

WESTERN GATEWAY
Sub-national Transport Body

Rural Mobility Pilots, Round 3

Frequently Asked Questions

Everything you need to know about applying for Round 3 of the Rural Mobility Pilot programme. For full details, please read the prospectus and application form.

Who can apply for funding?

Local authorities, other public sector organisations, businesses, charities and community organisations based within, or able to deliver a project within, the Western Gateway area (Bath & North East Somerset, Bournemouth Christchurch & Poole, Bristol, Dorset, Gloucestershire, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and the West of England Combined Authority area).

How much funding is available?

Up to £50,000 in total for 2026/27, which may be split across more than one pilot project. The maximum any single application can request is £50,000.

What is the deadline?

Applications must be submitted by midnight on Sunday 8 November 2026.

How do I apply?

Complete the application form via the online form and send your letters of support from partners and confirmation of any other funding or resources, to westerngatewaystb@westofengland-ca.gov.uk.

What should my proposal focus on?

Proposals should address at least one of the six 'Grand Challenges' set out in the prospectus and reflect the 'Liveable Rural Communities' approach - improving access, affordability, sustainability and resilience of rural mobility. The prospectus lists examples of potential pilot concepts, from e-bike and car-club schemes to demand responsive transport and rural hubs.

Can more than one organisation be involved?

Yes. A single lead organisation must submit the application, but partnerships across sectors are encouraged and each application should be accompanied by letters of support from delivery partners.

Is match funding required?

It isn't a strict requirement, but applicants are encouraged to bring additional match funding or resources to extend the impact of the pilot.

What if my project sits across a boundary with another STB area (e.g. Peninsula Transport)?

It may still be considered if the majority of the project's activity and impact falls within the Western Gateway area. Contact the team to discuss before applying.

How long should the pilot run for?

Pilots should aim for a minimum of 12 months of steady-state operation, though this could extend with further funding.

What checks are carried out before funding is awarded?

All lead applicants must undergo financial due diligence checks, carried out and signed off by the accountable body, the West of England Combined Authority. Organisations requesting a grant significantly higher than their annual turnover will be considered high risk and are unlikely to be eligible.

Is there a guarantee of funding beyond this pilot round?

No, there is no guarantee of long-term funding beyond the 2026/27 pilot phase, though successful pilots may be considered for further support in future by relevant partners.

Who do I contact with questions?

Email westerngatewaystb@westofengland-ca.gov.uk with any questions about the prospectus, eligibility or the application process.

Still have a question?

Email us at westerngatewaystb@westofengland-ca.gov.uk and we'll be happy to help.