



# Investing In Communities



## Investing In Communities – the BIG Approach

BIG in Scotland has £257 million to spend between 2006 and 2009. We are not the biggest funder in Scotland – local and central government invest more. But our funds amount to 50 per cent of all Lottery funding available for Scotland. Lottery funds are unique in that they flow directly from the sale of Lottery tickets to members of the public. They can be put back into the community in the way that the public wants to see them used and can add value to funds from other sources.

We want to invest this money to bring real improvements to communities and to the lives of people most in need. We want to help bring about lasting social change.

We are also making a commitment to act in a different way as a funder. Rather than delivering funding as a grant-maker, we want to act as an investor. This means that we will take a long-term interest in the groups and projects we are investing in. If you apply to us, we will share responsibility for making the changes you are trying to bring about. We will share what you learn along the way from evaluating your project and use that learning to shape our future funding policies.

As an investor we want to hear about the changes your project is aiming to make. Then we want to discuss how these fit with the changes we want our funding to achieve.

If we are working towards the same outcomes, we may well be able to invest in your project. Remember, an outcome funder purchases results, not activity. What you are trying to achieve matters more than the type of organisation you are or the type of activities you are involved in.

Being an investor means more negotiation, more contact, more involvement. It also means giving you more help and advice even before you get to the stage of making a proposal to us.

Your first step in applying for funding is to read this booklet. It will help you understand what we are trying to achieve. If your project seems as though it could contribute to that, your next step is to complete an outline proposal form (available from our website, or we can send you one).

If you would like more advice or guidance on whether your proposal fits with Investing In Communities, you can talk to one of our funding advisors on 0870 240 2391.

## Investing In Communities – our four areas of investment

We will make our investment in social change in Scotland in four different ways. We will invest in:

- ▶ Growing Community Assets.
- ▶ Life Transitions.
- ▶ Dynamic, Inclusive Communities.
- ▶ Supporting 21st Century Life.

We have a single application form for all of these areas, and a single starting point for all applicants – our outline proposal form.

In addition to that, we have a scheme – Investing In Ideas – which can fund the development of your idea to turn it into a project with real funding potential. We also run a Young People's Fund, and a programme which offers small amounts of money to small organisations – Awards for All.

Once we have reviewed your proposal we may point you in the direction of development funding for your idea – through Investing in Ideas. Ideas are rarely fully fledged when people look for funding. As an investor, we will support you to turn your idea into a funding proposal.

Or we may simply send you an application form, explaining which area of Investing In Communities your project fits best with. If we feel we cannot consider your proposal for funding, we will write to you and explain why.

Equality, sustainability and inclusion all sit at the heart of our investment portfolio and we will expect those who apply to us to promote and achieve these outcomes. Our starting point will not be to ask people and communities to make the case for them. Instead we acknowledge the impact of inequality, discrimination and unsustainable development.

This booklet will help you decide whether we are the right funder for what you are trying to achieve.

Dharmendra Kanani  
Director for Scotland.

# Growing Community Assets

## What are we trying to achieve?

By investing in Growing Community Assets we want to help local communities obtain assets that will help them become stronger and more sustainable. These are usually physical assets – land, buildings or equipment. We want to help communities acquire them, improve, develop, manage and sustain them, as well as protect them. We can also help communities manage assets better by helping them get skills and knowledge, or technical and financial advice and planning tools.

By investing in Growing Community Assets we want to support regeneration that the community is leading. We'd like to see communities owning and managing assets through which they can provide quality services and amenities and generate employment and community income.

## What changes would we like to see?

We have identified a number of outcomes, or long-term changes, we want to achieve through Growing Community Assets:

- communities are stronger, with shared aspirations and the ability to achieve these together
- communities have services and amenities that meet people's needs better and are more accessible
- people have more skills, knowledge and confidence, and opportunities to use these for the benefit of their community
- communities have a more positive impact on the local and global environment
- communities are more able to grasp opportunities, and are more enterprising and self-reliant.

