



Funding Signpost

December 2008

The 'Skills for Midlothian Businesses' project is a partnership between Midlothian Council new leaf, Midlothian Voluntary Action, Midlothian Council Library Service, Mid and East Lothian Chamber of Commerce, and Jewel and Esk Valley College.

Skills for Midlothian Businesses provides an integrated approach to helping Midlothian businesses and their employees to develop their potential more fully.

The project offers the following opportunities to social enterprises:

- Training opportunities for key staff;
- Human resources support;
- Signposting for enterprises to potential funding sources;
- Support for enterprises to assess their funding needs and manage new funding.



Welcome to *Funding Signpost*, a briefing on sources of funding available for social enterprises in Midlothian. The briefing is provided by Skills for Midlothian Businesses, and is part-funded by the European Social Fund.

Featured in this briefing:

Sources of funding

Rural

- Tyne-Esk Leader Programme 2008-2013

Community

- Tesco Charity Awards – Community Grants
- Big Lottery Fund – 2014 Communities
- UnLtd
- The Peter Gibson Memorial Fund
- Homecoming 2009

Children and Young People

- Paul Hamlyn Foundation – Education and Learning
- UK-German Challenge Fund
- BBC Children in Need – Changes to application process

Social Enterprise

- Social Entrepreneur's Fund
- The Bridge Social Enterprise Fund

Consultations

- Big Lottery on-line consultation

If you would like support in applying for any of the funds mentioned in this briefing, contact Lesley Kelly on 663 9471 or at Lesley.kelly@mvacvs.org.uk

Tyne Esk LEADER Programme 2008 – 2013: ‘Supporting Opportunities for Rural Communities’

If you live in *rural* Midlothian and have a community project that has expenditure above £1,000 LEADER could be for you. The Programme will provide grants to projects that are innovative in nature and demonstrate community support and involvement. Grants of up to £50,000 are available.

The Tyne Esk LEADER Programme received 11 applications for funding in its second round, seven of which were approved, one declined and three deferred to a later date. Two of the approved projects were in Midlothian, receiving grants worth over £10K

The Esk Valley Model Engineering Society was awarded funding to assist in the relocation of their workshop and Edinburgh Butterfly and Insect World were awarded funding to develop a Native Butterfly and Moth Garden.

Initial enquiry forms are now available from the LEADER Project Officer. The next application deadline is the 2nd February 2009.

For further information regarding the Tyne Esk LEADER Programme contact the LEADER Office on 01620 82 7101, leader@eastlothian.gov.uk or visit www.tyneesk.co.uk



This project is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community.

Tesco Charity Trust — Community Awards

The Tesco Charity Trust is inviting applications to its Community Awards scheme. Grants are made to charities throughout the UK, and the total pot is around £600,000. Pursuing the Tesco theme of Every Little Helps, the Scheme makes one-off grants of between £1000 and £4000 to provide equipment or practical resources for projects that directly benefit children, the elderly and adults and children with disabilities living in the local communities around Tesco stores.

Previous grants have paid for things like:

- Playground equipment in schools and local communities.
- Sensory garden or room projects.
- Outdoor classrooms.
- Breakfast and after school clubs.
- Holiday play-schemes.
- Part funding to purchase minibuses.
- Befriending schemes.
- Luncheon clubs/youth clubs.
- Specialist equipment for disabled people.
- Day trips/social trips for elderly/disabled people.

Grants **will not be given** to fully or part-cover:

- Salaries;
- Fundraising events or challenges;
- Conferences or seminars;

- Grants to individuals, including students;
- Activities which collect funds for redistribution to other charities or individuals;
- Purchase of land or buildings;
- Refurbishment to fabric of buildings, including lift installations;
- Overseas appeals;
- Expeditions or overseas travel;
- Promotion of religion;
- Sponsorship and marketing promotions;
- Endowment funds.

How to apply:

The full application guidelines are available at www.tescopl.com/plc/storage/pdf/guidlines.pdf.

Applications can be made online at www.tescocharitytrustcommunityawards-applications.co.uk.

Applications dealing with grants to support children's welfare and/or children's education (including special needs schools) are dealt with separately and at different times to applications for support of elderly people and/or adults and children with disabilities. You can only make one application a year.

There are two rounds of funding every year for each category:

- Children's education and welfare applications can be made either between 1 December 2008 and 31 January 2009 for a decision at the end of April 2009, or between 1 May and 30 June 2009 for a decision at the end of September.
- Elderly people and adults and children with disabilities applications can be made either between 1 February and 31 March 2009 for a decision at the end of June 2009, or between 1 August and 30 September 2009 for a decision at the end of December.

Tesco Charity Trust
PO Box 980
Canterbury
CT1 9DX

Tel: 0845 612 3575.

Closing date: The current application round for projects dealing with children's welfare or education closes on 31 January 2009. The round for projects dealing with older people and adults and children with disabilities opens on 1 February 2009.

Big Lottery Fund: 2014 Communities

One year on from Glasgow's successful Commonwealth Games bid, **2014 Communities** aims to encourage groups from all over Scotland to get involved in sport and physical activity. The Big Lottery Fund want to build a legacy of well-being before and beyond the Commonwealth Games.

Over the next 12 months, grants of between £300 and £1,000 will be available to groups who are looking to encourage participation, volunteering and community interaction through their sports projects. Voluntary and community sector organisations, community councils and schools can apply to the programme which has three key aims:

- *More people take part in sport or physical activity*
 - *More people volunteer in sport or physical activity*

- *More people and communities are brought together through taking part or volunteering in sport or physical activity*

They have created a [webpage](#) which contains all the information you need to know before applying as well as case studies and details of why BIG is committed to supporting the Commonwealth Games 2014 legacy.

BIG also wants to encourage people to start thinking about the legacy of the 2014 Games. As part of that process, they would like people and communities to make their own short films to be posted online, telling others what the legacy will mean to them.

If your group has an idea for a film which demonstrates their hopes for the legacy or vision for a brighter Scotland in the future, then contact us at 2014@biglotteryfund.org.uk

UnLtd

UnLtd, the body that makes Lottery money available to individuals and informal groups (including young people operating within schools) has published the closing dates for applications for its Level 2 Awards in 2009. Awards must be used to develop the Award holder's skills and provide a community benefit.

1. Level 1 Awards are aimed at individuals aged over 16 and informal groups who have an idea of community benefit and need help getting their project off the ground. Awards range from £500 to £5000, with most being nearer £2000. Awards are available across the UK and 1000 are made each year. The money must be spent on running costs.

There are no application closing dates for Level 1 Awards and bids are dealt with as received.

