

# Opportunities Bulletin | 13 November 2015

## 1 | Groundwork

Groundwork are running a Green Space Grant programme, funded through the 5p charge for carrier bags at Tesco which will fund thousands of green space projects across England, Wales and Scotland.

I wanted to ask whether you would be able to highlight this scheme to your members, to ensure that local Councils across the country benefit from this funding.

The application window closes for the first round on the 27th November 2015, grants will be awarded from February 2016.

[Find out more](#)

## 2 | Empty Properties Funding Programme – Land Aid

LandAid has launched a £1 million empty properties funding programme to bring empty properties into use for young people in housing need.

LandAid will fund work, which turns empty properties into supported accommodation for young people who are either homeless, or at severe risk of becoming homeless.

LandAid welcomes applications from organisations with experience in renovating empty properties.

Organisations with charitable objectives can apply for grants of between £50,000 and £150,000.

The deadline for applications is 16 November 2016.

[Find out more](#)

## 3 | HM Revenue and Customs Grant Funding

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has £1.5 million funding to allocate per year for the next three years (2016 to 2019) for voluntary and community sector organisations to provide advice and support to customers who need extra help understanding and complying with their tax obligations.

Bids are invited for funding of between £10,000 and £450,000 per annum, with a maximum threshold set at 50% of an organisation's turnover. Only one bid will be accepted per organisation. The deadline for receipt of applications is 8 November 2015.

[Find out more](#)

#### **4 | Building Better Opportunities Fund – Big Lottery Fund**

Big Lottery Fund is matching funds from the European Social Fund (ESF) 2014-2020 to provide joint investment in local projects tackling the root causes of poverty, promoting social inclusion and driving local jobs and growth.

The funding will be delivered in 38 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) areas according to local priorities, which have been set by the LEPs, and will support projects ranging from improving employability for the most disadvantaged, helping those with multiple and complex needs, to improving financial literacy.

LEPs and the LEP area European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) Sub Committees have made decisions about how much of their ESF allocation to devote to this strand of work, meaning that the amount of funding varies widely across different areas.

The second round of funding opportunities is now open. There are 61 new opportunities in 18 of the 38 LEP areas, totaling £132.6 million investment. A small number of further funding opportunities will be available in early 2016.

The closing date for applications is 30 November 2015.

[Find out more](#)

#### **5 | First Steps Enterprise Fund – Social Investment Business Foundation**

First Steps Enterprise Fund is a £300,000 pilot fund offering loan-grant packages to charities and social enterprises working in communities in England. From 19 October 2015, small community-led organisations can apply for up to £30,000 to help them grow their services and become more sustainable. The investments are the first steps towards accessing the wider social investment market and more financing options.

This is a pilot partnership between Asda Foundation and the Social Investment Business Foundation. The fund intends to catalyse other UK corporate foundations to use their money innovatively to create social impact in communities across the country.

The deadline for applications to be considered for the next investment panel is 11 December 2015.

[Find out more](#)

#### **6 | Grow Wild Community Project Funding**

Grow Wild is awarding funding of £1,000 to £4,000 to community groups that want to bring people together to transform a communal space by sowing and growing UK native plants. They are looking to fund at least 60 groups in 2016

across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and are looking for inspiring ideas to connect people to nature.

The deadline for applications is 1 December 2015 and the Grow Wild partnership team is available to provide guidance during the application process.

[Find out more](#)

## **7 | Coastal Communities Fund – Big Lottery Fund**

The UK Government announced on 8 July 2015 that the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) will be extended to 2020/21. At least £90m of new funding will be available from 2017/18, following the end of the current programme. Future funding arrangements will be confirmed as part of the Government's Spending Review in November 2015. The Big Lottery Fund is engaged to deliver the current CCF programme to March 2017. No details are available as yet on how the new funding will be delivered. See the website below for more details.

[Find out more](#)

## **8 | Protecting Playing Fields – Sport England**

The Protecting Playing Fields funding programme is part of Sport England's strategy which is focused on helping more people acquire lifelong sporting habits. It will invest in capital projects to either create new natural turf pitches or improve existing ones that need levelling or drainage works. The programme is being delivered via funding rounds with approximately £4 million being awarded to projects in each round. The first six rounds of funding have benefited 399 projects. Round 8 opened on 14 September 2015 and will close on 9 November 2015.

[Find out more](#)

## **9 | European Structural and Investment Funds – Department for Communities and Local Government**

A variety of funds under the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) are currently available in different parts of the country. ESIF includes money from the European Social Fund (ESF), European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). Deadlines for applications vary. Please see the website below for more information.