## What kind of projects will we fund

We can fund projects to:

- purchase, improve or develop assets
- pay for technical assistance such as project design and planning, risk assessment, and surveys
- employ development staff and help groups get the skills they need to develop or manage an asset.

We will support smaller projects as well as large-scale 'flagship' projects, in urban and in rural areas. We are particularly interested in projects which:

- regenerate the local area and create sustainable livelihoods
- improve the appearance, safety, accessibility, and biodiversity of community environments and green spaces
- provide essential community services, and increase access to these
- produce and celebrate healthy, sustainable food, for example community orchards, food fairs or cafes
- generate renewable energy, sustainable buildings and the sustainable use of resources
- enable better access to local services and environments through cycling, walking and sustainable motorised transport.

You may apply for no more than five years' funding in any single application. Both capital and revenue funding are available.

# Life transitions

By investing in Life Transitions we want to support people at the times of change in their lives. People face changes at many stages in their lives; they deal with growing up, growing old, moving out and moving on. These transitions can be some of the most challenging times in people's lives. We want to make those transitions a little easier.

We will focus this funding on four key areas. These are:

- transitions that young people experience such as leaving school or care
- transitions that people over 50 experience including retirement or becoming less physically active
- employment and learning transitions such as getting back to work after a period of unemployment
- transitions that people face at challenging times in their lives such as moving on from addiction or getting out of debt.

By focusing on these areas we want to encourage communities to work together to support people through changes in their lives.

## What changes would we like to see?

We have outcomes, or long-term changes, we want to achieve through Life Transitions:

- people have more confidence and skills to cope with and make changes in their lives
- there are better and more co-ordinated services to help people cope with changes in their lives
- people have improved access to and knowledge about services to help them cope with and make positive changes in their lives
- communities work better together to support people through changes in their lives.

## What kind of projects will we fund?

- mentoring, befriending and peer support
- advice, advocacy and tailored support to help people access services
- information, signposting and joining-up services
- skills development, especially basic and softer skills
- supported employment projects and volunteering
- financial literacy, debt counselling and money management advice
- health and well-being projects, especially around self-esteem.

We fund projects to run for up to five years and can meet up to 100 per cent of your project costs. Through Life Transitions we can fund both revenue and capital costs

# Dynamic, Inclusive Communities

## What are we trying to achieve?

By Investing in Dynamic, Inclusive Communities we want to encourage the voluntary and community sector to champion change. We know that this sector is uniquely placed to help build strong and inclusive local communities.

We want to ensure that people and communities have more power over their lives and more say in decisions that are made. Voluntary and community groups have the knowledge, experience and contacts to connect people and the institutions that affect their lives and give them that power and that say.

We want to invest in national voluntary organisations to help them support other voluntary organisations better. We will also fund intermediary organisations – those that help local groups and organisations to develop – to improve their own performance and scope.

And we can give funding directly to local voluntary and community groups to increase people's involvement and influence in civic life.

We also want to improve and strengthen equalities groups and organisations whether national or local.

## What changes would we like to make?

We have outcomes, or long term changes, we want to see happening through our investment in Dynamic Inclusive Communities:

- voluntary and community sector networks offer better, more consistent and wider-reaching services
- voluntary and community sector action is more vibrant, connected with communities and able to champion change
- voluntary and community sector organisations are better managed, better governed and deliver better services
- improved equalities knowledge and practice across the voluntary and community sector
- people and communities have more power over their lives and more say in decisions that are made.

## What kind of projects will we fund?

Projects which focus on:

- modernising the sector (this will include communication and information technology projects)
- promoting access to information, especially on funding and long-term planning
- helping existing voluntary and community organisations to develop, or new ones to form
- improving governance and helping with planning the long-term future of organisations
- raising awareness, promoting the sector and increasing the public's perception of it
- connecting equalities networks with mainstream voluntary and community organisations
- fostering civic engagement, especially by testing new approaches and increasing access to decision-making.

We will fund projects to run for up to five years and can meet up to 100 per cent of your project costs. Through Dynamic, Inclusive Communities we can fund revenue and capital costs.

