



power to
change

business in
community
hands



LOTTERY FUNDED

The Sandbox Ideas Programme application guidance

Ideas with potential to grow and develop the community business sector



About Power to Change

Power to Change is an independent trust set up in 2015 to support community businesses in England over ten years.

No one understands a community better than the people who live there. In some areas, people are already coming together to solve problems for themselves, and we support them as they run businesses which help their whole community and recycle money back into the local area. Community businesses revive local assets, protect the services people rely on, and address local needs.

There are over 7,000 community businesses in England and the sector is growing faster than charities and small businesses.

Power to Change's overarching aim is to create better places through community business. Through funding programmes, we help local people start and run businesses together to benefit their community,

Through research, we help community businesses become more effective and influential in their area. And through communications, we help community businesses tell their story and get more people to understand and get involved.



If you require this guidance to be sent to you in large print, braille or an audio transcript, please get in touch by email charlottec@powertochange.org.uk

About The Sandbox Ideas Programme

The Sandbox Ideas Programme is a small fund for ideas which have real potential to grow and develop the community business sector, and that aren't eligible for funding through our other programmes.

All submissions proposed to the Sandbox Ideas Programme must have a charitable purpose which aligns with Power to Change's charitable purpose and must be able to demonstrate relevance to Power to Change's mission.

The programme will provide successful applicants with up to £50,000 to deliver activities over a maximum of one year. We anticipate an average grant across the entire fund of £25,000.

You have received this guidance as you have an idea which may be suitable to apply for The Sandbox Ideas Programme. The application process is detailed below. There is no guarantee that this interest will translate into either a progressed application or to any funding. All ideas proposed for application will need to have two Power to Change staff sponsors. Applications are received on a rolling basis throughout the year with a brief application form and a video describing your idea.

Unsolicited applications should send a 200 word expression of interest outlining the idea, how it will further the community business market and how it falls outside of existing Power to Change programmes. This should be sent to sandbox@powertochange.org.uk

Funding criteria

To be eligible for the Sandbox Ideas Programme your idea and/or organisation must meet the following criteria. Your sponsors will discuss this with you to ensure you meet the minimum eligibility criteria to progress to the next stage of application.

We will accept applications that:

- **Are no more than £50,000 over a maximum of one year. We expect an average of £25,000 per successful applicant**
- **Are not eligible for any of our other funding programmes**
- **Are not for core funding**
- **Are not for research or scoping studies that relate to an existing programme**
- **Seek to address an issue/challenge or respond to an opportunity within the community business sector which Power to Change is not currently addressing or responding to**
- **Have charitable purpose**
- **Will contribute towards Power to Change's charitable purpose**
- **Can demonstrate a clear link to developing the community business market, i.e. are relevant to Power to Change**
- **Contributes to at least one of Power to Change's strategic goals**



Application Process

There is a three-stage application process

1. Idea submission

Submit a 200 word expression of interest (EOI), outlining your idea, how it will further the community business market and how it falls outside of existing Power to Change programmes. Send the EOI to a member of Power to Change staff, or if you're not in touch with a member of the team already, send the EOI by email to: sandbox@powertochange.org.uk

2. Applicant call

The two Power to Change sponsors and the Sandbox Ideas Programme Manager will have a call with you to review your Expression of Interest, discuss the idea and decide whether it fits the programme criteria.

A decision on whether or not to progress will be made following the call.

3. Executive Grants Committee application

If the decision is made to progress the application the sponsors will share an application form with you. You will need to complete the relevant sections of the application form, and the sponsors from Power to Change will complete their section. You will then return the form to your sponsors and the Sandbox Ideas Programme Manager, along with the required accompanying documents.

The detail included in the application form and the accompanying documents will form the basis of due diligence assessments conducted by our Grants Administration Partner. The presentation to our Executive Grants Committee will be a video application, we request that you submit a 3 minute video application, which will be presented by your sponsors at the Executive Grants Committee (for video guidance see page 5).

Our Executive Grants Committee will make the final decision on whether to fund the idea, the Sandbox manager will liaise with you about the final decision.



Video application

Guidance for submitting a video application

We ask you to submit a short video as your application. We are not interested in the production quality (your phone camera is fine), it is to allow you to share your idea and for us to meet you virtually.

Guidance

- Films must be a maximum of three minutes long
- Please use one camera (e.g. a phone, laptop, or flipcam) to film the face and shoulders of the person speaking to the camera, in the style of a webcam or Skype conversation.
- Film the majority indoors as this will give the best sound quality
- Make sure you explain who everyone is that appears in the video
- Production value isn't critical, just share your vision for your idea



Your film should include:

- Who you are, both the organisation and the individuals in the video, including your roles
- A description of the issue or opportunity within the community business sector which is not addressed by Power to Change's existing programmes
- A clear description of your vision for your idea, how it responds to this issue or opportunity and the difference it could make to the community business sector
- What you hope to learn from the idea and what the potential impact could be
- Why you think it fits the The Sandbox Ideas Programme, and if necessary why it doesn't fit any of our other programmes
- How much funding you are applying for
- If you would like to show us an asset, product, service in action etc. please include this for max. 30 seconds, we mainly want to hear about your idea.

Once completed please upload your film to the video sharing site [Vimeo](https://vimeo.com) and then submit your video application by sending the Vimeo link to sandbox@powertochange.org.uk.

Any questions?

If you have any questions during the application process please get in touch either directly with your sponsor Power to Change staff member or via sandbox@powertochange.org.uk