To apply you need to fill out an eligibility questionnaire available at www.unltd.org.uk/template.php?ID=77&PageName=level1_quiz. Or you can call your nearest regional office:

- Scotland (Edinburgh), 0131 226 7333;

2. Level 2 Awards are for people who have an idea/project that is well planned out and ready to go. Awards range between £10,000 and £20,000. As well as covering project running costs these awards can also pay for some of the living expenses of the Award holder.

The information support systems for potential Level 2 applicants are well developed.

For the latest picture you should contact the Level 2 Awards officer in your area. They are:

- **Scotland**, Eileen Inglis on 0131 226 7333 or via eileeninglis@unltd.org.uk.

The Peter Gibson Memorial Fund

The [Peter Gibson](#) Memorial Fund supports activities that contribute to improving the quality of life of Scottish consumers. Our Travelling Scholarship supports individuals to go abroad to research consumer issues, returning to use what they have learned and experienced to the benefit of Scottish consumers.

We are particularly interested in working with people with an interest in helping those who are disadvantaged through age, ill-health, disability, or financial hardship.

Applying to the Fund

We will consider applications from anyone who is interested in travelling abroad to conduct research into an area of consumer policy that could bring benefits to Scottish consumers. We particularly want to encourage those with innovative or challenging ideas in consumer policy in its broadest sense. Grants could be made available for research into housing, health and environmental services as well as more 'traditional' areas of consumer policy, such as faulty goods and financial services. We do not accept applications from organisations, only individuals. Applicants should be resident in Scotland, but can otherwise be of any age, nationality or level of academic achievement. But we do expect applicants to show enough knowledge and understanding of the particular area they wish to investigate, and a commitment to making their work useful and practical.

How we will help you

We will pay for:

- Travel expenses
- Reasonable living costs while abroad
- Costs directly related to the research to be carried out (we will need details)

What we expect from you

If your application for a travel grant is successful, it will be a condition of receiving the money that you provide us with a written report about the work you have undertaken during your tour or study period. We also expect you to give a presentation to a meeting organised by the Trustees about your work. We will be particularly interested in hearing how you think what you have learned can be applied practically to bring benefits to Scottish consumers.

If you are awarded a grant we will agree with you the time period within which you will carry out your project. If for some reason you are unable to go ahead with your project within the agreed period, we will of course expect you to repay any money we may have given you.

Interested?

Then write and tell us about yourself, your project, where you want to go and how much money you want from the Fund. We are particularly interested in attracting applicants who have experienced disadvantages, so if that applies to you, tell us about that too. You can complete the application online or [download](#) the application form, print it off, complete it and return it to us by post or [email](#).

Alternatively, you can [write to us](#) without filling in the application form, but we will need the information requested on the form. If you do this, try to keep your letter short, a maximum of one A4 page long.

If we are interested in your application, we will invite you for an interview, at our expense, to discuss it in more detail. We may ask for more information beforehand.

Midlothian Homecoming Fund 2009

[Homecoming Scotland 2009](#) celebrates the 250th anniversary of the birth of our national poet Robert Burns. It will be marked by a yearlong programme of events running throughout Scotland; starting on Burns Day 25th Jan and ending on St Andrews Day 30th November 2009. And throughout 2009, Midlothian will host its own series of events which feed into this national programme.

So if you are organising an event in Midlothian during 2009, you may be eligible to apply for financial assistance from the **Midlothian Homecoming Fund**.

You will need to prove to us that your event can fit in with one of the main themes of Homecoming Scotland

- Robert Burns
- Golf
- Whisky
- Great Minds and Innovation
- Rich Culture and Heritage (ancestry)

And in return we can provide you with financial assistance to help with the running, organising or marketing of your event. We can also provide you with the expertise of a Homecoming Co-ordinator to help maximise the potential of your event.

Competition is expected to be strong. Therefore if you are interested in applying, please read the [Application Guidelines \(PDF\)](#) and submit an [Initial Enquiry Form \(MS Word\)](#). And then if your initial proposal is approved, you will be invited to submit a [Full Application \(MS Word\)](#)

Application Deadlines

2nd Round - Full applications to be submitted by **21st Jan 2009**. Decisions expected to be announced by 10th Feb 2009.

3rd Round - To be confirmed.

The fund is available for both existing and new events. Priority will be given for projects within the [LEADER area \(PDF\)](#)

If you would like to discuss your project please contact Sandy MacMillan at Midlothian Council on 0131 2713437.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation — Education and Learning Programme

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation is one of the larger independent grantmaking foundations in the UK. It has issued new guidelines for its Education and Learning Programme, which has three specific themes: supplementary education, tackling school exclusion and truancy, and developing speaking and listening skills for 11-19 year olds. The Foundation makes grants throughout the UK (especially outside London) and prefers to support work that others may find hard to fund, perhaps because it breaks new ground, is too risky or is unpopular.

Background.

The Foundation principally operates three programmes: Arts, Social Justice and Education and Learning. It often takes a proactive approach to its funding, with Special Initiatives that seek to develop activities that gain wide influence with opinion formers in the chosen theme areas. But there is an Open Grants Scheme too, which invites applications from organisations with new ideas that have the potential to achieve significant and long-lasting impact and which lead to changes in practice or policy within the wider sector in which the applicant works.

The Foundation has issued new guidelines for its Education and Learning Open Grants Scheme.

Education and Learning Themes.

The Education and Learning Open Grants Scheme is currently **only** accepting applications for work that is intended to address directly one or more of the following themes:

- Supplementary education;
- Tackling school exclusion and truancy;
- Developing speaking and listening skills for 11-19 year olds.

All applications must focus on achieving innovation and change in relation to one or more of the themes. The trustees are more interested in supporting radical approaches, which are likely to involve creativity and some risk-taking, rather than incremental innovation. Incremental innovation is only likely to be supported if the proposed work will lead to changes in practice or policy within the wider sector in which the applicant organisation operates.

The Foundation is also particularly interested in work that enables participants to actively shape the direction and delivery of the work and benefits people who live outside London

Specific guidelines.

1. Supplementary education.

The Foundation wants to support the work of supplementary schools, which they define as schools that operate on a part-time basis, led by voluntary sector organisations and with the active support of parents and the local community, primarily for the benefit of children and young people from Black and minority ethnic communities.

Activities should make a positive impact on young people's academic attainment, achievements, aspirations, life chances and/or their sense of wellbeing and belonging.

Grants **will not be given** to fund religious teaching or activities.

