

# Big Local programme overview

## What is Big Local?

Big Local is a ten-year programme that will achieve lasting change in 150 areas around England. It will provide a mixture of funding, finance and support. This will enable local people to build on local talents and aspirations and identify and act on their own needs to make their areas better places to live, now and in the future.

## Who is running Big Local?

The Community Development Foundation (CDF) is leading a consortium to set up a new independent organisation to run Big Local. While that is happening, CDF with its partners will be delivering the first stages of Big Local.

## How much money is available through Big Local and how can local areas use it?

At least £1 million is available to each area. The money is available through the Big Local Trust, a new independent charitable trust that the Big Lottery Fund will endow with £200 million.

Big Local is not just a grants programme, local areas can also use the funds to make social investments such as personal loans, micro finance, small business and civil society loans or the commissioning of services. This means that some of the money distributed in each area can come back to Big Local and be reused in the local area again.

## What will Big Local look like in local areas?

Local communities will drive Big Local in their area. The programme will support, challenge, train and encourage people to develop and take ownership of Big Local in their area. There will be a unique programme of activity in each area based on local needs but sharing the Big Local outcomes.

Big Local will support communities to identify issues, plan and develop solutions. This will provide a sustainable approach to long-term issues and ultimately create better places to live.

In Big Local areas, the programme aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Communities will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them.
- People will have increased skills and confidence so that they can continue to identify and respond to local needs in the future.
- The community will make a difference to the needs it prioritises.
- People will feel that their area is a better place to live.



## How will Big Local work with each local area over the ten years?

Big Local will support communities in each of the local areas to run the programme themselves so that it is community driven, responds to local needs and builds on local strengths. Each local area will follow a staged process in order to do this. We refer to this as the Big local pathway and the stages are briefly illustrated below.

### *1. Getting people involved and understanding how Big Local will work with your area*

The first stage is to spread the word about Big Local and make sure local people know how they can get involved. This might include creating marketing and publicity material about Big Local, creating networks of community members to spread the word about Big Local, identifying initiatives that have worked before in the area and identifying individuals and organisations who might be interested in playing a role in Big Local.

### *2. Exploring community visions for the future of the area*

This stage is about thinking about and discussing how the area might change for the better in the future. What do people like about the area? What do people want to change? What would people like to build on? A wide range of community members and groups should be engaged about their views and wishes for the area. This could include young people, elderly, community groups, residents, black and minority ethnic residents or groups or faith groups. It could also include local businesses, the Local Authority and statutory services. At this stage, not everyone's vision will be the same and the idea is not to arrive at a shared community vision yet but to engage a wide range of people and groups about their hopes for the future of the area.

### *3. Creating a local partnership to deliver Big Local in the area*

Once community visions have been collected from a wide range of people in the community the next stage is to create a local partnership. The role of the local partnership will be to support inclusive and continuous community participation with a diverse range of organisations and community members. The local partnership will include a representative mix of residents and representatives of local agencies with the best skill set to meet the needs of the local area. The local partnership will be majority resident in membership. Membership of the local partnership will change over time in response to local needs and it will be reviewed at least annually.

### *4. Developing a plan to achieve the community vision*

The first thing to do is to move from a range of community visions to a shared long term vision for the local area as communities will create a long-term plan based on their vision. Each plan will be different and unique to each local area. The plan will provide community-wide benefit, respond to local needs and priorities and meet the outcomes of Big Local. The plan will include a long term vision statement based on community visions previously collected. It will set out clear aims, objectives, actions and indicators and a series of clear and attainable outcomes for short medium and long-term change in the area. It will include a plan of how to best use the funds available, through grants, social investment or service procurement, to achieve the community vision and outcomes.

### *5. Implementing the community plan*

The next stage in the process is to begin delivering a range of activities to help achieve the outcomes set out in the community plan. Delivery activities might include a grants programme within the local area, social investments such as personal loans, micro finance, small business and civil society loans or the commissioning of services.

