



Email bulletin (3) – 6 November 2007

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**Don't forget – up to date funding news can be found at**

**[www.freefundingupdate.net](http://www.freefundingupdate.net)**

**Dormant Bank and Building Society Accounts Bill**

This Bill will enable unclaimed assets to be invested for community purposes, whilst ensuring the rights of owners to be reunited with their assets are protected.

The money will be reinvested in communities via the BIG lottery fund. In England initial spending will be on youth services, financial capability and inclusion and, resources permitting, a social investment 'wholesaler'.

Think youth groups, CAB's and Credit Unions, and some sort of Investment body like Adventure Capital Fund and Future Builders.

Unclaimed assets are defined as broadly covering all bank and building society accounts where there has been no customer-initiated activity for 15 years.

For more info keep watching [www.freefundingupdate.net](http://www.freefundingupdate.net)

**Community funding initiative launched to give boost to transport enterprises**

Social Enterprise Big Issue Invest has launched a joint initiative with the Community Transport Association to help expanding community transport enterprises.

The logo features three overlapping curved lines in blue, green, and red, with a blue arrow pointing to the right. 

## Free Funding Update

The partnership will create a new fund to help transport groups buy their own vehicles when they have secured government contracts. A local transport bill was announced in last week's Queen's Speech which included proposals to encourage the use of community transport organisations and would allow community groups to employ waged drivers instead of relying on volunteers.

For many CT groups, now is the time to start thinking with a different mind set. Having stable contracts, which create a surplus, will give you the opportunity to develop services for the people in your communities that really need them and you really want to provide. Don't think – lets do this now, think about where you want to be in 3 – 5 years time..

<http://www.biginvest.co.uk/index-2.html>

### ***Breathing Places***

This UK wide small grants programme has been developed in partnership with the BBC. It complements the BBC's Breathing Places campaign by giving funding for small groups. This is Phase 3 of the programme which opened for applications on 12 November 2007.

The aim of phase 3 of the programme is to:

- increase the number and range of people making use of, and helping to develop and maintain, breathing places, and
- make a lasting improvement to the natural environment of new and existing breathing places.

The overall programme for breathing places aims to:

- Develop the natural environment by encouraging plant life and animals
- Make more and better use of the breathing places by people in the local community.
- Get people in the local community to be more engaged in developing and maintaining breathing places.

A breathing place is a green space that benefits wildlife and the local community. It may be a local woodland, roadsides, parks, local nature reserves or wildlife areas, ponds, green corridors and wildflower meadows.

Voluntary and community groups, schools, statutory health bodies, parish councils in England, community councils in Scotland and Wales, district councils in Northern Ireland and town councils are able to apply.

Completed applications for phase 3 must be received no later than noon on **Friday 18 January 2008**.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathingplaces>

[http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_breathingplaces](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_breathingplaces)



## **HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) grants to the third sector**

HMRC are in the second year of their multi year funding commitment which aims to enable voluntary organisations to deliver outcomes which meet HMRC Objectives. These are:

- Helping significantly more hard to reach and vulnerable customers to get the right entitlements and pay the right amount of tax
- Improving the customer experience for those hard to reach and vulnerable customers
- Helping HMRC to gain a better understanding of those customers who use the third sector
- Helping HMRC to identify and reduce barriers to our hard to reach and vulnerable customers getting the right entitlements, paying the right amount of tax and having a customer experience that encourages direct contact with HMRC.

In 2007, HMRC made available £2 million per annum for the next three financial years aimed at funding VCO's. These funds aimed to help with the costs of activities which contributed to HMRC key aims, outcomes and priorities. In 2007/08 they made 47 awards, 11 of which were for multi year funded projects.

From 2008/09 HMRC are widening the scope of their funding programme to include third sector organisations (TSOs), encompassing VCO's, charities, social enterprises, cooperatives and mutuals both large and small.

HMRC has now committed to £2m for 2010/11 therefore the funding available taking out the funds we have already committed will be as follows:

- £1.5 million for 2008/09
- £1.75 million for 2009/10
- £2 million for 2010/11

As a guide they expect bids to fall in the following three funding brackets:

- Up to around £20,000 – from locally based or smaller organisations.
- Up to around £80,000 – for more significant projects involving work on a wider geographical scale.
- Up to around £250,000 – for a major programme of work on a National scale.

**For full details of HMRC's strategy for working with the third sector and details of how to apply for grants go to:**

**<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/vcs/strategy-for-working.htm>**

## **Major increase in work to tackle violent extremism**

Government work to support communities to confront and isolate violent extremism. The Department of Communities and Local Government will invest £70million in stepping up work to build resilience to violent extremism.

"Tackling violent extremism must be a shared endeavour where central and local government, police, voluntary organisations and communities themselves need to be bolder in tackling this issue. People must be equipped with the skills and strength to withstand the messages of extremists preaching division and hatred." Hazel Blears

Around £25million will be invested in national schemes to support communities directly including:

- Equipping faith leaders with the skills and understanding required to lead communities, building their capacity to engage with young people on the challenges they face, including extremism.
- Support communities to broaden the provision of citizenship education in mosque schools, equipping young people themselves with the understanding and arguments to reject extremists' messages;
- Developing new minimum standards for public institutions (e.g. prisons, universities) engaging imams working with young or vulnerable people;
- Supporting the Charity Commission's work to improve governance standards in faith institutions, including mosques;
- Increase the provision of leadership training available to Muslim communities, particularly women and young people.

£45m will be available over the next three years for work at a local level.

The priorities for this work include:

- a greater focus on teenagers and young people building their resilience to extremists' messages and giving them the strength and skills to face down the voices of division in later life;
- more projects that reach out to young people (16-35 year olds) - particularly the disaffected - such as mentoring or peer-support programmes;
- Internet based projects to provide platforms for engaging young Muslims and fostering tolerance and understanding;
- more work to support and empower grassroots communities to play a leading role. This includes a major expansion in the work with Muslim women and



- young people, building their capacity to shape their communities and to engage with disaffected groups.

For more information and developments

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/preventingextremism>

**Don't forget news is added on a daily basis at**

**[www.freefundingupdate.net](http://www.freefundingupdate.net)**