[Find out more](#)

## **10 | Big Potential – Big Lottery Fund**

Big Potential, a BIG Lottery Fund grant fund, will deliver approximately £10m of grant funding over 3 years to eligible VCSE organisations (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations) with the aim of improving the sustainability, capacity and scale of VCSE organisations in order that they may deliver greater social impact.

The programme aims to raise awareness of the social investment market and support VCSEs who want to prepare themselves for social investment. In July 2015, Big Lottery announced an additional 'Big Potential Advanced Fund.' It will be supporting organisations at a more advanced stage in their social investment journey, looking to raise larger investments of over £500,000 as well as win contracts over £1m. The new advanced route will be available to those that are clear about how social investment could work for them and can describe a potential deal or interest from investors and need help to close that deal. Grants of up to £150,000 will be available.

[Find out more](#)

## **11 | Inspired Facilities – Sport England**

Inspired Facilities is a £110 million programme that funds the renovation and modernisation of local sports facilities. To date Sport England has helped over 1,800 projects to improve and refurbish sports clubs or transform non-sporting venues into modern grassroots sport facilities. So whether you are a club, local authority, school or parish council Sport England could help you improve your facilities.

Grants are available from £20,000 to £75,000 (up to £150,000 for statutory bodies) for any organisation eligible to receive Lottery funding. Your application should show how your project will keep and, ideally, attract more people to sport and that your project is needed and wanted by the local community.

The next deadline for applications is 11 January 2016.

[Find out more](#)

## **12 | Grants for the Arts Libraries Fund – Arts Council**

The aim of this fund is to inspire innovative partnerships between libraries and arts organisations, and encourage library users and those living locally to take part in artistic and cultural activities.

It is hoped that this second phase of funding, which will be rolled out between April 2015 and March 2018, will once again inspire ambitious, innovative partnerships between libraries and arts organisations, and encourage library users and those living locally to take part in artistic and cultural activities.

Public libraries can apply for grants of between £1,000 and £100,000 covering activities lasting up to three years. The fund opened to applications on 1 April 2015 and will run until 31 March 2018.

[Find out more](#)

### **13 | The Arts Impact Fund – Arts Council**

This fund aims to invest for artistic, social and financial return. The Arts Impact Fund will offer repayable finance to arts organisations working in England that can show how they are sustainable; have great artistic ambitions; and have a positive impact on society.

The Fund, created and funded by Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Nesta, supported by Arts Council England and with additional funding from Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, will offer repayable finance to arts organisations working in England that can show how they are sustainable; have great artistic ambitions; and have a positive impact on society. It will provide repayable loan finance between £150,000 up to £600,000, and funding needs can vary. For example, an applicant may want to buy or refurbish a building or purchase equipment or need to pay salaries or buy in additional services to help the organisation generate more income, perhaps for a tour or exhibition.

There will be at least five funding rounds from April 2015 to April 2017.

[Find out more](#)

### **14 | The Preservation of Industrial and Scientific Material (PRISM) Fund – Arts Council**

PRISM awards grants towards the costs of acquisition and conservation of items or collections, which are important in the history and development of science, technology, industry, and related fields.

The PRISM Fund can offer grants of up to £20,000, or 90 per cent of the total project costs. All accredited museums are eligible except national organisations funded directly through central government. Applications are also accepted from other charitable or public bodies engaged in the preservation of eligible material. This includes specialist libraries, public repositories and archives or libraries formally linked to local authorities or eligible bodies such as universities and religious organisations.

Applications can be submitted at any time of the year, and will be assessed subject to budgetary constraints. It is intended that a decision will be given within two months of receiving a full application.

[Find out more](#)

## **15 | Growth Programme: Grants for the Rural Economy – Defra**

The European Growth Programme provides funding to help projects which create jobs and boost the economy in England. These grants are funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) manages the grants, working with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and local partners.

From March 2015, the RPA is publishing ‘calls for applications’ under the Growth Programme. The calls for application invite applications for grants in specific LEP areas. Calls for applications are currently open in a limited number of LEP areas, as part of an initial phase, before the programme opens fully. These calls will only include some of the grants listed below, depending on local priorities.

The website states that calls for applications will open across the country “from June.” The grants that are available will reflect the priorities of each local area and may include:

- Business development
- Business start-up
- Renewable energy
- Small scale tourism infrastructure
- Tourism co-operation
- Food processing

[Find out more](#)

## **16 | Community Buildings Grants – Locality**

Any Town or Parish Council, Neighbourhood Forum or qualifying community group can apply for Pre-Feasibility grants (£1000 to £10,000) and Project Support grants (£5000 to £40,000) to help move a community building or community housing project to the point at which a Community Right to Build Order, or (in the case of community led housing projects only) a traditional planning permission application, can be submitted. These are revenue grants, which means that they do not cover the capital costs of land acquisition or actually constructing a building.

