Investing in neighbourhoods

Funding opportunities for neighbourhoods, communities, local voluntary and community sector groups and organisations

November 2016

The funding opportunities contained in this update are only those which are currently live and open and which:

- Provide small grants to community based organisations (e.g. up to £5,000)
- Support sustainability and investment in groups and organisations
- Support the development of active citizens in neighbourhoods and communities.
- Have a neighbourhood or community focus

Sign-up for regular information about funding opportunities via:

- BVSC's weekly bulletin - https://www.bvsc.org/e-bulletin
- West Midlands Police's regular funding bulletin – via t.dobrovic@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Plus:

- **'Financing the Future'**
  14 Dec 2016 - 10:00 to 16:00
  In December BVSC's Centenary year will draw to a close! So now we're looking towards our next century with 'Funding the Future', an event that brings together key speakers and funders, all offering different perspectives on how voluntary sector activity can be resourced in the ever-changing social and financial environment of 2017 and beyond. For more information and to book a place visit https://www.bvsc.org/event/financing-future

Active Citizens - West Midlands Police

The purpose of the funding is to support, enable and empower active citizens. To support this there are two types of funding available:

- Community Projects will usually require larger amounts of funding and will be supported at partnership level with engagement from other agencies. There is no upper or lower limit on the amount of funding that could be available, but these funds are designed to support projects rather than one-off expenses or events. There is an expectation that these projects will be sustainable beyond the period for which funding is provided, and may take a number of years to show benefits.

- Small Grants may be used to help the community to purchase equipment or may be used to support a one-off community event or initiative. These grants will usually be smaller amounts, although there is no upper or lower limit.

The funding is aimed at use by smaller community based voluntary and community sector organisations and groups and all applications must be able to show impact on the local policing priorities and the project or activity must be of direct benefit to the residents of that area.

Further information is available via http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/key-issues/active-citizens-fund. There is no funding date though there each Local Policing Unit has a limited amount of funding available to allocate.

Applications and queries can be directed to cp_bhambids@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk.

Mobilising Communities Small Grants Fund – Local Community Safety Partnerships

The purpose of the Mobilising Communities Small Grants Fund is to assist communities to take local action which can address issues of crime and community safety. The ethos behind 'mobilising communities' is to particularly encourage applications from groups that give priority to trial, test and try new activities or projects; work within, and for localities; encourage working in partnership with other local groups; leave a legacy, which could be a new way of working or a new partnership between individual groups

Applications are particularly welcome from any proposal which lead to agencies, organisations and groups having a better idea and understanding of what works in communities, particularly in addressing local crime and community safety issues; community based activity is more joined up and connected to the agencies and organisations responsible for responding to crime and community safety issues; community organisations and groups are collaborating to help respond to and solve local community problems and issues.

Bids of between £500 and £5,000 are welcomed at each of the bi-monthly funding panels (November 2016 and January 2017) or until the funding has been allocated in full. For further information, including about which groups and organisations have been granted funding, as well as queries about applications you can contact:

- East Birmingham (Hall Green, Hodge Hill and Yardley Districts) - amelia.murray@birmingham.gov.uk - 07825979253
- North Birmingham (Erdington and Sutton Coldfield Districts) - pamela.a.powis@birmingham.gov.uk - 07917172531
- South Birmingham (Edgbaston, Northfield and Selly Oak Districts) - austin.rodriguez@birmingham.gov.uk - 07557287605
- West & Central Birmingham (Ladywood and Perry Barr Districts) - nicci.collins@birmingham.gov.uk – 07885234774

Ageing Better – BVSC and Big Lottery Fund

The Ageing Better Fund will support citizens in Birmingham who can empower older people over 50 to make contributions to their community through starting Ageing Better Networks. Ageing Better Networks could organise activities, events, trips, parties or maybe something more inventive! No

matter how innovative or unique your idea is, if it is what people over 50 in your community want to do and includes isolated people over 50 then consider applying to the Ageing Better Fund. This will make the community better able to cope with changing circumstances and isolation in the future.

