

Making Places

Support for community-led action in local areas
2017-2018



INTRODUCTION

The Importance of Place

The places where we spend our time have an important impact on our lives. The way a place looks, functions and feels can influence our health, wellbeing, and the opportunities we have access to.

The Scottish Government wants to support the delivery of places that enable a high quality of life, help tackle inequalities and allow communities to flourish.

People-Based Support for Communities

Since 2011 the Scottish Government Charrette Mainstreaming Programme has supported 61 design processes in local communities across the country. The programme has encouraged communities to positively and actively contribute to the development of their local places.

However, the Scottish Government recognise that the charrette approach is only one method of enabling participation in placemaking. Communities have different needs, have different levels of confidence, and may require support not just in developing a vision for their place, but also at the stages before and after this.

Therefore, the Charrette Mainstreaming Programme has now been broadened into the Making Places initiative to support communities, at all stages of their thinking. Making Places offers support that will; build communities' skills and confidence; support a wide range of participative design events; and assist communities in realising their aspirations.

What type of Support is Available?

Making Places will support a wide range of processes, events and projects to actively involve communities in discussions about the future of their place.

Different communities have different needs, and to reflect this, different types of support are being offered:

Community Capacity Building	Community-Led Design	Community Delivery
Support for communities keen to develop their understanding of place and build skills and confidence	Grant funding to support communities to participate in and lead design events, such as workshops and charrettes	Support for communities to help deliver ideas produced in previous community engagement processes

In all cases, projects coming forward to access support should be focussed on tackling inequality, and will have a clear impact on combating disadvantage through community-led and place-based working.

COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING

Support to build the skills and confidence of communities - enabling them to have meaningful discussions about place, and set their priorities.

Provided in the form of: advice, support and guidance from Architecture & Design Scotland and relevant partner organisations.

What is it?

The Community Capacity Building element of the Making Places aims to provide support for communities in need of change who are at an early stages of their thinking and do not have the experience or confidence to begin the process. Every community is different, and will have different requirements, but expert support will be available to assist with issues such as: how to get organised; how to access support; and how to make the most of potential funding opportunities that may be available to them.

Is it right for you?

This might be the right option for you if you fall into any of the following categories:

- change is required in your place but you don't know how to begin;
- there are few community groups in your area, or the groups have no clear agreement about what needs to be done;
- your community has not taken part in any activities about place before.

How to Apply

Details on how to apply for Community Capacity Building will be announced shortly on www.ads.org.uk

If you require any further information, or would like to note interest in the support, please contact: architecture@gov.scot and mark your message "**Community Capacity Building**".

Community-Led Design

Support to deliver a range of participative design and place-based workshops (including charrettes) – enabling communities to arrive at a vision for their place and make the best use of its assets.

Provided through: match-funded grants to support design processes in local areas. The total fund available for this initiative is £275,000. The level of each grant will be determined by the nature of the project. In most cases, the Scottish Government will fund 50% of the total cost.

There will be a particular focus on community design processes that pilot or support potential models to support the development of local place plans.

What is it?

The Community-Led Design support will provide grant funding for community groups, third sector organisations and public authorities to take forward design processes relating to a particular place, or an aspect of a place. Proposed design processes must allow communities to either lead the process, or to participate fully and be central to decision making on future plans for the place.

In previous years, funding has been limited to charrette-style working. While charrettes are still eligible for funding, we are also open to other types of community-led design processes.

Design processes can take many forms, from intensive working over a few days to projects that adopt a slower pace over a longer timescale. Most design processes will involve an element of professional design input, perhaps involving a team of designers, planners, artists, or other experts. However, some processes may only require input from an individual or a small number of professionals, and some may utilise the expertise and talents of those living or working within the community. Processes should not simply be consultation events.

Local Place Planning

The Community-Led Design fund particularly encourages applications from projects that pilot or support potential models to support the development of local place plans.

The independent review of the planning system (May 2016) recommended that communities are empowered to plan their own place, and that those plans have the potential to form part of the statutory development plan.

There is no set format to a local place plan and the Making Places Community-Led Design fund aims to explore the challenges and opportunities arising from the preparation of these community-led plans.

The Design Approach

Whatever the type of design process used, it must be right for the particular community, and their context. It is important that the outcomes of the design process are realistic and useful in developing the ambitions and opportunities of the community.

