical Theatre Company

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### 2. Organisation/Individual Address

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### 3. Main Contact Details (for correspondence)

Title: Mr

Name: Thom Copestake

Role: Funding Secretary

Address:

Postcode:

Home Phone Number:

Mobile Phone Number:

Email Address:

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### 4. Please provide your bank account details



Account Name:

Account Number:

Sort Code:

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### 5. What is the status of your Organisation/ Group?

*Please Tick*

- |                                |                                     |                                  |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A New Group                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Voluntary Organisation           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| A Registered Charity No.       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Company Limited by Guarantee No. | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Applying for Charitable Status | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Unregistered Association         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Friendly Society               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other (Please specify)           | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Housing Association            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |                                  |                                     |

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### 6. Please describe the main activities of your Organisation/ Group

Based in Cheadle, the company are welcoming to all members, promoting inter-generational work and partnerships. Through a commitment to the arts, the members work tirelessly to rehearse and produce outstanding productions: the society is frequently recognised for its work through nominations and awards for amateur theatre. Despite rising costs and decreased funding for the arts, the East Cheshires are determined to protect the legacy and longevity of the society and continue to promote the society and theatre in the Greater Manchester area.

Furthermore, the society goes to great lengths each year to support a local charity. Over the past few years the society has made generous donations and support to The Wellspring and The George House Trust.

The society has worked endlessly to bring together people from across the local community to support and develop the arts. Along with the charity work undertaken, the East Cheshires are proud of their legacy. We hope to continue to develop the work of the society as we re-launch local theatre projects and stage our production of Sister Act in April 2022.

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### 7. When was your Organisation/Group established?

Founded in 1910, The East Cheshire's are a community based amateur theatre company whose productions over the past few years have included 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'Little Shop of Horrors', 'Annie' and 'Beauty and the Beast', amongst many others. The East Cheshire's have a long and distinguished history and are exceptionally proud of our traditions. We always strive to attain the best professional standards in all that we do and we are particularly proud of the fact that for over 100 years, the society has provided enjoyment and good fellowship for our members, a theatrical outlet for the undoubted talents and, through our productions, fine entertainment for thousands of members of the public.

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### 8. Does your organisation have the following policies and procedures in place?



*If you are awarded a grant you will be required to send copies of all relevant documents as part of the grant agreement.*

- A governance/management committee
- A Constitution/governing document/set of rules
- An Equal Opportunities Policy
- A Child Protection Policy (where necessary)
- A Health and Safety Public liability



## 2. About Your Application

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### **9. Please give us a brief description of your proposed/planned project or activity**

*You may wish to include details of what activities will take place, where will it happen, how often and who will take part. If you are applying for equipment you can tell us what will it be used for and why is it needed.*

After what has been a difficult 18 months for everyone, theatres are finally beginning to re-open and many amateur societies are working with their members to bring back a vital and underfunded art form back to the centres of local communities.

In 2020, The East Cheshire's were a few weeks away from staging their production of 'Chicago' at Romiley Forum when the pandemic first struck. Rehearsals had been running for a number of months and the 40 strong cast were excited about the opportunity to bring such an iconic production to the local community. The cast and society members were devastated when the theatres were closed and our production was halted.

Over a year later, the society are now working hard to bring a production of 'Sister Act' to the Romiley Forum. We are extremely lucky to have secured the rights to a restricted show at a very important time when members and audiences will benefit from re-igniting their passions and hobbies by engaging in local theatre. In order to stage a production of this calibre however, we are looking for funding to support us through the move to a new theatre space, set and costume costs, and the ever-increasing costs associated with theatre.

Rehearsals will take place at Bradshaw Hall Primary School, Cheadle and the production will take place at Romiley Forum, Romiley.

A production such as 'Sister Act' requires a great financial outlay - the set hire alone will run to the thousands, given the 23 different scene changes. There are approximately 132 costumes needed for a cast of 35 and many of these will need to be hired from professional costumiers due to the intricacy and complexity of the designs and 1970s period setting. Furthermore, we are a society that is committed to supporting all elements of the arts, which is why the show will be supported by a live 12 piece band, again with costs associated with paying the band members, the hire of specialist sound equipment and the costs of paying a sound and lighting engineer. Amateur theatre brings great joy to the members and patrons on stage and is always hugely popular with communities and supporting audiences, but each year the costs increase and staging 'Sister Act' will run to approximately £20k.

