

1. Same as last year

- Only one application per group
- One-day mass community voting event, by card and ballot box, on 23rd February 2019
- People are eligible to vote if they live, work, volunteer or study in Leith, and are 8 years or over.

2. Slightly different this year

- Applications are only open to constituted groups (Council rules)
- Overall amount of money is less (£44,000 in total)
- Only a single category of grant: up to £5,000. (No small, medium and large categories)
- Projects to fit within one of only two themes. (See **Title and themes** below).

3. New Features

- No online or postal voting. (We don't have budget or IT capacity to use a secure online voting system, or to tally e-votes with paper votes.)
- However, information about the projects will be available online in advance of voting day.
- Special arrangements offered to help people attend and vote, in case of disability or other barriers.
- Extra 'boost' vote available for projects that engage particularly with support minority ethnic communities (See (5) below).

4. Title and themes

The overarching title of this year's FEITH CHOOSES is **Addressing Inequalities**. Within this, there are two themes, They were chosen to address the most basic needs in society and our community, particularly the acute levels of inequality and need.

Food: preventing and/or mitigating hunger; growing, cooking, educating about food; providing or distributing food to people suffering from food inequality; education and/or support of people affected by alcohol issues

Supporting vulnerable people: children, older people, disabled people, homeless people, vulnerable families/single parents, refugees, domestic abuse victims, isolated minorities etc

Although a project might cover both themes, you must choose only **one** of these themes when applying (and this will determine which room you are allocated for your stall, on voting day).

We're taking an extra step to address inequality. Turn the page to find out how!

5. Promoting fairness with a 'boost'



Illustration by [Ash Pryce](#), based on an original idea by [Craig Froehle](#) (hat-tip to [IISC](#) and [Angus Maguire](#))

What do 'equality' and 'inclusive' really mean?

Over the years, voting patterns have shown that small and new project groups, particularly groups that work with ethnic minorities, lose out to bigger and more established groups. We have made special efforts this year to explore this issue and to try to work out how to make things fairer.

A 'level playing field' where all groups are equal isn't actually fair if some groups face additional barriers and challenges before they even start. Those groups need an extra boost in order for them to compete on equal terms with everybody else. We are introducing a new 'booster vote' that can be cast for groups that can demonstrate that they make special efforts to engage and benefit members of our community who are from minority ethnic backgrounds.

How will this work?

On voting day, all voters will vote for the **Food** and **Supporting vulnerable people** themed projects of their choice. Then they will have the option of casting an extra vote within each theme, for one of the groups that have been designated (on the basis of their application) as supporting minority ethnic communities.

Projects do not need to be submitted by minority ethnic groups to qualify for this boost. They just need to show that they are making special efforts that go above and beyond the usual 'our project is fully inclusive / open to all' in order to ensure that minority ethnic groups really are fully included.

This is not an automatic extra vote; it is just an optional, potential extra boost. This new process was designed by Leithers, and checked with groups working with minority ethnic groups in Leith, so we believe it is a real community-developed process. We think Leith is a kind community that is willing to supply bigger boxes for those that need them!