Applications are welcome for bids of up to £2,000 and to citizens across Birmingham and of all ages. In order to qualify your Ageing Better Networks must have at least 3 members. There is no end date and it is anticipated that the funding will be available for at least one year.

For further information you can visit http://www.ageingbetterinbirmingham.co.uk/fund/about-the-fund or contact 0121 678 8876 and ageingbetter@bvsc.org.

Local Communities Programme – Heart of England Community Foundation and Comic Relief

There are still many communities in the UK that suffer from economic and social deprivation and the current economic climate may make this situation worse. For this reason, Comic Relief has decided that £4.5 million should be available to fund projects across the UK which are addressing these issues through the 'Local Communities' programme. The programme aims to empower local people, enabling them to create lasting change in their communities. Projects should be run by people directly affected by the issues they are dealing with and priority will be given to small, locally based groups or organisations in areas of disadvantage that have a clear understanding of the needs of their community.

Proposals of between £1,000 and £5,000 are welcome which can improve people's life skills, education, employability and enterprise; maximise people's ability to strengthen community cohesion and build social capacity; provide people with opportunities to access local services, achieve greater social justice and to reduce inequality, exclusion and disadvantage; advance people's physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety.

The fund is open for a further eighteen months and for further information you can visit http://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/comic-relief-local-communities-programme or contact the grants team via 024 7688 3265 or 024 7688 3262.

Alec Dickson Trust

The Alec Dickson Trust supports young people in the UK who want to use volunteering or community service to do brilliant things in their communities. We think that young people are amazing and that they have the potential to make the world a better place through volunteering. So, we provide grants of up to £500 to individuals or groups of young people aged 30 or under, to help them put their ideas into action and run projects that benefit the lives of others – particularly the most marginalised and disadvantaged.

Proposals of up to £500 are welcome from young volunteers which seek to encourage volunteering and provide clear benefit to others in the wider community and encourage volunteering. For further information visit http://www.alecdicksontrust.org.uk/apply/funding.

Awards for All – Big Lottery Fund

Awards for All offers grants of between £300 and £10,000 for grassroots and community activity that aims to improve life for local people and neighbourhoods. This is focusing on the following themes and priorities:

- People have better chances in life - with better access to training and development to improve life skills.
- Stronger communities - with more active citizens working together to tackle issues within the community.
- Improved rural and urban environments - which communities are able to better access and enjoy.
- Healthier and more active people and communities.

Awards for All is a Big Lottery Fund grant scheme for grassroots and community activity that aims to improve life for local people and neighbourhoods. It is open to voluntary and community organisations, schools, parish or town councils, and health bodies and we will fund activities that benefit the community, including

- hosting an event, activity or performance
- purchasing new equipment or materials
- running training courses
- setting up a pilot project or starting up a new group
- carrying out special repairs or conservation work
- expenses for volunteers, pay for workers and professional fees
- transport costs

There is no deadline and you can apply at any time. We recommend you send us your application at least four months before you want your project to start. For further information visit https://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/global-content/programmes/england/awards-for-all-england.

Bright Ideas Fund – Power to Change and Locality

The Community Business Bright Ideas Fund aims to give your community group the support and tools to start setting up your community business. It will also give your group the early stage finance that you need to carry out consultation with local people and feasibility studies to develop a community business idea the community wants and needs.

A programme of support and grants of up to £20,000 is available to develop your community business idea. In addition to the funding there is also support available such as assistance with developing business plans and strategies, mentoring and peer support, as well as access to a range of experts.

The two-year programme is open to community groups, associations and organisations across England which have a good idea for a community business but need help developing it, or which are just starting out. For further information visit http://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/bright-ideas-fund.

Enable – Lloyds Bank Foundation

Enable grants provide a great opportunity to strengthen eligible charities so they can deliver more effectively, and are awarded to eligible charities that have identified clear development areas. Enable grants are up to a total of £15,000 over one or two years, and can reinvigorate charities through funding organisational improvements, development of areas such as leadership and governance, improved systems and demonstrating outcomes. These developments put charities in a stronger position to better deliver services and attract funding.