Applications are invited from supplementary schools themselves and from other types of not for profit organisations that will directly benefit supplementary schools. In recognition of the fact that it will be difficult for many small supplementary schools to achieve sector-wide impact, applications will be instead be judged against innovation criteria. In particular the trustees will be looking for work that addresses an issue that is of wider relevance to the supplementary school sector and for programmes of work that will benefit the wider sector in some way, perhaps by sharing new practices, experiences and learning with other supplementary schools or with mainstream schools.

2. Tackling school exclusion and truancy.

The Foundation wants to support activities that work in a preventative way to reduce the chances of children and young people considered most at risk from reaching the point of persistent absence or exclusion from school. These activities should aim to achieve, and expect to sustain, at least one of the following outcomes:

- Reduce the number of children and young people with persistently poor school attendance;
- Reduce the number of children and young people excluded from school.

It is particularly interested in:

- Work that supports, and results in, groups of schools changing their practices in a positive way;
- Targeted work where young people at potential risk of truancy/exclusion can be identified at an earlier stage of their school life and supported so that these outcomes are much less likely to occur;
- Work focusing on students in Key Stage 3 (aged 11-14).

3. Developing speaking and listening skills for 11-19 year olds.

The Foundation specifically wants to support activities taking place in or outside of school that develop the oral communication skills that all young people need to become effective, contributing members of society. These activities should encompass, at an appropriate stage, an explicit focus on speaking and listening skills so that participating young people are aware of subsets of skills and strategies that they have acquired or developed and how these are applicable to a wider range of situations and circumstances.

It is particularly interested in:

- Activities that develop, in realistic and ideally 'real world' contexts, the speaking and listening skills that will help young people to achieve at least one of the following outcomes: engage appropriately with the world of work; lead and contribute to positive change in their communities; resolve misunderstandings, tensions or conflict between groups in their communities.

- Inter-generational work that involves young people working with their families, carers and/or communities.

Whatever the theme, grants are unlikely to be given for the continuation or expansion of existing provision, unless there are significant elements of innovation and change, activities which primarily benefit the independent education sector, Websites, publications and seminars or market or academic research (unless part of a wider activity).

Grants **will not be given** for retrospective funding, general appeals, buying property, equipment or other capital items, or overseas activities, including travel, expeditions, adventure and residential courses.

Who can apply?

Applications are welcome for legally charitable activities from formally constituted organisations. This includes all types of not-for-profit organisation, not just registered charities, local authorities and public bodies.

What can you ask for?

Grants are made to fund specific activities, though core running costs, including staff salaries and overheads such as stationery, rent, rates and utilities within the full-cost recovery guidelines, can be included. But you must show how these sums have been calculated.

Very occasionally, core grants will be given.

There is no minimum or maximum grant size. The amount you request should be the amount you need. They are unlikely to fund 100% of the costs, but the Foundation normally expects that what you ask for will be a substantial part of the total required to fund a distinct activity or a substantial part of the work of your organisation.

In 2007-08 they made 51 grants within the Education and Learning Open Grants Scheme, with an average grant of £60,000 and a range from £5000 to £300,000.

Grants tend to be for up to three years, occasionally six years, but you must show how your work will develop over the period of the grant.

How to apply.

There are no closing dates. You will be advised of the dates at which decisions may be taken when your application is being processed. There is an online eligibility checker and if you pass that you will be able to make your initial outline application online too.

Full application details are available at www.phf.org.uk/page.asp?id=85. Or you can contact:

Faye Williams
Education and Learning Programme
Paul Hamlyn Foundation
18 Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H 9AA

Tel: 020 7227 3500.

Closing date: Applications dealt with as received.

UK-German Challenge Fund

We first featured the UK-German Challenge Fund when it was launched this time last year. The next application dates have been published so it's time for a quick update. The Fund supports schools, colleges or youth groups for language and non-language related activities that encourage young people to build links between the UK and Germany.

Background:

The Fund supports large and small projects of a curricular or non-curricular nature across a wide range of themes, including: Science and technology; Business and enterprise; Citizenship; Energy and the environment; Multimedia and ICT; Culture and the arts; Vocational skills. The funding can be used for activities such as: Project development and entrepreneurial activities; Development of new ideas, design, materials; Scientific explorations; Debating workshops; Workplace-related activities; Cultural events, exhibitions and productions; Community projects; Creation of Web pages or films; Blogging, reporting or song-writing etc.

Who can apply and for what?

Applications are invited from primary and secondary schools and FE colleges within the UK, and youth groups involving young people under the age of 25. Applications from Higher Education institutions are not eligible. Groups of schools and/or youth groups can also apply for joint projects. You must have made your link with the groups/schools in Germany before making your application.

Applications will be judged against:

- The amount of real collaboration between the young people involved;
- Concrete outcomes;
- The degree of involvement of the young people in project planning and management.

At least 5 young people must be involved from each participating group/school/college, and opportunities must exist for both the UK and German groups to travel and meet each other. Where possible the visits should involve young people who would otherwise not be able to take advantage of such an opportunity. The visits must be clearly related, part of the same project, and must occur within 8 months of each other.

A language-learning element within any project will be welcome, but it is not compulsory.

Grants will not be given for traditional language exchanges or trips with a tourist focus, nor can the money be used to supply teaching cover.

How much can you apply for?

The maximum grant will be £5000, but the grant will normally only cover 50% of costs (75% in exceptional circumstances). The amount given will depend on the numbers involved and the specifics of the project, with decisions made on a case-by-case basis.

The money can be used for:

- Project-related costs, materials and disseminating results;
- Travel, accommodation and subsistence for trips to Germany and to the UK.

How to apply.

Applications must be made by teachers, youth leaders or project co-ordinators on behalf of the groups or institutions taking part. You need to apply as soon as you are ready and at least four weeks before you plan to start your project.

More information.

Details and application forms are available at www.ukgermanconnection.org/microsites/?location_id=216 or by e-mailing Alison Kliche, UK-German School and Youth Links Officer, via alison.kliche@ukgermanconnection.org or contacting her on 020 7824 1572.

UK-German Connection Challenge Fund
34 Belgrave Square
London
SW1X 8QB

Closing date: The next closing date is 31 January 2009.

BBC Children in Need – Changes in application process

For some time BBC Children in Need has been working to improve the ways in which organisations such as yours can apply to us. We have consulted with applicants across the UK and listened carefully to what they have told us. We have responded by making some changes to our application processes that we believe will better meet your needs.

The most significant change is that for the first time we will now be open year-round for applications with four closing dates (15th of January, April, July and October). We are also aiming to deliver a significantly faster turn around time (just over three months), which we believe will be appreciated by the many of groups that apply to us. This change means that we will NOT have a deadline on 30 November 2008 **however** if you were anticipating applying then you will have some additional weeks to prepare your application and still receive a result in April 2009.

