



# Power to Change Learning Grant

Introduction for grantees

Welcome to the Power to Change Learning Grant programme. Firstly, congratulations on your grant award! We are looking forward to working with you and learning more about your neighbourhood and the opportunities there for place-based work and community business.

This document lays out key information for the duration of the grant.

Below, you will find:

1. **About this programme**
2. **Power to Change visit**
3. **Key dates**
4. **Programme support overview**
5. **Partner roles and contact information**
6. **Press release guidance**

## 1. About this programme

The Learning Grant aims to give you the capacity to deepen your understanding of your community – the local issues and the potential for community business to address those issues – through the activities outlined in your application. This learning will also help us to understand the challenges that individual areas face and how we could support communities to find solutions to them.

### What is a community business?

Community businesses are helping tackle disadvantage by creating socially stronger communities. We have identified four key signs of a community business:

- Locally rooted
- Accountable to the local community
- Trading for the benefit of local people and
- With a broad community impact

### Outcome and outputs

At the end of the grant period we expect you to have learnt more about your community, its needs and assets and the potential for community business within it.

The programme will culminate in a presentation which we would expect to include an overview of:

- Your neighbourhood
- Any particular themes or (objectives/sectors/challenges) that you have focused on
- The nature and strength of any valuable partnerships in place
- Key deliverables together with quantitative and qualitative evidence/results
- Explanation of the foundations of community action in your neighbourhood
- The Community Business opportunities that have the potential to benefit your community – what challenges might they address?
- Based on what you have learnt, how place-based work could impact your community in the future



## **2. Power to Change visit**

Within the first six weeks of the grant period a member of Power to Change staff will visit you to learn more about your organisation, your community and the work you are undertaking through the grant. This will provide us with an opportunity to get to know you and allow you to ask us any questions about the grant and Power to Change's wider work.

We will be in touch to schedule your visit.

## **3. Key dates**

- 16 January 2017 – Programme delivery starts
- 28 February & 1 March 2017 – Learning Event (Liverpool)
- 7 April 2017 – Programme delivery ends
- 24 & 27 April 2017 – Sharing Event (location tbc)

## **4. Programme support overview**

Throughout the grant period there will be a support programme including a Learning Event at the end of February, presentation support and a Sharing Event in April 2017 where we will hear from each organisation or 'local catalyst' about how locally focused funding could make a difference to their neighbourhood.

### **16 Jan – 7 April Presentation support**

A specialist will help you to develop your presentation. This support will be delivered throughout the duration of the grant period with a combination of face-to-face and online support. Our presentation support partner, Amery Brothers, will be in contact with you soon to provide more information and arrange a first visit.

### **28 Feb – 1 Mar Learning Event**

One or two people from your delivery team will be expected to attend an event 28 February and 1 March in Liverpool. Travel and expenses will be covered. At the event you will meet the Power to Change team, leading place-based practitioners, other local catalyst organisations and a number of speakers to share learning and ideas. Our event delivery partner, Homebaked, will be in contact with more details shortly.

### **16 Jan – 27 Feb Power to Change visit**

One of our team will visit you to get to know your neighbourhood and answer any questions

### **24/27 Apr Sharing Event**

You will present your findings to Power to Change at an event on either 24 or 27 April (at this stage please ensure you keep both dates free, we will confirm which you will be expected to attend in the coming weeks)

## **5. Partner roles and contact information**

- **Grant Administration Partner**

BE Group will be supporting the delivery of the programme as the Grant Administration Partner, all payment requests and any queries about the financial and administrative aspects of the grant should be directed to The Service and investment Team.

Tel: 0191 389 8434



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Email: [power.tochange@be-group.co.uk](mailto:power.tochange@be-group.co.uk). Please ensure you include Places Learning Grant in the email subject.

- **Learning Event**

[Homebaked](#) is a community land trust and co-operatively run bakery in Anfield, Liverpool. As residents and stakeholders in the area the group is developing a community-owned high street, including shops, housing and green space just opposite the Anfield Stadium. As part of their process Homebaked has developed and tested engaging and exciting formats of learning, participation and business development and will share their knowledge of setting up a successful community business as organisers and facilitators of the learning event.

The two-day learning event, hosted at inspiring social enterprises and community-led businesses in Liverpool will be a great opportunity for all Learning Grant organisations to meet each other, share knowledge and experiences and find time to focus their ideas. They will be supported by what we call 'critical friends' - people who have been involved in setting up and leading community-businesses and will share their stories, expertise and challenges. And of course there will be time to celebrate with great food, music and company.

contact: [learning@homebaked.org.uk](mailto:learning@homebaked.org.uk)

- **Presentation support**

[Amery Brothers](#) is providing presentation support throughout the grant period. Their advisors will work with each of you to develop an engaging presentation covering what you have learnt through the grant and opportunities for the future. They will be in touch with you shortly to arrange a kick-off, but do feel free to get in touch at any time.

Will – [will.evans@amerybrothers.co.uk](mailto:will.evans@amerybrothers.co.uk)

Nick – [nick@amerybrothers.co.uk](mailto:nick@amerybrothers.co.uk)

- **Power to Change**

Power to Change will provide support and guidance throughout the course of the programme. If you have any general queries or would like some guidance on the programme, please contact [places@thepowertochange.org.uk](mailto:places@thepowertochange.org.uk).

## **6. Press release guidance**

### **Introduction**

If you have been informed that you have won a learning grant from Power to Change then these guidelines will help you describe and celebrate that, whether in a press release, social media or event. It is not obligatory for you to make an announcement but it may help gain profile and momentum for your organisation over the next twelve weeks. You do not have to use the wording below in its entirety but if you do speak about the grant we would like you to use the terms below. Power to Change itself will not be making an announcement about the learning grants at this stage.



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### Logos

You will find [guidelines](#) and [logos](#) here should you wish to use them on your announcement or your website. The stationery and website page you use should make it clear that this announcement is coming from your organisation, not from Power to Change.

### Wording

Here are a series of short paragraphs you can call upon for your announcement:

‘Today it was announced that [insert name of organisation] have won a £10,000 learning grant from Power to Change to find out more about how community businesses can thrive in [insert name of town/neighbourhood]’.

‘Power to Change is an independent charitable trust endowed with £150 million from the Big Lottery Fund to grow the community business sector in England. They are seeking a series of ‘local catalysts’ in a selection of places across the country in order to understand the challenges that individual areas are facing and how the community business model can help in finding solutions to those issues.’

‘A community business is a business set up and led by the community that helps tackle problems in that area. It uses profits to make the local area a better place to live, work and visit. Examples include communities coming together to save local shops from closure; to set up a community hub to provide places for people to meet, or developing a community led housing project to help regenerate local areas. There are more than 7,000 community businesses across England and they grew in number by 5% in 2016.’

“We strongly believe that places become better places when community businesses thrive there”, said Sophie Macken, Programme Manager at Power to Change. “We are delighted that [insert name of organisation] have applied for and won a learning grant to help us understand better how that will work in reality in [insert name of place]. Power to Change will be holding a learning event in February when [insert name of organisation] and other ‘local catalyst’ organisations will come together to share their experiences with each other and with us.”

If there are known community businesses in your area we would welcome you referring to them to bring the story to life but please check in with us first if you are unsure whether they fit our definition.