

What is a Social Enterprise?

Social Enterprise is the concept of community groups, charities and groups of volunteers as social providers utilising their social capital to generate income through some of their activities. This income helps organisations to obtain further funding and contribute towards a more self sustained approach, or **social enterprises**.

(We define Social Capital as the attitude spirit and willingness of people to engage in collective and civic activities, which over time builds a social infrastructure).

Background:

This programme has been funded by the East Midlands Development Agency **through the Welland Sub-Regional Strategic Partnership (SSP)** to help communities work towards creating an enterprising dynamic society, fair and diverse, and accounting for differences within rural communities

The Social Capital Small Grants Programme has been designed to support community groups that wish to become social enterprises and require some assistance to fulfil this aspiration.

Support will also be provided to community groups that wish to be more independent from grants and conventional sources of funding.

Organisations that are looking to work in partnership with other agents, providing added value to the community through economic, social and environmental well-being are encouraged to apply to the programme.

Safer, inclusive and environmentally sustainable communities are the overarching aims of this scheme.

It is expected that by the end of 2005 Communities of Interest Companies would be a new type of organisation which could apply to the Social Capital Small Grants Programme (full details not yet available).

Who can apply?

Existing social enterprises that are looking to expand their trading, through innovative and diverse income generating activities

- Existing community groups that wish to become social enterprises
- Existing charities that are looking for funds to become economically more independent from grant aid schemes and to improve the service provided to their communities
- New community groups looking for funding that would allow them to generate income to support schemes that would benefit their local community
- Youth groups looking for funds that will allow them to generate revenue to support their services (innovative approaches to existing problems would be welcome)
- Parish councils looking for funds that would allow them to generate income to support their communities and to become less dependent on grant aid sources of funding
- Community groups, charities and social enterprises that are working in partnerships with other like-minded organisations to maximise funding potential, benefit wider sectors of the society and any organisation wanting to become less dependant on grant aid



Mobility project within grouped old people's dwellings



Redundant farm buildings are being converted to a range of office workspace units, heated by wood fuel!

What can you apply for?

Activities that are conceived, developed and delivered by the community would be able to apply to the Social Capital Small Grants Programme

Some examples:

- To purchase equipment that would help you to secure further funding, generating income by the use of the equipment or by securing further funding based on the creation of assets derived from the purchase
- Starting a service (not provided by statutory funding streams that would help the local community – eg. caring for discharged patients that require some help with their domestic duties, transport service to housebound people, disabled and/or without appropriate transport to cover their needs by taking them to doctors, shopping etc).
- Leisure Trust and sports activities that could have a significant influence in the local community by reducing crime, improving social inclusion and helping to develop or unlock social capital.
- Rural transport initiatives that are not currently supported by other programmes and which could help to lift individuals from isolation, improve environmental conditions by reducing private transport and help to improve social cohesion and economic development.

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