To ensure we can operate on a year round basis we know that we have to be as efficient as possible in all that we do. To support this we are aiming to be as paperless as we can in our processes ^ which will help us get the results of applications and funding out to you as quickly as possible. To enable this we will want all groups to apply through our website which contains a range of information and supporting documentation to guide you through the process: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/>

Social Entrepreneurs Fund — Scotland

The Scottish Government has made £1 million available over the next two years to finance a Social Entrepreneurs Fund in Scotland. It will be managed by Firstport, an advice and support service for social entrepreneurs in Scotland. The Fund will open in March 2009 and will be available to individuals who want to set up a new business with a social purpose. Awards will range from £500 to £20,000 and the scheme will run alongside the Lottery-funded UnLtd programme in Scotland, which Firstport also manages.

Background.

The Fund will run between March 2009 and March 2011, with £500,000 available in each of the two years. Funding will be aimed at individuals and there will be three support levels. It is anticipated that around 200 awards will be made overall.

The Fund will focus on two main issues.

The first is enabling the growth of social businesses that will achieve one or more of the 15 National Outcomes described by the Scottish Government as part of its 'golden rules' for the growth of a stable and cohesive society. They are:

- Making Scotland the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
- Realising full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for Scotland's people.
- A better educated, more skilled and more successful country renowned for its research and innovation.
- Scotland's young people being successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- Giving children the best start in life so they are ready to succeed.
- Living longer, healthier lives.
- Tackling the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
- Improving the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
- Lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
- Living in well-designed, sustainable places where Scots are able to access the amenities and services they need.
- Strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
- Valuing and enjoying the built and natural environment and protecting it and enhancing it for future generations.
- Taking pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.
- Reducing the local and global environmental impact of consumption and production.
- Public services of high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

The second issue will be to focus on capacity development rather than project funding. This means increasing the turnover of the social economy and reducing long-term dependence on grants.

Who can apply?

Applications will be welcome from individuals living in Scotland with:

- A business idea with a clear social benefit;
- Thoughts about how such a business would be run;
- Evidence of need and sustainability for the business;
- The drive and vision to take the idea forward.

Applications **will not be accepted** from established social enterprise organisations, individuals at risk from insolvency, organisations wanting to establish infrastructure support, proposals that could normally be expected to get commercial finance, or for business ideas where the beneficiaries will live outside Scotland.

What can you apply for?

There are three support levels and each is tailored to a specific type of applicant:

- Award stage 0, the Concept stage, will offer awards up to £500 for very early stage activities like legal fees, feasibility and marketing studies etc. 30 such awards will be made each year.
- Award stage 1, the Feasibility stage, will offer awards up to £5000 to cover the cost of testing out new ideas, such as marketing, equipment purchase, or travel. 50 such awards will be made each year.
- Award stage 2, the Implementation stage, will offer up to £20,000 to cover the cost of the individual's time/salary or equivalent. 12 such awards will be made each year.

All award winners will also get other forms of business support.

When can you apply?

No applications will be accepted until 1 March 2009. From that point the application process will be:

- Level 0 applications accepted at any time, an application form will be available.
- Level 1 applications invited during a series of 'application windows'. Assessment will be based on an application form and the drive of the applicant.
- Level 2 applications requiring a full business plan, and there will be a series of 'application windows'.

Details.

The Social Entrepreneurs Fund strategy document is available at http://firstport.org.uk/exchange?show_category_id=76. You can also call them on 0131 220 0511 or e-mail info@firstport.org.uk.

Closing date: Details of the 'application windows' will be available after 1 March 2009.

The Bridges Social Entrepreneurs Fund

A substantial new fund has been launched to support socially entrepreneurial projects within the UK. Called the Bridges Social Entrepreneurs Fund, £4.25 million has already been raised to invest in existing social enterprises delivering high social impacts and operating sustainable business models that are looking to scale up their activities. Applicants can seek up to £1 million of equity-like capital.

Background.

The Bridges Social Entrepreneurs Fund has been set up by the Bridges Charitable Trust. It will be managed by Bridges Ventures and Anthony Ross, one of the five Executive Directors of Bridges Ventures. He will be assisted by Skye Elliott who has joined Bridges Ventures as an investment executive for the new fund.

Bridges Ventures is a fund management company that combines commercial expertise with a social mission, where returns are reinvested to achieve social or environmental aims. Bridges Ventures is chaired by Sir Ronald Cohen, co-founder and former chairman of Apax Partners. It already manages two social funds: the CDV Fund 1 raised over £40 million and the CDV Fund II over £75 million. Bridges Ventures set up the Bridges Charitable Trust to underline the social mission of the organisation and 10% of the profits made by the Bridges team go to the trust.

The Social Entrepreneurs Fund has raised money from a variety of sources and continues to do so. Amongst the backers are the Lottery distributor NESTA, the Apax Foundation, The Generation Foundation, Lehman Brothers Foundation Europe, Deutsche Bank, 3i, Sir Ronald Cohen, Nigel Doughty and Harvey McGrath, chair of Prudential.

NESTA's involvement marks the first step of its own three-year plan to develop its involvement in social enterprise through new funds, research and campaigning. (For details look at www.nesta.org.uk/social-finance/).

All investments by the Fund will be made on a commercial basis, but the returns will be reinvested in the Fund.

The aims of the Fund.

The Bridges Social Entrepreneurs Fund will invest in social enterprises that have:

- A clear social mission;

- A robust business model;
- The ability to grow in scale and increase their social impact;
- A financially sustainable model where the enterprise already has, or will have the potential to, become sustainable without grants;
- The ability to generate surpluses to repay the financing;
- A strong management team.

Up to £1 million will be available for each investment, and as well as the cash the funded enterprises will have access to consulting advice from the Monitor Group.

More information and how to apply.

Details are available at www.bridgesventures.com/investment_soc_entre.php where you will also find a link to the must-read document *Equity-like Capital for Social Ventures*, a 2005 report published by Bridges Ventures based on its research into, and experience of, the need for equity investment in social enterprise.

There are several ways to approach the Fund:

- You can contact Anthony Ross on 020 7298 0189 or e-mail anthony@bridgesventures.com, or you can call Skye Elliott on 020 7298 0182 or e-mail skye@bridgesventures.com.
- You can access an online application form via the information page at www.bridgesventures.com/investment_soc_entre.php.

Closing date: Applications are dealt with as received

Consultations

Big Lottery Fund On-line Consultation

Yesterday saw the launch of Big thinking, the consultation on the Big Lottery Fund strategic framework for 2009 – 2015.

