

Funding Opportunities Update

December 2016

Communities Fund

The new £2.5 million Communities Fund is intended for community groups including neighbourhood associations, parish councils and charities to work closely with councils and deliver new services that help those with multiple needs in their communities.

Joint bids from local authorities/other service providers and community-led groups will be considered. The Government is keen to work with partnerships that can begin to implement quickly and be underway in 2016/17.

The funding will be targeted depending on local pressures, and could be used to help those facing domestic abuse, to provide support for disabled children's services or to support those facing long-term unemployment. Bids should be for new projects or to extend an existing project into another area but not to prop up an existing approach. The funding can be used for upfront costs and to monitor implementation.

There is a total budget of £2.5 million which will be divided as follows:

- £2 million for 2016-2017
- £0.5 million for 2017-2018.

The Fund will provide the following support:

- Grants of up to £70,000 (an indicative figure).
- Access to a panel consisting of officials from the DCLG, external experts and Local Government representatives who will provide advice, challenge and an opportunity for different projects to exchange learning and network.
- Opportunities for networking and shared learning across projects through events and online forums such as MyCommunity [website](#).
- Help and feedback with Cost Benefit Analysis tools.
- Training on previous practice and advice on how to access other funding.
- Opportunities to share the work with others.

Commenting on the launch, Communities Minister Andrew Percy said:

"Local grassroots community groups are best placed to understand the challenges in their local neighbourhoods and reaching those who need their help.

"I'd urge small groups to come forward and bid for this cash from today and they will also get expert advice from a network of other grassroot organisations."

The deadline for completed bids is 16 January 2017.

Full details can be found on the GOV.UK [website](#)

LEADER funding - Nairnshire & Rural Inverness

The Highland LEADER Programme is encouraging potential applicants to come forward with project ideas.

LEADER is an EU Fund aimed at promoting economic and community development within rural areas. The Inner Moray Firth South Local Area Partnership has a budget of £412,684 to award to projects which will benefit communities in Nairnshire and Rural Inverness, excluding Inverness City.

Grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 are available for projects that help deliver the aims and objectives of the Highland LEADER Programme. Applicants are able to apply for up to 50% of project costs (minimum project costs of £20,000).

The Local Area Partnership has developed an Action Plan which outlines community development priorities for the Inner Moray Firth South. To download a copy of the Plan please click [here](#)

Individuals, groups, organisations and businesses also have the opportunity to apply for other funding available through the Highland LEADER Programme. Grants between £5,000 and £100,000 are available for rural enterprise, farm diversification, Highland wide projects and co-operation projects with other areas in Scotland, the UK or Europe.

For further information about the Highland LEADER Programme please visit www.highlandleader.com or contact Fiona Daschofsky, the LEADER Development Officer for Inner Moray Firth South. Fiona will support and guide applicants, through the process of applying for and managing a LEADER grant. Fiona can be contacted on 01463 702 542 or by emailing fiona.daschofsky@highland.gov.uk

Community Shares Scotland

Crowdfunding offers both commercial and non-commercial ventures the opportunity to raise a sum of money by offering shares to people who put forward small amounts of money.

Community Shares Scotland connects not-for-profit groups and investors looking to provide money for social good. People buying shares in the projects promoted through the site will recoup their investment through improvements to their community rather than profit. Social businesses can offer interest to be paid on the shares if the profit from trading is sufficient.

Community Shares Scotland hopes it can provide organisations such as community groups looking to save a local shop or start a local food scheme with access to funds. The programme is scheduled to run for three years and its partners include **the Plunkett Foundation**, **Co-ops UK** and **Rocket Science**.

It is funded by **the Big Lottery Fund** and **Carnegie UK Trust** through an award of £800,000. A series of Community Shares Scotland road shows will take place across Scotland providing local groups with more information about how to get involved. Although dates have not been released yet, information will be available from their website when they are.

[Community Shares Scotland](#)

Cruden Foundation Limited

This scheme makes grants available for registered charities in Scotland working for the support and improvement of the community.

Funding is available for activities that support the main purposes of the trust as follows:

1. **The advancement of education.**
2. **The advancement of health.**
3. **The saving of lives.**

4. The advancement of citizenship or community development
5. The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science.
6. The advancement of public participation in sport.
7. The provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended.
8. The advancement of environmental protection or improvement.
9. The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.
10. The advancement of animal welfare.

The trust does not maintain an email address or website. Applications must be submitted in writing and must demonstrate need and purpose of support and be addressed to The Secretary, Cruden Foundation Limited, Baberton House, Juniper Green, Edinburgh, EH14 3HN

Applications including financial details (e.g. annual accounts) are helpful to the Board when considering applications.

Applications are considered by the Board three times per year: November, February and June.

<http://www.cruden-ltd.co.uk/about-us/corporate-and-social-responsibility/>

Transport Scotland's Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund

Energy Saving Trust has been appointed by Transport Scotland to administer the Fund on their behalf.

Public, community and third sector organisations can apply for funding under the European Regional Development Fund 2014-2020 Programme to facilitate the delivery of active travel and low carbon transport hubs.

Organisations can bid for up to 40/50% of their total project costs, up to £2M, with the remainder of project costs provided through match funding from other non-European public sources.

[Read more about the LCTT Challenge Fund and the application process.](#)

Please note, the deadline for all applications is Tuesday 28 February 2017.

Webinars and surgeries

We are hosting a series of webinars and surgery workshops to help support applicants: two webinars in January and two surgeries in February (in Glasgow and Inverness). Dates for these will follow soon.

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/lcttchallengefund