



Invest to Save – Inclusive Communities Budget provides resources to develop partnerships between local authorities and the third sector to improve public services

The ninth annual resource allocation round of the Invest to Save – Inclusive Communities Budget (ISB) was launched today, with a focus on forging stronger partnerships between local authorities and the third sector in the development of innovative approaches to service delivery.

The Government recognises the need to deliver world-class public services and places a great emphasis on fostering innovative ways to meet the diverse and changing needs of service users. Alongside reform, innovation, efficiency and investment, the Government believes that partnerships between public, private and third sectors are key to improving service delivery.

It is widely accepted that the third sector, through its flexibility and the richness of its diversity, is sometimes better placed than the public or private sectors in reaching certain groups within society. The ISB's focus on promoting the third sector's delivery of public services is recognition of this.

The ISB encourages new and joined-up ways of working by providing 'seed corn' funding for pilot projects that develop innovative approaches to service delivery, bringing together local authorities and third sector organisations in partnership to deliver more efficient and effective public services that are responsive to the needs of local people.

Up to £13.5 million is available for partnership projects involving local authorities and third sector organisations during Round 9, with a focus on:

- Developing the third sector's role in service delivery and building fairer communities – projects that deliver cash releasing efficiencies; and
- Projects that are consistent and aligned with the delivery of Local Area Agreements (LAAs) and Community Strategies.

Since it was set up in 1998, the ISB has funded over 460 partnership projects worth nearly £450 million, of which nearly £100 million has been allocated to projects involving third sector organisations. The ISB is committed to achieving maximum benefit from the implementation of the ideas it has helped to foster and integrating these lessons within the future provision of public services.

Further information, including full guidance to bidders, is available at www.isb.gov.uk

Notes to editors

1. The Invest to Save – Inclusive Communities Budget (ISB) provides support for pilot projects which increase the extent of joint working between public sector bodies and third sector organisations, identify innovative ways of delivering public services and reduce the cost of delivering the services and/or improve the quality and effectiveness of services delivered to the public. This is the ninth round of the ISB.
2. The Treasury, following consultation with the relevant central Government department and the independent ISB Review Committee, will assess bids using a pre-determined, published set of criteria before making recommendations to the Chief Secretary to the Treasury who makes the final decision on the winning bids, following consultation with the Minister for the Third Sector.
3. Winning projects have to agree an implementation plan with the Treasury. Each project has to provide six-monthly progress reports and carry out an evaluation of its success once it has been completed. Projects running for longer than a year also have to carry out an interim evaluation exercise.
4. An additional £90 million was allocated to the ISB during the 2004 Spending Review. Of this, £43.5 million was allocated during ISB Round 7 (2005) and £31 million during Round 8 (2006). A total of £13.5 million (net of running costs) remains of the £90 million for allocation during Round 9.
5. Details of current ISB projects can be found on the 'Projects' page of the ISB website at: www.isb.gov.uk. Full Round 9 guidance is also available.
6. Media enquires should be directed through email to invest.save@hm-treasury.gov.uk