Central to the public consultation will be **ten 'BIG Questions'** plus specific questions to reflect the individual priorities of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Questions include:-

- Do you agree we should have a greater focus in our funding to benefit those most in need?
- **After 2012, when our 60-70 per cent undertaking ends, should we continue to guarantee a percentage of our funding to the voluntary and community sector?**
- How can BIG best help build lasting partnerships and networks that support communities and people most in need?
- Are there opportunities for joint funding that BIG should take up?
- Do you agree that the theme of isolation provides a useful starting point for our funding?

This is your opportunity to tell the Big Lottery Fund what you think and help them decide where Lottery money can make the biggest impact .

The discussion will take place at www.big-thinking.org.uk from 17 November 2008 – 27 February 2009.



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If you would like support in applying for any of the funds mentioned in this briefing, contact Lesley Kelly on 663 9471 or at Lesley.kelly@mvacvs.org.uk

Tyne Esk LEADER Programme 2008 – 2013: ‘Supporting Opportunities for Rural Communities’

If you live in *rural* Midlothian and have a community project that has expenditure above £1,000 LEADER could be for you. The Programme will provide grants to projects that are innovative in nature and demonstrate community support and involvement. Grants of up to £50,000 are available.

The Tyne Esk LEADER Programme received 11 applications for funding in its second round, seven of which were approved, one declined and three deferred to a later date. Two of the approved projects were in Midlothian, receiving grants worth over £10K

The Esk Valley Model Engineering Society was awarded funding to assist in the relocation of their workshop and Edinburgh Butterfly and Insect World were awarded funding to develop a Native Butterfly and Moth Garden.

Initial enquiry forms are now available from the LEADER Project Officer. The next application deadline is the 2nd February 2009.

For further information regarding the Tyne Esk LEADER Programme contact the LEADER Office on 01620 82 7101, leader@eastlothian.gov.uk or visit www.tyneesk.co.uk



This project is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community.

Tesco Charity Trust — Community Awards

The Tesco Charity Trust is inviting applications to its Community Awards scheme. Grants are made to charities throughout the UK, and the total pot is around £600,000. Pursuing the Tesco theme of Every Little Helps, the Scheme makes one-off grants of between £1000 and £4000 to provide equipment or practical resources for projects that directly benefit children, the elderly and adults and children with disabilities living in the local communities around Tesco stores.

Previous grants have paid for things like:

- Playground equipment in schools and local communities.
- Sensory garden or room projects.
- Outdoor classrooms.
- Breakfast and after school clubs.
- Holiday play-schemes.
- Part funding to purchase minibuses.
- Befriending schemes.
- Luncheon clubs/youth clubs.
- Specialist equipment for disabled people.
- Day trips/social trips for elderly/disabled people.

Grants **will not be given** to fully or part-cover:

- Salaries;
- Fundraising events or challenges;
- Conferences or seminars;

- Grants to individuals, including students;
- Activities which collect funds for redistribution to other charities or individuals;
- Purchase of land or buildings;
- Refurbishment to fabric of buildings, including lift installations;
- Overseas appeals;
- Expeditions or overseas travel;
- Promotion of religion;
- Sponsorship and marketing promotions;
- Endowment funds.

How to apply:

The full application guidelines are available at www.tescopl.com/plc/storage/pdf/guidlines.pdf.

Applications can be made online at www.tescocharitytrustcommunityawards-applications.co.uk.

Applications dealing with grants to support children's welfare and/or children's education (including special needs schools) are dealt with separately and at different times to applications for support of elderly people and/or adults and children with disabilities. You can only make one application a year.

There are two rounds of funding every year for each category:

- Children's education and welfare applications can be made either between 1 December 2008 and 31 January 2009 for a decision at the end of April 2009, or between 1 May and 30 June 2009 for a decision at the end of September.
- Elderly people and adults and children with disabilities applications can be made either between 1 February and 31 March 2009 for a decision at the end of June 2009, or between 1 August and 30 September 2009 for a decision at the end of December.

Tesco Charity Trust
PO Box 980
Canterbury
CT1 9DX

Tel: 0845 612 3575.

Closing date: The current application round for projects dealing with children's welfare or education closes on 31 January 2009. The round for projects dealing with older people and adults and children with disabilities opens on 1 February 2009.

Big Lottery Fund: 2014 Communities

One year on from Glasgow's successful Commonwealth Games bid, **2014 Communities** aims to encourage groups from all over Scotland to get involved in sport and physical activity. The Big Lottery Fund want to build a legacy of well-being before and beyond the Commonwealth Games.

Over the next 12 months, grants of between £300 and £1,000 will be available to groups who are looking to encourage participation, volunteering and community interaction through their sports projects. Voluntary and community sector organisations, community councils and schools can apply to the programme which has three key aims:

- *More people take part in sport or physical activity*
 - *More people volunteer in sport or physical activity*

- *More people and communities are brought together through taking part or volunteering in sport or physical activity*

They have created a [webpage](#) which contains all the information you need to know before applying as well as case studies and details of why BIG is committed to supporting the Commonwealth Games 2014 legacy.

BIG also wants to encourage people to start thinking about the legacy of the 2014 Games. As part of that process, they would like people and communities to make their own short films to be posted online, telling others what the legacy will mean to them.

If your group has an idea for a film which demonstrates their hopes for the legacy or vision for a brighter Scotland in the future, then contact us at 2014@biglotteryfund.org.uk

UnLtd

UnLtd, the body that makes Lottery money available to individuals and informal groups (including young people operating within schools) has published the closing dates for applications for its Level 2 Awards in 2009. Awards must be used to develop the Award holder's skills and provide a community benefit.

1. Level 1 Awards are aimed at individuals aged over 16 and informal groups who have an idea of community benefit and need help getting their project off the ground. Awards range from £500 to £5000, with most being nearer £2000. Awards are available across the UK and 1000 are made each year. The money must be spent on running costs.

There are no application closing dates for Level 1 Awards and bids are dealt with as received.

To apply you need to fill out an eligibility questionnaire available at www.unltd.org.uk/template.php?ID=77&PageName=level1_quiz. Or you can call your nearest regional office:

- Scotland (Edinburgh), 0131 226 7333;

2. Level 2 Awards are for people who have an idea/project that is well planned out and ready to go. Awards range between £10,000 and £20,000. As well as covering project running costs these awards can also pay for some of the living expenses of the Award holder.

The information support systems for potential Level 2 applicants are well developed.

For the latest picture you should contact the Level 2 Awards officer in your area. They are:

- **Scotland**, Eileen Inglis on 0131 226 7333 or via eileeninglis@unltd.org.uk.

