

South of Scotland Ambitions Business Support

Expression of Interest Information Pack

Part 1: Essential Information

Contents

There are three parts to this pack:

- Part 1: Essential Information
- Part 2: Detailed guidance
- Part 3: Expression of Interest Form (EOI) – for reference only; please apply online

Submission Dates and Instructions

All Expressions of Interest online forms must be submitted by midnight on Sunday 10 March 2019 through the [Expression of Interest online form](#) which can be [found here](#).

Other Essential Information

Please ensure you read this guidance information before you complete your online EOI.

We will notify all applicants by the end of March of the outcome of their submission and may be in touch before then if we need to gather any additional information. By submitting your EOI you agree to our contacting you for this purpose. You can find the [SIS Privacy Notice here](#).

Please note we are only able to offer Ambitions Business Support to 6 organisations across the South of Scotland region. Due to the level of EOIs we expect to receive we will be unable to give individual feedback on applications. This is a pilot programme and we hope that, if successful, similar initiatives will be available in the future.

Need help?

If you have any questions about this pack or your EOI please contact Social Investment Scotland on hello@socialinvestmentscotland.com or call 0131 558 7706.

Part 2: Detailed Guidance

Thank you for your interest in the *Ambitions Business Support* which will provide up to six organisations across the South of Scotland region (Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway) with 1-2-1 business support to help them grow their impact and/or increase income from enterprising activities. For organisations who are looking to secure first time social investment to achieve this, there is access to a small grant fund.

This is a pilot business support programme and part of a wider Social Enterprise Programme funded by the South of Scotland Economic Partnership (SoSEP). For details of the full SIS Social Enterprise Programme please visit our website [Support page here](#).

Purpose

Ambitions Business Support will support ambitious organisations and communities to develop and deliver their plans. This brings benefits for the organisations themselves and the communities that they serve, as well as giving inspiration and leadership to other organisations.

Business Support

The business support will be tailored to each organisation based on an initial online diagnostic assessment, and discussions with key staff and/ or board members. An action plan will be agreed, and support sought to help deliver it. At this stage we envisage the support being a mix of some and/or all of:

- nationally led and local support; through existing support networks and services
- engaging experts and specialists where required, via a small grant programme
- development of an Investment Readiness Action Plan for those looking to secure future social investment
- tailored support from a Social Investment Scotland Investment Manager to bring an organisation to investment readiness stage

Target Geographies

Expressions of Interest are welcome from any area in the SoSEP region although priority will be given to applications from the following areas: Hawick, Jedburgh, Eyemouth, Galashiels, Selkirk, Peebles, Newlands, Tweedsmuir, Stranraer, Eskdale, Kirkcudbright, Kirkconnel and Kelloholm.

The programme is aiming to support three organisations in the Scottish Borders and three in Dumfries and Galloway.

Application Guidelines and Selection Process

Organisations and/or communities are invited to apply to become an Ambitions participant through a short Expression of Interest form. An exploratory telephone conversation may also be needed to discuss applications more fully.

Criteria

Organisations need to fall in to one or more of the following descriptions:

1. Organisations and communities who have identified and are responding to local challenges and opportunities from the grassroots
2. Organisations developing community asset solutions
3. Organisations with the ambition and potential to grow their social impact by increasing their trading income

Selection Guidelines

Applications will be assessed by a panel from organisations involved in delivering this project, using the following guidelines. Responses in Expression of Interest forms should address these areas as fully as possibly.

Application Selection Guidelines	
Organisation	<p>Is the organisation a community, voluntary, charity, social enterprise?</p> <p>Are the key people leading the initiative motivated to engage with the Ambitions programme?</p> <p>Is there a drive to make change happen?</p> <p>Does the leading team have the wider support they need to make things happen?</p> <p>Is the organisation located in a target location?</p>
Enterprise	<p>Will the proposed plans/ activities move the organisation towards greater levels of earned income?</p> <p>To what extent are the plans 'ambitious'?</p> <p>Are the ambitions/ plans achievable?</p> <p>Does the proposal progress plans for an asset or development of an asset? This does not have to be a physical asset (e.g. building) and a case can also be for non-physical assets (e.g. 'Artist town', annual event/history, set of knowledge)</p>

Impact	<p>What difference does the initiative currently make to its community?</p> <p>What difference is the initiative aiming to make in the next 3 years?</p> <p>How will Ambitions business support help the organisation achieve their aims?</p> <p>Is the organisation willing to contribute to the overall impact of the Social Enterprise Programme by supporting publicity activity, including acting as a case study?</p>
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Timescales

The following deadlines apply for Expressions of Interest (EOI):

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|---|------------------|
| 1. Expression of Interest window opens | 11 February 2019 |
| 2. Expression of Interest window closes | 8 March 2019 |
| 3. Outcome of applications communicated to applicants | by 29 March 2019 |

Due to the number of EOIs that we expect to receive we will not be able to give individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants. We will, however, do our best to direct organisations to others who may be able to offer support.

Ambitions Business Support will work directly with selected organisations from April 2019 onwards.

Further Information

For further information please contact:

Email: hello@socialinvestmentscotland.com

Phone: 0131 558 7706

About Social Investment Scotland

Social Investment Scotland is a charity and social enterprise. We provide loan investment for other charities and social enterprises looking to make a positive impact on people's lives, society or the environment; and tailored training and support to help others grow their impact and become sustainable. Since we started in 2001, we've invested £63 million in over 300 organisations across Scotland.

Part 3: Expression of Interest Form; for Reference Only – Apply Online

About you and your organisation

Question	Answer
Contact name	
Contact job title	
Contact email address	
Contact phone number	
Name of organisation	
Is your organisation a community and/or voluntary group?	<i>Yes/ No (delete as appropriate)</i>
Is your organisation a social enterprise?	<i>Yes/ No (delete as appropriate)</i>
Is your organisation a charity?	<i>Yes/ No (delete as appropriate)</i>
Organisation address including postcode	
<p>If your organisation is located in any of these areas, please tell us which one:</p> <p>Hawick, Jedburgh, Eyemouth, Galashiels, Selkirk, Peebles, Newlands, Tweedsmuir, Stranraer, Eskdale, Kirkcudbright, Kirkconnel and Kelloholm</p>	
<p>Please tick all statements that apply to your organisation:</p> <p>An organisation that has identified and is responding to local challenges and opportunities from the grassroots</p> <p>An organisation developing a community asset solution</p> <p>An organisation with the ambition and potential to grow your social impact by increasing trading income</p>	

About your plans and people – please work within the maximum word counts

What are the main activities of your organisation?
<i>Maximum 100 words</i>
Please tell us what difference/ social impact your organisation currently makes?
<i>Maximum 200 words</i>
What plans do you have to increase the social impact your organisation makes?
<i>Maximum 250 words</i>
What difference/ social impact will your organisation make once your plans are complete?
<i>Maximum 200 words</i>
Will your plans move your organisation towards greater levels of earned income?
Yes/ No
Tell us of any evidence, or examples of others who have done similar, that show your plans can be successful?
<i>Maximum 200 words</i>
Tell us about the key people leading the initiative and their reasons for being involved.
<i>Maximum 200 words</i>
Please tell us about wider support (for example from people, communities, other organisations) the leading team has for the initiative.
<i>Maximum 200 words</i>

Please find the [Expression of Interest online form here](#).