Enable is not a small grants programme and funds work to support identified development needs. Enable grant cannot fund core costs/existing running costs. The costs of the work must be additional to those you would be incurring anyway.

Applications for Enable grants are accepted on an ongoing basis. For further information visit https://www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk/our-programmes/enable.

GALAXY Hot Chocolate Fund 2016/17 - Supporting warm-hearted people and projects

We are looking to help small, local community projects and groups through our GALAXY Hot Chocolate Fund.

From November 7th 2016 until February 26th 2017, we are seeking to award a total of seventy, £300 donations to help community groups and people across UK and Ireland.

Five donations will be awarded each week, four by our panel of judges and one through the People's Choice award to the organisation with the most weekly votes.

Preregister your organisation now, our first winners will be announced November 14th.

Reach Fund

Access - The Foundation for Social Investment is providing £4 million worth of grants over two years to charities and social enterprises in England that require extra help to become 'investment ready'. The Reach Fund is one of a number of new models Access is testing in order to boost organisations investment readiness, which has long been identified as an issue that prevents charities and social enterprises from accessing social investment.

Grants of between £5,000 and £15,000 are available to eligible organisations to implement an investment readiness plan which will be developed by an applicant's Access Point.

This may involve:

- Paying an external support provider.
- Paying the Access Point to deliver specific work.
- Organisations doing the work themselves.

For further information visit http://www.reachfund.org.uk.

Power to change

The £10 million Community Business Fund is providing grants of between £50,000 and £300,000 over three funding rounds to help existing locally based and community-led businesses in England to increase their social impact and make them more viable in the long term.

Projects and organisations must be incorporated, based in England and share the following four key features:

- **Locally rooted** - they are rooted in a particular geographical place and respond to its needs, for example high levels of urban deprivation or rural isolation.
- **Accountable to local community** - they are accountable to local people. This can be demonstrated in many ways but the organisation must have evidence of regular community influence on the business.
- **Trading for benefit of local community** - they are businesses and their income comes from activities like renting out space in their buildings, trading as cafes or selling the produce they grow.
- **Broad community impact** - they benefit the community as a whole and can clearly evidence the positive social impact on the broader community.

The grants can be used for the following:

- Capital costs including building, vehicles, equipment of significant value, refurbishment costs.
- Project-specific revenue costs like staff costs, professional fees, volunteer costs.

Power to Change will fund up to 75% of revenue costs, up to 75% of the building related capital costs and 100% of other capital costs. The funding cannot be used for retrospective costs, existing day to day running costs or costs which someone else is paying for, whether in cash or in kind.

The deadline for Round 3 applications is 16 December 2016 (12pm). For more information visit - http://www.thepowertochange.org.uk/funding/grants/community-business-fund

Changemaker Fund Launched (UK)

The Santander Bank has teamed up with Crowdfunder to launch new £200,000 fund to support social enterprises and community projects across the UK.

For the first time, one of the UK's largest banks is partnering with a crowdfunding platform in an innovative collaboration to support social enterprises and community projects across the UK. Community projects looking to support social change are now able to present their ideas on Crowdfunder.co.uk and unlock matched funding of up to £10k from Santander's new Changemaker Fund.

The new fund is open to social enterprises, small charities and community groups helping disadvantaged people in the UK. Eligible projects seeking funds of up to £20,000 and focussed on

skills, knowledge and innovation that get the crowd's backing will receive 50% (£10,000) of their funding requirement from Santander.

http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/plus/santander/changemaker

Greggs Foundation Environmental Grant Scheme (England, Scotland & Wales)

The Gregg Foundation has announced that the next closing date for its Environmental Grants scheme is the 3rd March 2017. The scheme which is funded by the 5p levy on carrier bag sales in Greggs shops aims to improve people's lives by improving their environments. Grants of up to £2,000 are available to small, locally based community led organisations with a turnover not in excess of £300,000. Schools are also able to apply and will receive the same level of preference as small organisations.

Through the scheme funding is available to:

- Purchase equipment
- Sessional salary costs
- Purchase of trees/plants
- Small capital projects
- Learning activities.