The Peter Gibson Memorial Fund

The [Peter Gibson](#) Memorial Fund supports activities that contribute to improving the quality of life of Scottish consumers. Our Travelling Scholarship supports individuals to go abroad to research consumer issues, returning to use what they have learned and experienced to the benefit of Scottish consumers.

We are particularly interested in working with people with an interest in helping those who are disadvantaged through age, ill-health, disability, or financial hardship.

Applying to the Fund

We will consider applications from anyone who is interested in travelling abroad to conduct research into an area of consumer policy that could bring benefits to Scottish consumers. We particularly want to encourage those with innovative or challenging ideas in consumer policy in its broadest sense. Grants could be made available for research into housing, health and environmental services as well as more 'traditional' areas of consumer policy, such as faulty goods and financial services. We do not accept applications from organisations, only individuals. Applicants should be resident in Scotland, but can otherwise be of any age, nationality or level of academic achievement. But we do expect applicants to show enough knowledge and understanding of the particular area they wish to investigate, and a commitment to making their work useful and practical.

How we will help you

We will pay for:

- Travel expenses
- Reasonable living costs while abroad
- Costs directly related to the research to be carried out (we will need details)

What we expect from you

If your application for a travel grant is successful, it will be a condition of receiving the money that you provide us with a written report about the work you have undertaken during your tour or study period. We also expect you to give a presentation to a meeting organised by the Trustees about your work. We will be particularly interested in hearing how you think what you have learned can be applied practically to bring benefits to Scottish consumers.

If you are awarded a grant we will agree with you the time period within which you will carry out your project. If for some reason you are unable to go ahead with your project within the agreed period, we will of course expect you to repay any money we may have given you.

Interested?

Then write and tell us about yourself, your project, where you want to go and how much money you want from the Fund. We are particularly interested in attracting applicants who have experienced disadvantages, so if that applies to you, tell us about that too. You can complete the application online or [download](#) the application form, print it off, complete it and return it to us by post or [email](#).

Alternatively, you can [write to us](#) without filling in the application form, but we will need the information requested on the form. If you do this, try to keep your letter short, a maximum of one A4 page long.

If we are interested in your application, we will invite you for an interview, at our expense, to discuss it in more detail. We may ask for more information beforehand.

Midlothian Homecoming Fund 2009

[Homecoming Scotland 2009](#) celebrates the 250th anniversary of the birth of our national poet Robert Burns. It will be marked by a yearlong programme of events running throughout Scotland; starting on Burns Day 25th Jan and ending on St Andrews Day 30th November 2009. And throughout 2009, Midlothian will host its own series of events which feed into this national programme.

So if you are organising an event in Midlothian during 2009, you may be eligible to apply for financial assistance from the **Midlothian Homecoming Fund**.

You will need to prove to us that your event can fit in with one of the main themes of Homecoming Scotland

- Robert Burns
- Golf
- Whisky
- Great Minds and Innovation
- Rich Culture and Heritage (ancestry)

And in return we can provide you with financial assistance to help with the running, organising or marketing of your event. We can also provide you with the expertise of a Homecoming Co-ordinator to help maximise the potential of your event.

Competition is expected to be strong. Therefore if you are interested in applying, please read the [Application Guidelines \(PDF\)](#) and submit an [Initial Enquiry Form \(MS Word\)](#). And then if your initial proposal is approved, you will be invited to submit a [Full Application \(MS Word\)](#)

Application Deadlines

2nd Round - Full applications to be submitted by **21st Jan 2009**. Decisions expected to be announced by 10th Feb 2009.

3rd Round - To be confirmed.

The fund is available for both existing and new events. Priority will be given for projects within the [LEADER area \(PDF\)](#)

If you would like to discuss your project please contact Sandy MacMillan at Midlothian Council on 0131 2713437.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation — Education and Learning Programme

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation is one of the larger independent grantmaking foundations in the UK. It has issued new guidelines for its Education and Learning Programme, which has three specific themes: supplementary education, tackling school exclusion and truancy, and developing speaking and listening skills for 11-19 year olds. The Foundation makes grants throughout the UK (especially outside London) and prefers to support work that others may find hard to fund, perhaps because it breaks new ground, is too risky or is unpopular.

Background.

The Foundation principally operates three programmes: Arts, Social Justice and Education and Learning. It often takes a proactive approach to its funding, with Special Initiatives that seek to develop activities that gain wide influence with opinion formers in the chosen theme areas. But there is an Open Grants Scheme too, which invites applications from organisations with new ideas that have the potential to achieve significant and long-lasting impact and which lead to changes in practice or policy within the wider sector in which the applicant works.

The Foundation has issued new guidelines for its Education and Learning Open Grants Scheme.

Education and Learning Themes.

The Education and Learning Open Grants Scheme is currently **only** accepting applications for work that is intended to address directly one or more of the following themes:

- Supplementary education;
- Tackling school exclusion and truancy;
- Developing speaking and listening skills for 11-19 year olds.

All applications must focus on achieving innovation and change in relation to one or more of the themes. The trustees are more interested in supporting radical approaches, which are likely to involve creativity and some risk-taking, rather than incremental innovation. Incremental innovation is only likely to be supported if the proposed work will lead to changes in practice or policy within the wider sector in which the applicant organisation operates.

The Foundation is also particularly interested in work that enables participants to actively shape the direction and delivery of the work and benefits people who live outside London

Specific guidelines.

1. Supplementary education.

The Foundation wants to support the work of supplementary schools, which they define as schools that operate on a part-time basis, led by voluntary sector organisations and with the active support of parents and the local community, primarily for the benefit of children and young people from Black and minority ethnic communities.

Activities should make a positive impact on young people's academic attainment, achievements, aspirations, life chances and/or their sense of wellbeing and belonging.

Grants **will not be given** to fund religious teaching or activities.

Applications are invited from supplementary schools themselves and from other types of not for profit organisations that will directly benefit supplementary schools. In recognition of the fact that it will be difficult for many small supplementary schools to achieve sector-wide impact, applications will be instead be judged against innovation criteria. In particular the trustees will be looking for work that addresses an issue that is of wider relevance to the supplementary school sector and for programmes of work that will benefit the wider sector in some way, perhaps by sharing new practices, experiences and learning with other supplementary schools or with mainstream schools.

2. Tackling school exclusion and truancy.

The Foundation wants to support activities that work in a preventative way to reduce the chances of children and young people considered most at risk from reaching the point of persistent absence or exclusion from school. These activities should aim to achieve, and expect to sustain, at least one of the following outcomes:

- Reduce the number of children and young people with persistently poor school attendance;
- Reduce the number of children and young people excluded from school.

