

Dream Fund invites applications for grants from Edinburgh charities



The Postcode Trust Fund has released a further £300,000 for charities in Scotland

The grant scheme aimed at filling a part of the funding gap left by government cuts has announced it will open for a second year.

Charities and community groups across Edinburgh and the surrounding area are being encouraged to apply for a newly announced £300,000 fund encouraging the third sector to work together. The grant seeks to make 'dream' collaborative projects a reality for cash-strapped good causes across the country, and up to £100,000 per project will be distributed through the People's Postcode Trusts' special Dream Fund .

Last year's collaboration included the promotion and clean up of Edinburgh's cycle paths, with a London Underground style cycle map (pictured) for the city created and distributed to well over 30,000 locals.

Mark Sydenham, who was part of the cycle project said:-

"We were convinced that this project could be an innovative way of mapping Edinburgh's off-street cycle network and would help to make real difference to the way people view and think about cycling and travelling round the city. With the support of the Dream Fund we have created something which exceeded all our expectations.

The map is already very well-established, with an interactive online version providing a real community focus for the

network. Conservation work along the paths with Edinburgh and Lothian's Greenspace Trust is improving the paths and people's involvement with them, and gives a real sense of ownership."

An 'Edible Gardening' volunteer project at the Royal Botanical Gardens Edinburgh was also funded.

People's Postcode Trust manager Clara Govier today called for charities and groups across Edinburgh and the rest of Scotland to apply for one of the three awards available, each worth up to £100,000. She said:- "Last year's Dream Fund was a huge success, and we hope this year will see even more applications than before. In such a challenging economic climate the funding is a fantastic opportunity for many good causes to work together with other worthwhile organisations on innovative and exciting projects."

To be eligible to apply for the Dream Fund, two or more organisations must collaborate on a project, one of which must be a registered charity. Shortlisted proposals will be invited to pitch their ideas to the People's Postcode Trust's trustees.

Prospective applicants can find out more information and details of the funding criteria at www.postcodetrust.org.uk. The closing date for the first round of funding is Friday 2nd December.



Photos Maverick Photo Agency