[Find out more](#)

## **17 | Neighbourhood Planning Grants – Locality**

Funded as part of the Department for Communities and Local Government’s Neighbourhood Planning and Community Right to Build support programme, grants are available to help Parish Councils and other groups to prepare Neighbourhood Plans. As part of the £22 million programme, grants can be used to pay for events to engage the local community, print leaflets and to pay for specialist planning expertise. The support programme runs to 2018.

All groups writing a neighbourhood plan or neighbourhood development order will be eligible to apply for up to £8,000 in grant. Groups facing more complex issues can apply for specific packages of technical support where needed, and may also be eligible for further £6,000 in grant.

A rolling programme of applications is underway and expected to be operated throughout the year.

[Find out more](#)

## **18 | Planning Enforcement Fund – Department for Communities and Local Government**

This new time-limited Fund is available to local planning authorities in England, including National Parks. The scheme provides a grant of up to £10,000 or 50% of its legal costs (whichever is the lesser) to local planning authorities to secure a Court injunction to prevent actual or apprehended breaches of planning control. The scheme will run for the financial years 2014/15 and 2015/16 commencing in January 2015 and ending in March 2016.

[Find out more](#)

## **19 | Grants for War Memorials – War Memorials Trust**

This scheme, funded by English Heritage and The Wolfson Foundation and administered by War Memorials Trust, is currently being reviewed. As such, information may be subject to amendment in the near future. A maximum of 75% of eligible costs are available up to a maximum grant of £30,000.

Eligible projects are freestanding war memorials in England with no other functional purpose than as a war memorial (plaques, bridges and buildings, for example are ineligible). Projects must be over £3,000 to be eligible. Eligible works include: urgent and necessary repairs and structural stabilisation; cleaning, under certain circumstances; works relating to 'hard' landscaping which form an integral part of the design of the memorial; reinstatement of lost elements which form an integral part of the design of the memorial when supported by historical evidence.

Ineligible works include: new war memorials; works to graves of any type; maintenance; alterations or additions to the original design; relocation; addition of names; cosmetic cleaning; work which has already started or been completed.

Annual deadlines are 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December. The scheme is currently confirmed until 2015.

[Find out more](#)

## **20 | Childcare Business Grants Scheme – Government Equalities Office**

The Childcare New Business Grants Scheme has been introduced to boost the provision of childcare in England and to incentivise entrepreneurship. It will encourage and support the starting up of new childcare businesses by providing a flat rate start-up grant of:

- £500 for new childminding businesses setting up in England (those who are looking after one or more children to whom they are not related, on domestic premises, for reward and for a total of more than 2 hours in any day);
- £1000 for new childminding businesses, as above, that will provide care for disabled children (applicants will need to demonstrate that they have incurred additional expenditure in setting up their business as a result of this);
- £1000 for new nursery, out of school club, or childcare on domestic premises setting up in England.

The scheme was due to finish in 2014 but the government subsequently announced a further £2 million extension for the existing Childcare Business Grant scheme to cover 2015/16.

[Find out more](#)

## **21 | Rural Community Energy Fund**

The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) supports rural communities in England to develop renewable energy projects which provide economic and social benefits to the community. The fund will provide up to approximately £150,000 of funding for feasibility and pre-planning development work to help projects become investment ready.

RCEF provides support in two stages:

- Stage 1 provides a grant of up to approximately £20,000 to pay for an initial investigation into the feasibility of a renewable energy project.
- Stage 2 provides an unsecured loan of up to approximately £130,000 to support planning applications and develop a robust business case to attract further investment.

The fund is being delivered on behalf of the government by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). Applications will be reviewed on a monthly basis and there is no set deadline for bids.

[Find out more](#)

## **22 | Urban Community Energy Fund**

The Urban Community Energy Fund (UCEF) is the urban counterpart to the RCEF and was launched on 13 November 2014. UCEF is a £10m fund to kick-start renewable energy generation projects in urban communities across England. Community groups will be able to access grants and loans to support renewable energy developments.

Grants of up to £20,000 are available for the more speculative, early stages of a project's development, such as public consultation and preliminary viability studies.

UCEF will also provide loans of up to £130,000 to develop planning applications and a robust business case to attract further investment. This is intended to help projects become 'investment ready', that is, at the right stage to secure a bank loan or another form of investment.

