

GIVING WHITE PAPER

The Giving White Paper sets out the Government's strategy for increasing the levels and numbers of people giving their time and money. The paper is seen as the beginning of a process of engagement, to be continued at the Giving Summit in the autumn of 2011 which will provide a platform for leaders in a variety of sectors to generate further ideas. The paper announces some new funds including those described below, before setting out proposals for making it easier to give, more compelling to give, and for improving support to providers of opportunities to give.

Transforming Local Infrastructure Fund: this £30 million fund is to be managed by the Big Lottery Fund to help local infrastructure services to provide better support for frontline organisations. The fund will support activities that meet these outcomes:

- Frontline organisations can access a wider range of high quality support, networking and volunteering brokerage opportunities;
- There is stronger local leadership for civil society organisations which contributes to better partnerships with businesses and the statutory sector;
- Infrastructure organisations become more efficient, effective and able to learn and grow with less dependence on state funding.

Activities funded could include supporting the development of new and existing services, developing partnerships and mergers, staff training and purchasing expert advice. Only one bid will be considered from Northamptonshire (or any upper-tier local authority area) and all interested parties must register on the Big Lottery website by 05 August 2011.

Social Action Fund: this £10 million fund will be used to support a wide range of activities. Eligible schemes must meet at least one of these broad criteria:

- they must expand giving in specified priority areas and groups;
- they must have the potential to be scaled-up or replicated to deliver significant increases in donations of time and money.

Challenge Prizes: prizes of up to £100,000 will be awarded for the most innovative solutions to specific challenges faced by the voluntary and community sector. Competitions will be announced over the coming months.

Community First: this £80 million programme will be delivered by the Community Development Foundation to encourage more social action in neighbourhoods with significant deprivation and low social capital. There will be two funds that are likely to open for applications in late summer 2011:

- a £30 million Neighbourhood Matched Fund for community-led projects that must match the funding primarily with volunteer time of equivalent value;
- a £50 million Endowment Match Challenge with the intention of building local endowments through philanthropic donations in order to provide an investment that will give a sustainable source of grants for future neighbourhood projects.

1. Making it easier to give

- Donating to charities will become easier with the expansion of ATM giving, 'round pound' schemes and donations via mobile phones.

- The Social Action Fund will be used to develop schemes that allow people to give their time flexibly, for example by improving access to self-managed volunteering websites where volunteers choose and book themselves onto volunteering opportunities.
- Information about opportunities to give will be improved, for example by funding Youthnet to expand the Do-it website, by giving additional funding to the Philanthropy UK project to develop philanthropy advice, and through funding the training of Community Organisers.
- Bureaucracy will be reduced by addressing the recommendations of the Red Tape Task Force, making changes to the CRB and Vetting and Barring Schemes and changing HMRC regulations to make it easier for volunteers to claim reasonable expenses. Impact reporting will be made less onerous by expanding citizen-led self-regulation schemes: this will probably result in an increase in demand for ratings and comparisons websites for charities.

2. Making it more compelling to give

- New incentives for financial giving include a reduction in inheritance tax on estates donating at least 10% of their legacy to charity.
- The Social Action Fund will be used to develop schemes which encourage people to help each other and create a sustainable cycle of giving, following the example of schemes such as timebanking and ‘Spice’ community time credits.
- Community First match funding will encourage people to become involved in local regeneration by contributing resources already available in the community.
- New social norms and approaches to giving will be encouraged, for example by celebrating giving through awards and honours; developing a culture of giving in young people; capitalising on the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic spirit; encouraging payroll giving and the donation of professional skills; encouraging government ministers and civil servants to volunteer.

3. Better support for providers of opportunities to give

- Changes to Gift Aid will reduce the administrative burden for charities.
- The government will make its buildings available for charities to use, improve access to relevant data on giving trends and advertise for charitable donations on its websites.
- The Transforming Local Infrastructure Fund will help infrastructure organisations to modernise and the Race Online 2012 campaign will be used as a route to help improve charities’ digital capability and access to advice.
- The Near Neighbours programme, developed by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Church of England, will invest £5 million over three years to improve community links in four areas of significant deprivation.

4. Further information

- Read the [Giving White Paper](#) on the Cabinet Office website.
- Read a thorough [policy analysis](#) on the NCVO website.
- A [summary and analysis](#) of the paper can be found on the Third Sector website.
- [Transforming Local Infrastructure](#) has been announced on the Big Fund website.
- The Locality website gives more information on [Community Organisers](#).

News in Brief:

- The Pensions Regulator has issued a timeline for implementation of pensions' auto-enrolment. The date auto enrolment comes into force for different employers depending on the size of the employer. The earliest date of implementation will be 1 October 2012 (for the very largest employers). For employers with less than 50 staff the earliest date is 1 March 2014. Click [Pensions](#) for further information.
- Public Services White Paper launched
The government has launched its white paper on the reform of public services. After much delay the Cabinet Office has published the Open Public Services White Paper which will be followed over the summer by 'a wide-ranging discussion with individuals, communities, public sector staff, providers and others with an interest in how public services are delivered' [on a dedicated website](#).
- Community Budgets to be rolled out countrywide (29 June 2011)
Up to 120 thousand families facing real social challenges will see a significant improvement in services with the roll out of Community Budgets across the country, the Deputy Prime Minister has announced. Community Budgets for families with multiple problems will create better public services by bringing together all local priorities and public money so agencies can find the right solutions to issues in their area in a new and co-ordinated way. The Deputy Prime Minister invited councils to sign up for Community Budgets. Around fifty more authorities will get Community Budgets this year and then at least a further sixty in 2012-13. This follows the success of sixteen pioneer areas that have put in place plans to support the first 10,000 families.
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1933514>
- **More support for voluntary and community groups campaigning to save local assets**
Planning Minister Greg Clark has outlined more support for voluntary and community groups campaigning to save much-loved local assets such as historic pubs, seaside piers or precious market halls, under threat when their owners refuse to sell. A compulsory purchase order by a council and future development as a community asset can often be the ideal solution. But community groups with viable, fully financed schemes can feel shut out of the process, left without a voice in shaping local plans, as councils do not have to engage with them or acknowledge their contribution. In revised guidance, Greg Clark calls on local authorities to take seriously all viable requests from voluntary and community groups put to them for the compulsory purchase of a threatened community asset.
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1918989>