



Advice note for 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. Assets can be land or buildings. We think that the outcomes we have set out for GCA have the best chance of being achieved when assets are financially sustainable in the long-term. 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 an asset is 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 has involved the acquisition and re-development 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 have only been 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 larger grants through GCA for this type of exploratory work. We have also invested in development support offered through a consortium led by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, to give expert advice and extra support.

Next steps

If your community has an idea for funding fill out an outline proposal form. Forms are available from our website www.biglotteryfund.org.uk or by calling 0845 606 1199. If you have a query call us on 0870 240 2391 or email enquiries.Scotland@biglotteryfund.org.uk