Local partnerships will decide whether there is a suitable local trusted organisation they wish to nominate and endorse to deliver their funding (grants or loans) or if they wish that to be done centrally.

## 6. Assessing impact

Big Local wants to ensure that the programme and local areas are able to learn and adapt from their activities and feed this into the review of future activity. For Big Local assessing impact is about more than counting outputs, but looking for how investments in people and organisations are producing meaningful outcomes in communities and local areas. Opportunities for networking and shared learning will support this. Local partnerships will submit reports indicating progress, key activities, accomplishments and the status of any funding distributed. Monitoring and reporting mechanisms will provide for self-evaluation and guided reflection to ensure that local areas make progress towards the outcomes in their community plans.

## 7. Reviewing the community plan and local partnership

The local partnership and community plan will be reviewed annually. The impact assessment will be used to ensure open, critical reflection on how the local partnership is working to achieve the outcomes set out in the community plan. The review will check whether the community plan remains relevant and continues to address the local area's identified priorities is meeting Big Local outcomes.

## What support can local areas get in this process?

### Getting People Involved funding

The first 50 areas selected for the programme can apply for a total of £30,000 to make sure they are well placed to get the most out of Big Local. Some areas have already received some of this money through Getting People Involved Round 1 which was administered by the Big Lottery Fund.

The first 50 areas will be able to apply for the rest of this money through Getting People Involved Round 2. The Community Development Foundation will be administering Getting People Involved Round 2 and those activities will feed into Big Local. We hope information about applying for Getting people Involved Round 2 Funding will be available in July. We will contact local areas about this directly.

### Big Local representatives

At the beginning of the programme, or before areas apply for Getting People Involved Round 2, a Big Local representative will be allocated to each area. The Big Local representative will support areas through the initial stages of understanding the programme, community visioning and creating a local partnership.

### Big Local facilitators

Once the local area has formed a local partnership we will work with the partnership to select a Big Local facilitator who work with the partnership through the next stages. The Big Local facilitator will act as a mentor, critical friend and expert advisor for the partnership. They will provide a support and challenge role in order to ensure that in every area Big Local features:

- Continuous, inclusive, thoughtful involvement of local people
- Local partnerships that are accountable to local people



- Maximising, long term, inclusive benefit
- Shared learning and capacity building
- Flexible and realistic planning
- Is additional to public money

## *Star people*

Alongside supporting the local partnership in each area we will support the development of community entrepreneurs – star people. Star people are individuals who are enabled through cash awards, networks and support to develop solutions that meet needs within the local area. We will support star people to work in the community and alongside the local partnerships.

## *Networking and sharing learning*

Through digital communication, networking and events we will ensure that local areas are able to learn from each others experiences and share learning and knowledge about what works across and between areas. Big local will collate this learning and provide a national voice, enabling an impact on issues that are common to local areas.

## *Menu of support*

In addition to the support provided directly by facilitators, areas will also be able to access a menu of support which will include a range of services that they might require. We will signpost areas to other organisations, websites or people who can provide support, learning or services on a range of topics that might be needed in the local area.

## *Fundraising*

We will make links with other funders and encourage further investment in local areas. We will support local areas in maximising the impact of the funds available through the Big Local Trust by helping local partnerships build relationships with local funders to encourage match funding.

## *What is CDF doing now?*

Now that the Big Lottery Fund have approved our proposals, CDF has received a 3 month start up grant from the Big Lottery Fund to work with partners to:

- establish the new organisation that will manage the Big Local Trust
- run Getting People Involved Round 2
- work with the first 50 local areas to start the Big Local programme.

CDF has a dedicated staff team working on this, led by Debbie Ladds and we look forward to working with people in the first 50 local areas, and others on this exciting opportunity.

If you want to find out more about what we are doing please do contact us on 0207 812 1573, at [biglocal@cdf.org.uk](mailto:biglocal@cdf.org.uk), or visit [www.cdf.org.uk/biglocal](http://www.cdf.org.uk/biglocal)

27 July 2011