In most cases, the type of design process that is appropriate will be dependent on:

- the scale and complexity of the project,
- the level of detailed output that is required.

Examples of some design processes include:

Large scale and complex projects - If you are considering the design of town centres, regeneration projects, or contributing to Local Development Plans (LDPs) – the intensive and collaborative approach of charrette-style working may be appropriate. This will involve a design team, working with the community, the local authority, and other stakeholders who have an interest in the place. The charrette method of working is intensive, and will usually occur over 3-5 consecutive days. A typical charrette output is likely to be a masterplan or design, action plan, and/or comprehensive set of priorities for the place, with substantial

background material, research and a detailed drawings and diagrams. However, large scale and complex projects may also adopt a design approach that is spread over a longer time period, if that best suits the needs of the place.

Smaller sites and exploring opportunities - You may be considering a small site or exploring initial options for a place – in which case a design workshop, or a series of workshops held over a longer period of time might be a more suitable approach. You will still require design input, however the range of skills required at any one time may not be as broad as in larger, complex projects.

Issues/aspects of place - You may not be considering a particular physical asset within your place at all, but an issue, for example, safe streets or social isolation within a community. You may choose to explore the issue at a one-off workshop event, or hold several events around this theme, to involve the whole community. The number of events you choose to hold will depend on the size and nature of the community, the complexity of issue(s) you are exploring, and how well-developed the community's thinking already is on the subject. A designer and/or facilitator may assist you in developing and testing options. It is important that the process focusses on how design decisions and thinking about place can improve the quality of life in that area.

Community context - The type of process that you choose is likely to be influenced by the type(s) of community involved. For example, in rural settings, where communities are dispersed over different geographies, it may be beneficial to hold a number of design events, spread over a longer period of time, in order to ensure that everyone can contribute. Whereas, in an area where the community is very active, has a high level of understanding of what needs to change, and everyone is located in one area, then you may choose to run the design event in one venue, and generate intensity and local interest over a short period of time.

The above are offered purely as suggested guidelines to help you think more about the type of project you might want to take forward and how to do this. What is important is the approach that you choose should be appropriate to the project and that consideration is given to how to best engage with everyone in the community.

Application Requirements

Whatever the focus of your project, all applicants must set out:

- how the design process will support the positive development of the place;
- reasons why the particular approach has been chosen;
- how the chosen approach will offer value for money.
- All proposals must involve communities directly in some element of a creative, design process with a physical output such as plans, drawings, action fs.

Grant Funding

All projects are required to set out a requested grant amount. This should relate to the scale of the project and the design process proposed. Costs do not require to be finalised, but you should provide a realistic indication of the likely grant required. If a project is selected for in-principle funding then additional cost information will be requested by The Scottish Government before grant is finalised.

Awards are made on the basis of match funding. Therefore, the maximum grant the Scottish Government will offer will be 50% of the total cost of delivering the design event (exclusive of VAT).

The level of grant support may be increased where the applicant is a community group. In such instances the community group should provide details on what proportion of funding is sought and explain why an increased level of funding is required. The total amount of funding any one project will receive is dependent on the nature of the project.

How to Apply

To apply for Community-Led Design support, please complete the application form available online. The closing date for applications is: **Friday 13th October 2017**

Community Delivery

Support for communities to assist them in delivering their priorities. Some form of participative event will already have been held to agree these priorities.

Provided in the form of: advice, support and guidance from Architecture & Design Scotland and relevant partner organisations

What is it?

Support will be offered to assist communities with the development and delivery of ideas that have arisen through previous community-led design events. The Activating Ideas fund (2016-17) demonstrated that there was a demand among communities for support that could help co-ordinate activity and assist in administering projects. The Community Delivery support will replace the Activating Ideas fund.

Architecture & Design Scotland and relevant partners will work with communities to assist them in driving forward and delivering their projects, and building the skills and knowledge within the community. Support will be tailored, according to the individual needs of the community.

Is it right for you?

You will be eligible for this element of the programme if you have already had a community-led design event or charrette and require some assistance in taking forward actions/projects arising from that event. You may already be working on some of these projects and feel you need some additional help, or you may be unsure what to do next.

How to Apply

Details on how to apply for Community Delivery support will be announced shortly on www.ads.org.uk
If you require any further information, or would like to note interest in the support, please contact: architecture@gov.scot and mark your message "**Community Delivery**".