The deadlines for applications are the last Friday of every other month – January, March, May, July, September and November.

[Find out more](#)

## **23 | Reaching Communities England – Big Lottery Fund**

Reaching Communities funding is for projects that help people and communities most in need. Grants are available from £10,000, upwards and funding can last for up to 5 years. If you think you need more than £500,000 you must call Big Lottery before applying to discuss why you believe a larger project is appropriate. There is no upper limit for total project costs. Reaching Communities can fund salaries, running costs, a contribution towards core costs and equipment. Reaching Communities can also fund up to £100,000 for land, buildings or refurbishment capital costs.

All projects must address one or more of the following outcomes:

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

There is a two-stage application process. After submitting a Reaching Communities Stage One application form, applicants will be told within 6 weeks whether the project is one that might be considered for funding. If successful, the applicant will be sent a Stage Two application form. Applicants will usually have four months to complete this.

[Find out more](#)

## **24 | Reaching Communities Buildings – Big Lottery Fund**

The buildings strand of Reaching Communities provides funding for land and buildings projects costing more than £100,000. It can also provide revenue funding to help to get the building running and deliver project activities (for revenue funding or funding for a land and buildings project of less than £100,000, see Reaching Communities England).

Funding is available for building grants up to 2015 and there are currently no deadlines for applications. However, the programme is regularly reviewed and applicants are encouraged to apply as soon as they are ready. To ensure that this funding makes the biggest difference to those most in need, it is targeted at buildings or sites based in the most deprived 'Lower Super Output Areas' in England.

[Find out more](#)

## **25 | Premier League and The FA Facilities Fund – Football Foundation**

The Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund provides grants for building or refurbishing grassroots facilities, such as changing pavilions and playing surfaces for community benefit, with money provided by the Premier League, The FA and the Government (via Sport England) and delivered by the Foundation.

The Fund is available to football clubs, schools, councils and local sports associations and gives grants for projects that:

- Improve facilities for football and other sport in local communities.
- Sustain or increase participation amongst children and adults, regardless of background age, or ability.
- Help children and adults to develop their physical, mental, social and moral capacities through regular participation in sport.

Grants are available for between £10,000 and £500,000.

[Find out more](#)

## **26 | On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion Fund - WRAP**

The On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Fund has been developed to help farmers in England get financial support to build small-scale AD plants on their farms.

The fund will be delivered on behalf of the government by the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP). WRAP understands that the main barriers to developing AD on farms are: access to finance; availability of reference sites for technologies and case studies; demonstration of the benefits of AD; the potential high cost of technology.

To address these barriers and encourage the uptake of small-scale on-farm AD in the UK WRAP has developed a programme to help farms access finance, provide case studies and demonstration information and provide support for farmers who want to use AD on their farm. The fund will be available to farms in England, that have access to slurries or manures; and who wish to build AD plants producing up to 250kW of power.

The scheme is split into two parts:

1. A business plant grant up to £10,000 to investigate the environmental and economic potential of building an AD plant on the farm.
2. A capital loan up to £400,000 (or a maximum of 50% of the project cost). This is available for AD plants producing up to 250kW of power.

There is a rolling programme for applications.

[Find out more](#)

## **27 | Heritage Project Grants – Heritage Lottery Fund**

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) funds projects, which focus on heritage. HLF offer a range of different grant programmes with grants from £3,000 to over £5million. In assessing applications, HLF take account of the broad range of outcomes for heritage, people and communities that projects will achieve.

HLF programmes include:

- Start Up Grants – grants of between £3,000-£10,000 to help create a new organisation to look after heritage or engage people with it. This grant can also support existing groups taking on new responsibilities for heritage.
- Grants for Places of Worship – historic places of worship are often at the heart of communities. Grants from £10,000–£250,000 can fund urgent structural repairs and help to make them better places for everyone to visit.
- Parks for People – for projects related to historic parks and cemeteries in the UK. You can apply for a grant from £100,000 to £5million. Applications go through a two round process and must be submitted by either 28 February for a decision in June or by 31 August for a decision in December.
- Transition Funding – available to organisations in the UK who want to achieve significant strategic change (through acquiring new skills or knowledge, or new models of governance, leadership, business and income) in order to become more resilient and sustain improved management of heritage for the long term. To apply you must be a previous recipient of an HLF grant. You can apply for a grant of more than £10,000 and up to £100,000.
- Heritage Enterprise – supports enterprising community organisations across the UK to rescue neglected historic buildings and sites and

unlock their economic potential. You can apply for a grant from £100,000 to £5million.