# Supporting 21st Century Life

## What are we trying to achieve

Our investment in Supporting 21st Century Life recognises the rate at which our society is changing and the impact that population change, changing communities and evolving technology has on people's lives.

Services are not yet responding to our changing needs. We want to enable people and communities to think and plan ahead together to match future needs and services.

An ageing population, a falling birth rate and changing family structures can affect our outlook, as can the creation of new communities made up of people from different parts of the world. The pace of change and the introduction of new technology can also make people feel isolated or excluded as they struggle to keep up and plan for the future.

Through Supporting 21st Century Life we want to promote an appreciation of each other by encouraging communication and connections within and between communities and by bringing different generations together. We also want to support people and communities to cope with the pace of change and to help combat social isolation and exclusion.

## What changes would we like to see?

- people and communities have more and better chances to make and maintain connections with each other
- people and communities are more able to deal with the challenges of 21st century life
- people have more confidence, self-esteem and life skills to plan for their future
- communities are more able to learn from the past, and think about and positively plan for the future.

## What kind of projects will we fund?

Projects which:

- use technology to overcome social isolation and exclusion and help people connect with each other and their communities
- anticipate, prepare or plan for future change
- bring people together, create understanding and encourage a forward-looking approach
- encourage befriending, mentoring, volunteering or support parenting
- promote activities, such as play, which maintain or strengthen relationships and see different generations come together
- focus on health and well-being, especially if they improve self-esteem, confidence and life skills.

We will fund projects to run for up to five years and can meet up to 100 per cent of your project costs. In Supporting 21st Century Life we can fund both revenue and capital costs

## Investing In Ideas

We can make funding of up to £10,000 available to your organization to help develop your idea into a full-fledged project. If you have an idea for a project in your community but that idea needs to be tested out with market research or a feasibility study, Investing In Ideas may be able to help you. If you are looking for a workspace or place to meet in your community, Investing In Ideas could pay for the technical advice you need when you are thinking about leasing or buying a property.

Contact us on 0870 240 2391 for more information. For an application form call 0845 6061199, or visit our website [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk)

Not all of our funding in Scotland is delivered through Investing In Communities. We have two other sources of funding which are currently open for application.

## Young People's Fund

The Young People's Fund involves its young public in every aspect of grant-making. The fund has £20 million to spend between August 2005 and July 2007. Local panels prioritise local applications and a committee composed largely of young people makes the final decisions. There are three different types of funding available through the Young People's Fund:

- funding for local initiatives
- funding for projects which have a wider than just local impact, including national projects
- funding for projects which are innovative.

You can get an application form for the Young People's Fund from our website at [www.biglotteryfund.org.uk](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk) or by phoning 0845 6061199.

## Awards for All

Your community organization can get funding for almost any kind of community activity. If your group is involved in arts, heritage, sport, health, education, the environment – or any other kind of activity which benefits a community – you could be eligible for a grant of up to £10,000 to help you do what you do, do more of it, or do it better.

This is a joint scheme involving all of the lottery distributors in Scotland – the Scottish Arts Council, sportScotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund. It is the quickest and easiest way to access Lottery funding.

Download an application form from [www.awardsforall.org.uk](http://www.awardsforall.org.uk) or call 0845 6002040.

The Big Lottery Fund also runs some programmes which are UK-wide. We currently have an International Programme and a Research Programme. For more information on those, please visit our website.

From time to time there are new initiatives announced, for example People's Millions which makes awards for environmental improvements. These awards are determined by public vote on ITV channels. There are details of closing dates on our website.

## Who is our funding for? Tell us what you think

A wide range of organisations can apply for our funding, including voluntary and community organisations, local councils and community councils, social enterprises, and private companies provided our grants do not contribute to the profits they distribute. Our funds are designed to be used for public gain, and we cannot fund individuals. Different eligibility rules apply to each investment area.

We are always keen to improve the service we give to applicants and potential applicants. We welcome your feedback on what we are doing.

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