It is particularly interested in:

- Work that supports, and results in, groups of schools changing their practices in a positive way;
- Targeted work where young people at potential risk of truancy/exclusion can be identified at an earlier stage of their school life and supported so that these outcomes are much less likely to occur;
- Work focusing on students in Key Stage 3 (aged 11-14).

3. Developing speaking and listening skills for 11-19 year olds.

The Foundation specifically wants to support activities taking place in or outside of school that develop the oral communication skills that all young people need to become effective, contributing members of society. These activities should encompass, at an appropriate stage, an explicit focus on speaking and listening skills so that participating young people are aware of subsets of skills and strategies that they have acquired or developed and how these are applicable to a wider range of situations and circumstances.

It is particularly interested in:

- Activities that develop, in realistic and ideally 'real world' contexts, the speaking and listening skills that will help young people to achieve at least one of the following outcomes: engage appropriately with the world of work; lead and contribute to positive change in their communities; resolve misunderstandings, tensions or conflict between groups in their communities.

- Inter-generational work that involves young people working with their families, carers and/or communities.

Whatever the theme, grants are unlikely to be given for the continuation or expansion of existing provision, unless there are significant elements of innovation and change, activities which primarily benefit the independent education sector, Websites, publications and seminars or market or academic research (unless part of a wider activity).

Grants **will not be given** for retrospective funding, general appeals, buying property, equipment or other capital items, or overseas activities, including travel, expeditions, adventure and residential courses.

Who can apply?

Applications are welcome for legally charitable activities from formally constituted organisations. This includes all types of not-for-profit organisation, not just registered charities, local authorities and public bodies.

What can you ask for?

Grants are made to fund specific activities, though core running costs, including staff salaries and overheads such as stationery, rent, rates and utilities within the full-cost recovery guidelines, can be included. But you must show how these sums have been calculated.

Very occasionally, core grants will be given.

There is no minimum or maximum grant size. The amount you request should be the amount you need. They are unlikely to fund 100% of the costs, but the Foundation normally expects that what you ask for will be a substantial part of the total required to fund a distinct activity or a substantial part of the work of your organisation.

In 2007-08 they made 51 grants within the Education and Learning Open Grants Scheme, with an average grant of £60,000 and a range from £5000 to £300,000.

Grants tend to be for up to three years, occasionally six years, but you must show how your work will develop over the period of the grant.

How to apply.

There are no closing dates. You will be advised of the dates at which decisions may be taken when your application is being processed. There is an online eligibility checker and if you pass that you will be able to make your initial outline application online too.

Full application details are available at www.phf.org.uk/page.asp?id=85. Or you can contact:

Faye Williams
Education and Learning Programme
Paul Hamlyn Foundation
18 Queen Anne's Gate
London
SW1H 9AA

Tel: 020 7227 3500.

Closing date: Applications dealt with as received.

UK-German Challenge Fund

We first featured the UK-German Challenge Fund when it was launched this time last year. The next application dates have been published so it's time for a quick update. The Fund supports schools, colleges or youth groups for language and non-language related activities that encourage young people to build links between the UK and Germany.

Background:

The Fund supports large and small projects of a curricular or non-curricular nature across a wide range of themes, including: Science and technology; Business and enterprise; Citizenship; Energy and the environment; Multimedia and ICT; Culture and the arts; Vocational skills. The funding can be used for activities such as: Project development and entrepreneurial activities; Development of new ideas, design, materials; Scientific explorations; Debating workshops; Workplace-related activities; Cultural events, exhibitions and productions; Community projects; Creation of Web pages or films; Blogging, reporting or song-writing etc.

Who can apply and for what?

Applications are invited from primary and secondary schools and FE colleges within the UK, and youth groups involving young people under the age of 25. Applications from Higher Education institutions are not eligible. Groups of schools and/or youth groups can also apply for joint projects. You must have made your link with the groups/schools in Germany before making your application.

Applications will be judged against:

- The amount of real collaboration between the young people involved;
- Concrete outcomes;
- The degree of involvement of the young people in project planning and management.

At least 5 young people must be involved from each participating group/school/college, and opportunities must exist for both the UK and German groups to travel and meet each other. Where possible the visits should involve young people who would otherwise not be able to take advantage of such an opportunity. The visits must be clearly related, part of the same project, and must occur within 8 months of each other.

A language-learning element within any project will be welcome, but it is not compulsory.

Grants will not be given for traditional language exchanges or trips with a tourist focus, nor can the money be used to supply teaching cover.

How much can you apply for?

The maximum grant will be £5000, but the grant will normally only cover 50% of costs (75% in exceptional circumstances). The amount given will depend on the numbers involved and the specifics of the project, with decisions made on a case-by-case basis.

The money can be used for:

- Project-related costs, materials and disseminating results;
- Travel, accommodation and subsistence for trips to Germany and to the UK.

How to apply.

Applications must be made by teachers, youth leaders or project co-ordinators on behalf of the groups or institutions taking part. You need to apply as soon as you are ready and at least four weeks before you plan to start your project.

More information.

Details and application forms are available at www.ukgermanconnection.org/microsites/?location_id=216 or by e-mailing Alison Kliche, UK-German School and Youth Links Officer, via alison.kliche@ukgermanconnection.org or contacting her on 020 7824 1572.

UK-German Connection Challenge Fund
34 Belgrave Square
London
SW1X 8QB

Closing date: The next closing date is 31 January 2009.

BBC Children in Need – Changes in application process

For some time BBC Children in Need has been working to improve the ways in which organisations such as yours can apply to us. We have consulted with applicants across the UK and listened carefully to what they have told us. We have responded by making some changes to our application processes that we believe will better meet your needs.

The most significant change is that for the first time we will now be open year-round for applications with four closing dates (15th of January, April, July and October). We are also aiming to deliver a significantly faster turn around time (just over three months), which we believe will be appreciated by the many of groups that apply to us. This change means that we will NOT have a deadline on 30 November 2008 **however** if you were anticipating applying then you will have some additional weeks to prepare your application and still receive a result in April 2009.

To ensure we can operate on a year round basis we know that we have to be as efficient as possible in all that we do. To support this we are aiming to be as paperless as we can in our processes ^ which will help us get the results of applications and funding out to you as quickly as possible. To enable this we will want all groups to apply through our website which contains a range of information and supporting documentation to guide you through the process: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey/grants/>

Social Entrepreneurs Fund — Scotland

The Scottish Government has made £1 million available over the next two years to finance a Social Entrepreneurs Fund in Scotland. It will be managed by Firstport, an advice and support service for social entrepreneurs in Scotland. The Fund will open in March 2009 and will be available to individuals who want to set up a new business with a social purpose. Awards will range from £500 to £20,000 and the scheme will run alongside the Lottery-funded UnLtd programme in Scotland, which Firstport also manages.