- Sharing Heritage – for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK. Applications can be made for a grant from £3,000 to £10,000. The fund is available to not-for-profit organisations or partnerships led by not-for-profit organisations wanting to explore, share and celebrate their community’s heritage. This is a rolling programme and applications can be submitted at any time.
- Our Heritage – for any type of project related to national, regional or local heritage in the UK. Applications can be made for a grant of more than £10,000 and up to £100,000. HLF fund applications from not-for-profit organisations, private owners of heritage (including individuals and for-profit organisations) and partnerships. This is a rolling programme and applications can be made at any time.
- Heritage Grants – HLF’s open programme for any type of project related to the national, regional, or local heritage in the UK. You can apply for a grant of over £100,000. Heritage Grants applications go through a two-round process. This is so that you can apply at an early stage of planning your project and get an idea of whether you have a good chance of getting a grant before you submit your proposals in greater detail.
- Young Roots – for projects that engage young people with heritage in the UK. Applications can be made for a grant of more than £10,000 and up to £50,000. Under this programme, HLF fund partnerships of heritage and youth organisations to help young people shape and deliver their own projects in safe environments. This is a rolling programme and applications can be made at any time.

[Find out more](#)

## **28 | Reforming business rates appeals – Department for Communities and Local Government consultation**

The business rates appeals system is being reformed to provide a quicker, clearer and more transparent service to businesses.

This consultation paper sets out proposals for a 3-stage approach: ‘check, challenge, appeal’, and seeks views from businesses and other interested parties.

This consultation closes on 4 January 2016.

[Find out more](#)

## **29 | Improving efficiency of council tax collection – Department for Communities and Local Government consultation**

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the government’s proposals to facilitate improvements in the collection and enforcement process in business rates and council tax.

The consultation is aimed at local authorities, other government departments, businesses and any other interested parties.

This consultation closes on 18 November 2015.

[Find out more](#)

### **30 | Children's residential care review – Department for Education consultation**

Sir Martin Narey is seeking views on the purpose and role of residential care for young children, and what works best to improve outcomes.

Sir Martin would like any evidence about:

- The types of residential care currently provided
- What improvements could be made
- Whether there are better alternatives for some children

This consultation closes on 31 December 2015.

[Find out more](#)

### **31| Intervening in failing, underperforming and coasting schools – Department for Education consultation**

The government is seeking views on the proposals to address underperformance in local-authority-maintained schools.

Views are invited on how:

- Local-authority-maintained schools that are eligible for intervention are defined
- Regional schools commissioners (RSCs) and local authorities should use their intervention powers
- How the government propose to identify coasting schools

This consultation closes on 18 December 2015.

[Find out more](#)

### **32 | Setting the mandate to NHS England for 2016 to 2017 – Department of Health consultation**

The mandate to NHS England sets the government's objectives for NHS England, as well as its budget. In doing so, the mandate sets direction for the NHS, and helps ensure the NHS is accountable to Parliament and the public. In accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Secretary of State must publish a mandate each year, to ensure that NHS England's objectives remain up to date.

A new mandate to NHS England is due to be published following the completion of the Spending Review, to take effect from April 2016. This consultation document sets out how the government proposes to set the mandate to NHS England for this Parliament. The final mandate will be subject to the outcome of the government's Spending Review.

This consultation closes on 23 November 2015.

[Find out more](#)

### **33 | Adult further education: measuring success – Department for Business, Innovation & Skills consultation**

This consultation sets out detailed proposals for using new outcome based measures of performance for publicly funded post-19 education and skills, excluding higher education. The consultation looks at:

- Using the measures for accountability and intervention as part of the minimum standards framework
- How local enterprise partnerships (LEPs) and local authorities can use the new measures as part of local outcome agreements with providers
- How we might best present and publish the measures to help learners, employers, LEPs and providers

This consultation closes on 2 December 2015.

[Find out more](#)

### **34 | Changes to guidance on the use of tactile paving surfaces – Department for Transport consultation**

The department is looking to improve the guidance on tactile paving surfaces, making them easier to use as a navigational tool and warning system and ensuring designs are safer and comfortable for mobility impaired people.

Views are being sought on the following changes:

- Relaxation of the requirement for the back edge of an area of blister paving to be horizontal to the crossing direction with 2 options
- Replacement of the requirement for blister paving at a controlled crossing to be red with a requirement for at least a 50% contrast ratio with the surrounding paving
- Introduce a universal requirement for the boundary between carriageway and footway to be marked with tactile paving wherever they are at the same level
- Suggestions for crossing improvements

This consultation closes on 30 November 2015.

[Find out more](#)