The type of activities that could be funded include for example:

- A group of volunteers who completed litter picking exercises in their local parks or along a local riverbank
- An allotment project for people suffering early stages of dementia
- A growing project in a local primary school
- Clearing an area of wasteland in an area of high social need to create a community garden; etc.

The Foundation are more likely to make grants to local organisations based near Greggs shops.

https://www.greggsfoundation.org.uk/environmental-grant

Light Up your Town this Christmas with an Extra £1000 (England & Wales)

Over the last few years, towns across the UK have seen their Christmas budget dwindle due to government cuts.

Organisations with an annual income of less than £50,000 can now use the power of crowdfunding to receive up to £1,000 of extra funding towards the cost of Christmas lights for their towns.

Crowdfunder has made this extra funding available from the Just Act Community Fund and it will fund up to 50% of a project target to a maximum of £1,000.

To be eligible, projects must use the "All-or-Nothing" funding option and receive pledges from at least 5 unique backers. A Just Act pledge will be applied to a crowdfunding campaign once 25% of your funding target has been reached, if a campaign subsequently fails to reach their project target the campaign will not receive Just Act funds.

http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/christmas/lights

Postcode Community Trust- Community Sports Programme (England, Scotland and Wales)

Postcode Community Trust will re-open its Community Sports Programme on the 3rd November 2016.

Through the Community Sports Programme, the Trust provides kit and equipment to community sporting groups in Scotland, England and Wales, for goods between £100 to £2,000 in value. This can be used to:

- Replace worn-out equipment and kits
- Provide new kits and equipment to support the launch of a new sports project
- Provide new kit and equipment which will expand capacity to meet demand for activities
- Provide kit and equipment which will promote the inclusion of the disadvantaged or minorities within sports.

The focus for this funding round will be on allowing new or existing over 50s team sports projects to apply for set packages of kit and equipment.

The closing date for applications will be the 17th November 2016.

http://www.postcodecommunitytrust.org.uk/community-sports.htm

Bags of Help grants for communities

With the Tesco "Bags of Help" programme, your community group can apply for up to £5,000 to support your project. Successful applicants will have their projects promoted in Tesco stores where customers will vote as to who gets the highest grant.

Key points

- Bags of Help is funded by Tesco customers through the 5p carrier bag levy
- Three projects will be shortlisted to go forward to a public vote in each of the Tesco regions every month

- Each month three projects in each region will be awarded a grant based on the number of votes received: first place receives up to £5000, second place up to £2000 and third place up to £1000.
- Grants are available to projects in England, Wales and Scotland
  Projects in Northern Ireland are not covered by this scheme*
- Projects must deliver a physical environmental improvement and/or encourage use and long term sustainability of outdoor spaces

For more information visit
http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/tescocommunityscheme/pages/Category/apply-for-a-boh-grant-tes2

Birmingham and Black Country Communities Fund

The Fund aims to help people living in Birmingham and the Black Country who face some form of disadvantage or social exclusion.

Grants can be made for projects that meet **one or more** of the following criteria:

- Promote health and wellbeing
- Tackle disadvantage
- Support local solutions to meet local needs
- Promote community cohesion
- Develop sustainable & supportive communities

This programme is intended to support smaller groups, with income less than £50,000, who have not received any grant administered by HoECF in the last 12 months.

For more information visit http://www.heartofenglandcf.co.uk/birmingham-black-country-communities-fund/

EnviroGrant

The company offers financial grants to groups and organisations that work to improve the environment and community of Birmingham. Our EnviroGrant Scheme offers grants of up to £1000 for community or environmental projects within the borough. The EnviroGrant is a fund for the following types of projects or schemes:

- Those which contribute to the protection or improvement of the local environment, either via practical action or promotion and education.
- Those which improve the quality of life for the local community, by providing new facilities or improving those already in existence.

The EnviroGrant is available for properly constituted, not-for-profit local organisations and includes charities, voluntary and community groups, forums, sports teams, societies and schools. Your team, group or society must be based and work within Birmingham.

For further information on this grant, please visit http://www.veolia.co.uk/birmingham/community.