Background.

The Fund will run between March 2009 and March 2011, with £500,000 available in each of the two years. Funding will be aimed at individuals and there will be three support levels. It is anticipated that around 200 awards will be made overall.

The Fund will focus on two main issues.

The first is enabling the growth of social businesses that will achieve one or more of the 15 National Outcomes described by the Scottish Government as part of its 'golden rules' for the growth of a stable and cohesive society. They are:

- Making Scotland the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.
- Realising full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for Scotland's people.
- A better educated, more skilled and more successful country renowned for its research and innovation.
- Scotland's young people being successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- Giving children the best start in life so they are ready to succeed.
- Living longer, healthier lives.
- Tackling the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
- Improving the life chances for children, young people and families at risk.
- Lives safe from crime, disorder and danger.
- Living in well-designed, sustainable places where Scots are able to access the amenities and services they need.
- Strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
- Valuing and enjoying the built and natural environment and protecting it and enhancing it for future generations.
- Taking pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.
- Reducing the local and global environmental impact of consumption and production.
- Public services of high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

The second issue will be to focus on capacity development rather than project funding. This means increasing the turnover of the social economy and reducing long-term dependence on grants.

Who can apply?

Applications will be welcome from individuals living in Scotland with:

- A business idea with a clear social benefit;
- Thoughts about how such a business would be run;
- Evidence of need and sustainability for the business;
- The drive and vision to take the idea forward.

Applications **will not be accepted** from established social enterprise organisations, individuals at risk from insolvency, organisations wanting to establish infrastructure support, proposals that could normally be expected to get commercial finance, or for business ideas where the beneficiaries will live outside Scotland.

What can you apply for?

There are three support levels and each is tailored to a specific type of applicant:

- Award stage 0, the Concept stage, will offer awards up to £500 for very early stage activities like legal fees, feasibility and marketing studies etc. 30 such awards will be made each year.
- Award stage 1, the Feasibility stage, will offer awards up to £5000 to cover the cost of testing out new ideas, such as marketing, equipment purchase, or travel. 50 such awards will be made each year.
- Award stage 2, the Implementation stage, will offer up to £20,000 to cover the cost of the individual's time/salary or equivalent. 12 such awards will be made each year.

All award winners will also get other forms of business support.

When can you apply?

No applications will be accepted until 1 March 2009. From that point the application process will be:

- Level 0 applications accepted at any time, an application form will be available.
- Level 1 applications invited during a series of 'application windows'. Assessment will be based on an application form and the drive of the applicant.
- Level 2 applications requiring a full business plan, and there will be a series of 'application windows'.

Details.

The Social Entrepreneurs Fund strategy document is available at http://firstport.org.uk/exchange?show_category_id=76. You can also call them on 0131 220 0511 or e-mail info@firstport.org.uk.

Closing date: Details of the 'application windows' will be available after 1 March 2009.

The Bridges Social Entrepreneurs Fund

A substantial new fund has been launched to support socially entrepreneurial projects within the UK. Called the Bridges Social Entrepreneurs Fund, £4.25 million has already been raised to invest in existing social enterprises delivering high social impacts and operating sustainable business models that are looking to scale up their activities. Applicants can seek up to £1 million of equity-like capital.

Background.

The Bridges Social Entrepreneurs Fund has been set up by the Bridges Charitable Trust. It will be managed by Bridges Ventures and Anthony Ross, one of the five Executive Directors of Bridges Ventures. He will be assisted by Skye Elliott who has joined Bridges Ventures as an investment executive for the new fund.

Bridges Ventures is a fund management company that combines commercial expertise with a social mission, where returns are reinvested to achieve social or environmental aims. Bridges Ventures is chaired by Sir Ronald Cohen, co-founder and former chairman of Apax Partners. It already manages two social funds: the CDV Fund 1 raised over £40 million and the CDV Fund II over £75 million. Bridges Ventures set up the Bridges Charitable Trust to underline the social mission of the organisation and 10% of the profits made by the Bridges team go to the trust.

The Social Entrepreneurs Fund has raised money from a variety of sources and continues to do so. Amongst the backers are the Lottery distributor NESTA, the Apax Foundation, The Generation Foundation, Lehman Brothers Foundation Europe, Deutsche Bank, 3i, Sir Ronald Cohen, Nigel Doughty and Harvey McGrath, chair of Prudential.

NESTA's involvement marks the first step of its own three-year plan to develop its involvement in social enterprise through new funds, research and campaigning. (For details look at www.nesta.org.uk/social-finance/).

All investments by the Fund will be made on a commercial basis, but the returns will be reinvested in the Fund.

The aims of the Fund.

The Bridges Social Entrepreneurs Fund will invest in social enterprises that have:

- A clear social mission;

- A robust business model;
- The ability to grow in scale and increase their social impact;
- A financially sustainable model where the enterprise already has, or will have the potential to, become sustainable without grants;
- The ability to generate surpluses to repay the financing;
- A strong management team.

Up to £1 million will be available for each investment, and as well as the cash the funded enterprises will have access to consulting advice from the Monitor Group.

More information and how to apply.

Details are available at www.bridgesventures.com/investment_soc_entre.php where you will also find a link to the must-read document *Equity-like Capital for Social Ventures*, a 2005 report published by Bridges Ventures based on its research into, and experience of, the need for equity investment in social enterprise.

There are several ways to approach the Fund:

- You can contact Anthony Ross on 020 7298 0189 or e-mail anthony@bridgesventures.com, or you can call Skye Elliott on 020 7298 0182 or e-mail skye@bridgesventures.com.
- You can access an online application form via the information page at www.bridgesventures.com/investment_soc_entre.php.

Closing date: Applications are dealt with as received

Consultations

Big Lottery Fund On-line Consultation

Yesterday saw the launch of Big thinking, the consultation on the Big Lottery Fund strategic framework for 2009 – 2015.

Central to the public consultation will be **ten 'BIG Questions'** plus specific questions to reflect the individual priorities of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Questions include:-

- Do you agree we should have a greater focus in our funding to benefit those most in need?
- **After 2012, when our 60-70 per cent undertaking ends, should we continue to guarantee a percentage of our funding to the voluntary and community sector?**
- How can BIG best help build lasting partnerships and networks that support communities and people most in need?
- Are there opportunities for joint funding that BIG should take up?
- Do you agree that the theme of isolation provides a useful starting point for our funding?

This is your opportunity to tell the Big Lottery Fund what you think and help them decide where Lottery money can make the biggest impact .

The discussion will take place at www.big-thinking.org.uk from 17 November 2008 – 27 February 2009.