Funding will not only help with the burden of these costs, but will allow us to widen our promotional material for both members and for the audience. Staging this fantastic and incredible work in the East Cheshire area is an exciting opportunity and will no doubt bring new members and talent to the stage. We are confident that this project will allow us to expand in the community and draw theatre goers from across the Greater Manchester area.

A grant of £1000 will go a long way to help us stage this incredible musical in 2021. The current committee of the East Cheshire's are determined to continue the legacy of a historic theatre company; it is through the generosity of grants that we will be able to do this.

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### **10. Who will benefit from this grant?**



*e.g. local residents, young people, older people and how?*

Local residents who are members of the society and take part in the production; local residents who will come to see the production; our charity of choice for donations (TBC)

**10(a) How Many Stockport residents will benefit?**

We are hoping to have a cast and crew of around 50 people; performances will take place over 6 evenings, with an anticipated audience of 400 people each evening and therefore 2400 people in total.

**10(b) Are there any restrictions on who will benefit from the funding?**

No

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**11. Your Project's Budget**

*Please provide a breakdown of cost for your project including VAT where applicable and submit any estimates for the purchase of equipment or work to be done.*

**11(a) How much will the project/activity cost in total?**

We have a budget of approx. £19,000 for this production.

**11(b) Tell us about other any other sources of income you have already applied for or raised so far in relation to this project**

The funding for each production comes from ticket sale and revenue from previous productions. Our budget for *Sister Act* is based on selling a minimum of 295 tickets for each performance.

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**12. How much are you applying for from the Ward Flexibility Budget?**

£1000

**12(a) If the amount you are applying for covers only part of the project/activity, then please tell us how do you intend to fund any shortfall?**

As above; the majority of funding comes from ticket sales for the production.

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**13. What is the planned timescale for spending this grant?**

Start Rehearsals begin in November, 2021

Finish The production is scheduled for April 2022



### 3. Which Wards are you Applying to?

You may tick more than one box. Please note that no grant of more than £1,000 in totality will ordinarily be made.

Please tell us for each ward you wish to make an application to:-

- (a) how many people will benefit in that ward; and  
 (b) what proportion of funding from your overall application you are seeking from each ward.

	Number of beneficiaries	How much funding you are seeking
<b>Bramhall &amp; Cheadle Hulme South Area Committee</b>		
Bramhall North	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Bramhall South & Woodford	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Cheadle Hulme South	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£500
<b>Central Stockport Area Committee</b>		
Brinnington & Central	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Davenport & Cale Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Edgeley & Cheadle Heath	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Manor	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
<b>Cheadle Area Committee</b>		
Cheadle & Gatley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£250
Cheadle Hulme North	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	£250
Heald Green	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
<b>Heatons &amp; Reddish Area Committee</b>		
Heatons North	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Heatons South	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Reddish North	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Reddish South	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
<b>Marple Area Committee</b>		
Marple North	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Marple South	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
<b>Stepping Hill Area Committee</b>		
Hazel Grove	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Offerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Stepping Hill	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
<b>Werneth Area Committee</b>		
Bredbury & Woodley	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
Bredbury Green & Romiley	<input type="checkbox"/>	£
<b>Totals</b>		<b>£1000</b>

This total should add up to the figure you provided in **Question 12**



## 4. Application Checklist and Declaration

1. I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the above organisation
2. I certify that the information contained in this application is correct
3. If the information changes in any way I will inform Democratic Services accordingly.
4. I give permission for Democratic Services to contact my organisation and/or myself by phone, mail or e-mail with information about its activities and funding opportunities.
5. I/we agree (if required) to attend an Area Committee meeting to explain how the proposal will improve the environmental, economic or social wellbeing of the area and to answer any questions.
6. Our details can be used for promotional purposes should this request be successful
7. I/We will use this grant for the proposed project/activities stated in our application.
8. I/we will not use the grant for any other purpose prior to contacting Democratic Services in order to seek authorisation.
9. I/we will provide appropriate proof of expenditure to Democratic Services, within 12 months from the Grant being made.
10. I/we will highlight the support of the Area Committee in recent publicity material.
11. I/we agree to providing information to assist in the future monitoring of the effectiveness of the funding including reporting back to the Area Committee on how the grant has been spent and what difference it has made.
12. I/we agree that the content of this completed application form and any supplementary information provided may be published on the Council's website and other publications as part of the application process.

Print your name:

Signature: T. Copestake

**or** if submitted electronically tick this box to signify your agreement to the above terms

Date: 22 July, 2021

