

Formal Response to Funding, Governance and Partnership Queries

1. Funding Structure and Eligibility

1.1- Please confirm whether funding is provided as non-repayable grants, and whether payments are made directly to veterinary practices, recipient organisations, or both.

The Hull Feral Cats Legacy Fund provides non-repayable financial support. It is not structured as a traditional grant programme but as a flexible, activity-based funding mechanism to enable timely welfare interventions.

Funding may be:

- Paid directly to veterinary practices for agreed treatment
- Provided to recipient organisations to deliver agreed activity
- Allocated as contributions toward ongoing work or specific interventions

1.2 Who is eligible to apply: registered charities/CIOs/CICs only, or are informal rescue groups also eligible?

The fund is open to organisations and groups that:

- Deliver feral and/or community cat welfare activity
- Operate within Hull and the East Riding
- Are part of, or actively engaging with, the Hull Feral Cats Partnership

This includes both formally constituted organisations and informal rescue groups, provided they meet the above criteria.

1.3 Can independent feral and community cat rescues access the fund directly, or only through a partnership arrangement?

Independent rescues may access the fund directly. Access is relationship-based rather than competitive and requires:

- Engagement with the Partnership
- Agreement to work within shared principles and the agreed TNR pathway

1.4 Are reasonable overheads permitted within funding requests?

The fund does not support organisational overheads or unrelated operational costs.

**1.5 What is the geographic scope of the fund (e.g. Hull and East Riding only)?
Geographic Scope**

Funding is restricted to activity within Hull and the East Riding.

1.6 Will funding be distributed across multiple organisations or concentrated among a smaller number (those that deal with Feral Cats)?

The fund is designed as a shared resource to support multiple organisations. It is not

intended to be concentrated in a single organisation, but to enable coordinated and collaborative delivery across the Partnership.

1.7 Just to confirm the fund covers both feral and community cats.

The fund supports both feral cats and community cats.

2. Fund Management, Governance and Transparency

2.1 Will any administrative or management costs be deducted by the RSPCA, and if so, what are they?

No administrative or management costs are deducted from the fund. The fund is fully restricted for direct welfare activity.

2.2 What is the complaints or dispute resolution process, and how is the legacy donor intent and purpose for the fund allocation protected?

Veterinary funding decisions may be appealed and reviewed by an independent representative. Broader concerns or disputes will be addressed through the Partnership structure, with escalation to RSPCA Hull & East Riding CIO where required. The fund is managed in line with the original donor's intent as a restricted fund for feral cat welfare.

2.3 How are funding decisions made, recorded, and reviewed, and how is impact reported?

Funding decisions are based on:

- Welfare need
- Alignment with the agreed TNR pathway
- Expected impact
- Collaboration
- Availability of funds

Decisions are made by:

- A Funding Panel (for non-veterinary requests)
- The Animal Centre Manager and a back-up option (for veterinary requests)

Impact is monitored through light-touch reporting including:

- Number of cats trapped, neutered and returned
- Summary of activity delivered
- Non-sensitive colony data

2.4 Will award totals and recipients be published (with consent)?

Award totals and recipients may be published where appropriate and with consent. This will be reported within our Annual Report, at Hull Feral Cat Partnership Meetings and within Accounts.

2.5 As the RSPCA is not a frontline feral cat rescue organisation, please confirm it will not itself be able to access any of the funding.

RSPCA Hull & East Riding CIO acts solely as fund manager and administrator. It is not intended to access the fund for its own operational activity.

3. Partnerships and Decision Making

3.1 Please clarify what is meant by “partnership” in this context.

The “Hull Feral Cats Partnership” refers to a collaborative network of organisations and groups working together to deliver coordinated feral and community cat welfare activity.

It is not a separate legal entity thorough a suggested ToR for the Group has been developed following the initial meeting of groups last year.

3.2 Please confirm if by ‘partnership’ you mean the RSPCA or ‘Hull Faral Cats Legacy Fund’- If HFCLF – please provide a copy of their policies and procedures

The Partnership operates on the basis of:

- Shared principles (welfare, safety, collaboration)
- Agreed operational approaches (including the TNR pathway)
- Formal partnership agreements are not currently in place; however, participation is based on mutual commitment to these shared standards.

3.3 Please confirm who has final authority over funding decisions.

Final authority for funding decisions rests with RSPCA Hull & East Riding CIO, acting through:

- The Funding Panel
- The Animal Centre Manager and a back-up option (for veterinary approvals)

3.4 If capital equipment is purchased, will it be owned by the RSPCA or recipient organisations, and on what basis?

Where capital equipment is funded (e.g. traps), ownership will sit with the Partnership with RSPCA Hull & East Riding providing storage) to enable ongoing delivery across the partners, unless otherwise agreed. Ideally this would be available for multiple organisations to access on a shared basis.

4. Policies, TNR and Animal Welfare

4.1 Please explain if and why independent rescues would be required to operate under RSPCA policies where the RSPCA does not provide frontline feral cat services.

Organisations are not required to adopt RSPCA organisational policies. However, they must:

- Follow agreed Partnership principles

- Operate in line with the agreed TNR pathway
This ensures consistent welfare standards and coordinated delivery.

4.2 Please clarify the position on FIV-positive cats; specifically, whether euthanasia is required or whether decisions remain with the rescue organisation and/or veterinary professionals.

The fund supports FIV testing as part of TNR activity. Decisions regarding treatment or euthanasia remain the responsibility of a veterinary professional

4.3 How was the “ feral cats’ partnership” established, and what input did existing local rescues have in its development?

The Partnership has been developed to improve coordination, reduce duplication, and increase welfare impact across the local area. It continues to evolve through input from participating organisations.

4.4 What is the agreed ‘TNR pathways’ who does it apply to, who agreed them, and where are they documented?

The agreed TNR pathway will provide provides a shared framework for delivery and funding decisions. This document will be agreed by you TNR deliverers based on best practice and is available to partners.

5. Panels, Timeframes and Data Use

5.1 For funding panels, please confirm how representatives and the independent member are appointed, how veterinary requests are authorised, and whether appeals are permitted.

The suggested panel was the following:

- An independent representative
- The Animal Centre Manager
- A representative from a partner organisation

This is subject to agreement with the partnership. Veterinary requests are authorised by the Animal Centre Manager. Appeals are permitted and reviewed independently.

5.2 What are the expected timeframes for application review, approval, and payment?

The fund operates on a responsive and timely basis. Requests are reviewed virtually where possible to avoid delays to welfare activity.

5.3 Where colony location data is requested, please confirm how it will be stored, used, and safeguarded.

Organisations may be asked to provide colony location data.

This will:

- Be limited to non-sensitive information
- Be used solely for coordination, monitoring and impact reporting

- Be handled proportionately and responsibly in line with our GDPR Policy
- This will support developing evidence to sustain future applications for Feral Street Cat activity for the Partnership.