

Request

Levelling Up Parks Fund (LUPF) - Please could I have the following information

- 1) A copy of Wigan Council's successful Levelling Up Parks Fund (LUPF) bid for an additional £2,500 of funding for the purchase and installation of a chess table and accompanying seats or benches.
- 2) When the funding was given to the council by central government.
- 3) Information regarding where the chess table will be located.
- 4) Information regarding when the chess table will be open for use.

Response

- 1) See attached
- 2) We received £5,000 for two tables / seats on 17/10/23
- 3) The tables / seats will be located in Jubilee Park, Ashton and Bryn Gates Community Garden, Bamfurlong
- 4) Due to the increase in demand for the chess tables / seats and supply chain issues, we expect the table will be open for use by March 2024



Installing Chess Tables in Parks and Public Spaces – *Expression of Interest (EOI) form*

Thank you for expressing an interest in receiving an additional £2500 for the installation of at least 1 chess table and seating for 4 people in a park and/or green space in your Local Authority area.

Please complete the below EOI form and send it to:
LUParksFund@levellingup.gov.uk.

Forms must be received no later than **25 September 2023**.

Please include “Chess” and the name of your local authority in the subject line.

Organisation details

Local Authority	Wigan Council
Name of contact	██████████
Job title of contact	██████████████████
Email address of contact	██████████████████
Telephone number of contact	██████████

Guidance notes

- Please refer to the prospectus when completing this form
- Information in your application may be shared with other Government colleagues for the purpose of developing our understanding and informing wider policy development and best practice
- We anticipate the table being installed as soon as practical

1. Where will you install the chess table? Why here?

(500 words maximum)

The chess table and seating will be installed in Jubilee Park, Wigan Road, Wigan WN4 9BH. Eagles.skip.spine
Jubilee Park currently holds Green Flag accreditation and is a fantastic example of a local, community focused green space. The park is split into two sections by Wigan Road, one half of the park is devoted to sport and play – play area, skate park, tennis, football pitch etc. The second half can be considered the ‘formal’ element of the park, with extensive formal flower beds, ornamental trees, free community library etc. It is in this section of the park where we will install the chess table.

The chosen location is a beautiful space with fantastic horticultural displays which draw in many visitors, the addition of a chess table will enhance and complement the activities which currently take place in this area.

The park is located on a busy road with excellent public transport links enabling frequent visits to the park, and within close proximity to the park is R L Hughes Primary school, the location of the school results in many of the primary school pupils visiting the park on their way home from school, evenings and weekends. The presence and visibility of a chess table will expose the pupils to chess and will increase participation.

2. Could you install another chess table in your area? If so, where and why here?

- If there is not another suitable area, please leave this section blank

(500 words maximum)

We could install another table at Bryn Gates Community Garden. This location recently received the £85,000 LUPF and as this garden is maturing it is evident that additional and different attractions are needed to sustain the existing, significant increase in visitors.

The current attractions are currently play and sport alongside community food growing areas. It would be wonderful to install an attraction that reaches a new and different audience, especially an attraction that is not age or physical ability defined and is attractive across all generations. The location of the community garden is Bryn Gates Community Garden, Hall Street, Bamfurlong

3. How will you encourage use of the chess table? e.g., providing chess sets, promotion of the table, organising competitions or coaching, perhaps

- If not, please leave this section blank
(250 words maximum)

A chess club has recently formed at Ashton Library. The library is located 0.2 miles from Jubilee Park. We will establish links with the chess club to cross promote the chess table to their members. We will encourage and support the chess club to hold events, competitions within the park, these will be promoted across the Council's different social media feeds (Libraries, Parks, Deal for Communities, Local Cllrs etc) The park has recently received new signage, the availability of the chess table, competitions etc will be promoted through the signage. The park also has an active friends group, which we will ask to support this fantastic initiative. Lastly, we will use the free Little Library in the park to store chess board and pieces for visitors to use.