



About the Our Place programme

The Our Place programme aims to help the following five communities, where the Big Lottery Fund wants to invest more money:

- Bellsmyre, West Dunbartonshire
- Moorpark, Renfrewshire
- Newmains, North Lanarkshire
- Roystonhill, Glasgow
- Greenock Town Centre and East, Inverclyde.

We want to support these communities to develop projects that will address key issues and needs in their area. We would like our funding to help deliver a shared vision for the communities' futures and we are offering grants of between £10,000 and £1 million to provide long term support to help realise those visions.

This is a new approach from the Big Lottery Fund to funding in Scotland which we hope will make a real difference in areas with high levels of need.

The Our Place programme has the following outcomes:

- Local areas better identify their needs and have a shared vision for the future
- Local organisations have increased capacity to develop and run projects which make a difference
- Local people have services and facilities that meet their needs and matter to them

For more information on the Our Place programme please refer to the programme guidance notes, available from our website at www.biglotteryfund.org.uk

Why a community vision?

Our Place is an investment in long term positive change. Your vision statement should tell us what you want to achieve in your community and where you want to get to in the future. Developing a vision will help you identify what your community needs and the type of projects that would help you meet these needs. Once you have an agreed and supported vision in place, your community has to agree on a package of projects that Our Place can consider to help deliver this vision. This package should be made up of individual projects that each fit with the vision statement. Taken together these projects should collectively meet the needs identified in the community.

Your community vision will also help BIG to understand the context for the project ideas you present to us. We think that it's important that you understand what you need in your community, why things haven't improved or changed before and what it might take to change for the better. If you are able to agree this as a community from the beginning we think you have a better chance at success and achieving long term benefits for you and your community.

How you might develop a community vision

Your community vision should be the result of a series of meetings and events held with a wide range of local residents, organisations and other stakeholders. You may also want to look outside your area, and see what other communities have done to address local issues. You might already have a vision for your area but we would expect you to look at this again to ensure that everyone gets a chance to contribute to it.

BIG is able to help communities to come together to develop a shared vision for their area and has appointed contractors in each community to assist you with the development and submission of your community vision statement. Community Enterprise in Scotland will work in Renfrew, Roystonhill and Greenock Town Centre and

East, Community Renewal will work in Bellsmyre and EKOS and the Coalfield Regeneration Trust will work together in Newmains.

These organisations will help people to get involved in the Our Place process. We expect that your community will identify a range of issues and needs and they will help you prioritise these. They will also help groups to develop their ideas into projects and work with communities to agree the best way to take decisions on what projects to include in their package. For more information on choosing a package of projects for your area please refer to the Our Place guidance notes.

Your vision statement

Your community vision statement should be submitted to the Big Lottery Fund by 20 August 2010. We will discuss your vision statement with you and how the Our Place programme can best deliver the vision by the end of August 2010.

You should use the vision statement to identify and develop a package of Stage One applications for your community, which should be submitted to the Big Lottery Fund by 1 November 2010 (please refer to the Our Place guidance notes).

We would expect your vision statement to be supported by some further information or evidence, and to be around four to five pages in length. It could be illustrated using a variety of other formats, such as videos, photos or social media.

What you should tell us in your vision statement

1. Tell us what makes up your community, for example, who is in your community, what are their needs and what existing local services and facilities do they have?
2. Describe the challenges and opportunities in your community. Tell us if there are any barriers to making the most of your community, for example, does anything stop people from coming together to improve your community? Or if you have tried to improve things before and it hasn't worked, why don't you think things get better?
3. What things would you like to improve in your community over the next five years? What would make your community feel better about its services, environment and facilities?
4. How would you achieve these changes? For example, what services, activities or projects would deliver the vision?
5. Which of these services, activities or projects would best fit with the Our Place programme?
6. Which of these services, activities, or projects could be delivered by other means?