



**INVESTING IN
COMMUNITIES**

**BIG
LOTTERY
FUND**

Advice note – Growing Community Assets applicants

Funding for publicly owned assets

Through Growing Community Assets (GCA) we want to support communities across Scotland in their aspirations to own and redevelop local assets. These are usually physical assets like land or buildings, but may also include other types of assets such as energy. We think that the outcomes we have set out for GCA have the best chance of being achieved when assets are financially viable in the long-term that is, capable of growth and development. Our experience is that once a community takes on the responsibility of owning an asset, significant investment is often required to make it suitable for future use.

Our Scotland Committee wants to ensure it invests in projects that deliver the strongest outcomes for GCA. And our learning from previous projects tells us that this is more likely to happen when the community owns the asset. This is why we prefer, where possible, to invest less of our funding on the purchase of publicly owned assets and more on their future re-development once they are under community ownership. In the long run, we think this will lead to more sustainable services and facilities for the communities we support. We also think that this type of arrangement is a better use of Lottery funds and demonstrates a stronger ongoing commitment to the local community by the current owner.

So how might this affect my project?

Your community might have identified an opportunity to take control over a local asset currently owned by a public body, such as your local council. We have already funded several projects across Scotland which have involved the acquisition and redevelopment of assets previously owned by public bodies. Feedback from our Scotland Committee highlights that they welcome proposals where the asset has been transferred at little or no cost to the community, the sale price has been significantly reduced through the valuation process, or GCA funds will only be used for the redevelopment of the asset.

Like most funds, GCA funding is limited which makes it competitive for all projects applying. To increase your chances of success, explore the approaches outlined above. You should also investigate the potential costs involved in any future redevelopment work. We can provide small grants through Investing in Ideas or development funding through GCA itself for this type of exploratory work. We will also be arranging expert, practical advice and support for applicants.

Next steps

If your community has an idea for funding contact us on 0300 123 7710 and we will tell you if we think your project fits with the GCA outcomes. For further information and an application form please visit our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk or email enquiries.scotland@biglotteryfund.org.uk