COMMUNITY BENEFITS

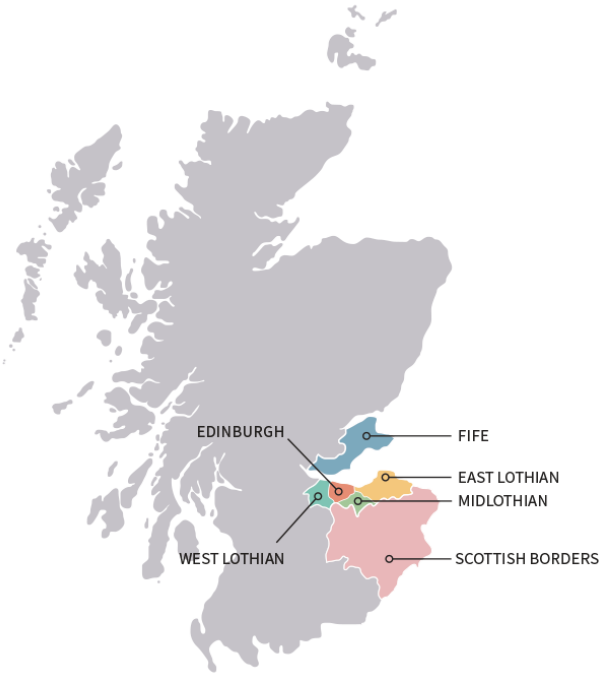
Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal

ESES COMMUNITY BENEFITS PORTAL:

GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITIES & BUSINESS

Introduction

The Edinburgh & South East Scotland City Region Deal (ESES CRD) is a £1.4 billion investment from the Scottish and UK governments to accelerate growth, create new economic opportunities, and meaningful new jobs that will help to reduce inequalities.



Targeted investments will cover: Research, Development and Innovation (£751 million); Transport (£156 million); Culture (£45 million); Integrated Regional Employability & Skills (£25 million); and Housing (£313 million).

Key projects include cutting edge university research facilities in Edinburgh, a new Borders Innovation Park in Tweedbank, a Fife Industrial Estates Regeneration programme and the creation of 41,000 new homes across the 6 areas - including affordable and rental housing.

Other projects include a Food & Drink Innovation Campus in East Lothian, improvements to Sherriffhall roundabout in Midlothian and increasing sustainable transport links in Edinburgh.

As well as creating thousands of jobs over a 15-year period, core to the Deal is that communities also receive additional positive outcomes through community benefits.

"Community benefits" are the method by which local communities and good causes are encouraged to receive additional social value from the supply chain of businesses delivering publicly funded contracts and developments.

Led by **Capital City Partnership**, a strategy has been developed which will seek to deliver community benefits from public investments in the region throughout the lifetime of the Deal.

Central to this strategy is the **esescommunities.org community benefits web portal.**

The portal will allow community and not-for-profit organisations in the region to make specific requests for community benefits with the aim of matching them to appropriate businesses.

Support will also be provided to businesses in the region. This includes to those out-with the City Region Deal supply chain, but still wishing to support good causes and benefit their local communities. As well as supporting a "buy local" approach, it is hoped micro, SME businesses and social enterprises in the region may receive benefit from the guidance of larger companies.

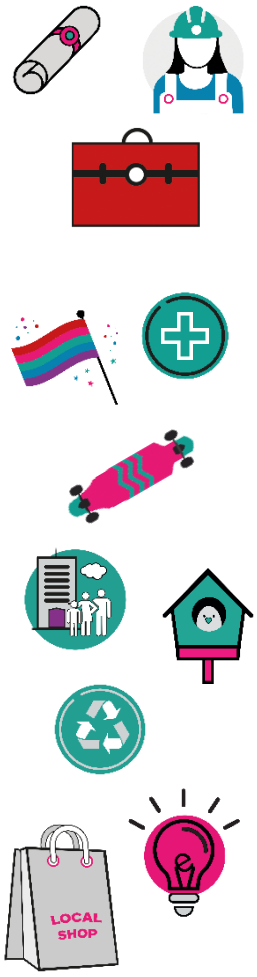
GUIDANCE FOR REQUESTING COMMUNITY BENEFITS

There is no definitive list of what can be requested under the banner of community benefits. Established examples may include guaranteed local apprenticeships or school visits on local construction projects, use of local businesses in supply chains, improvements to public parks or donating excess materials to local causes.

Whilst continuing to promote these sorts of community benefits, an open-minded approach is being taken to encourage other types of requests – including from organisations and communities who are less familiar with community benefits as a whole.

4 thematic priorities have been set to help define and broaden potential opportunities:

Theme 1: Education, employability and futures
• Apprenticeships; work experience; schools, colleges & universities • Overcoming potential barriers to education, employment and training - e.g. disabilities; ex-offenders; ethnic minorities; care-experienced young people; older workforce; women returning to work
Theme 2: Community, culture and wellbeing
• Culture, heritage & recreation; physical, mental health & wellbeing; building community cohesion and reducing isolation. - e.g. grass-roots sports; improving indoor/outdoor community spaces; engaging isolated or older residents; youth clubs; promoting positive lifestyle choices; tackling substance misuse; homelessness.
Theme 3: Environment and place
• Mitigating impacts upon the wider and local carbon economy; offsetting the impact on the aesthetic, historic landscape and habitats - E.g. supporting pollinators; conservation; flood prevention; use of recycled materials; noise reduction etc.
Theme 4: Innovation and local enterprise
• Using local micro, small and medium enterprises in the supply chain and sub-contracting • Where possible, supporting social enterprises within the local area through use of services or in-kind support and business mentoring



The above is not a definitive list of what is/isn't eligible.

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is also recognised that community benefit requests requiring in-person activities may be precluded in the immediate future.

During the pandemic, some businesses have adapted their offerings – including digital engagement, online work experience, supporting vulnerable communities and residents.

Only 2 requests may be published on the portal by any one organisation at a time.

Successful beneficiaries will be asked to complete a short evaluation and case study, acknowledging the support of the business or supplier.

Who can make a community benefit request?
Requests can be made by the following:

- Registered Charities or Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIOs) with the Office of the Scottish Charity Register (OSCR)
- Registered Charities or Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) with the Charities Commission for England & Wales (so long as the community benefit is undertaken within the 6 ESES local authority areas)
- Community Interest Companies with an asset lock
- Community Benefit Societies with an asset lock
- Constituted, not for profit and voluntary organisations
- Social Enterprises
- Churches and faith-based organisations for secular activities
- Schools, pre-schools, nurseries
- Universities and colleges

Please note that informal groups or collectives of residents may still be able to submit requests - either in partnership with one of the above organisations, or by contacting us.

Exclusions:
We are unable to accept the following types of requests:

- Activities which do not deliver direct benefit within the 6 ESES local authority areas
- The promotion of religion
- Distribution of grants/funds to individuals or other organisations
- Individuals
- Requests from local, regional or government institutions for contributions to core and statutory responsibilities
- Political parties or party-political activities
- Foreign travel and organisations based overseas

Managing expectations:

This site aims to match local businesses, public spending and good causes.

However, we would always stress the importance of managing expectations when submitting requests – particularly where request is made for monetary, equipment or capital donations.

Users should not rely on the availability of a business able to fulfil your need.

Whilst businesses will be directed to live requests, they may instead have a very particular, single offering which does not meet your requirements.

Charities are encouraged to continue exploring traditional avenues of fundraising. Furthermore, the financial, staffing and restricted working practices businesses face is likely to affect their ability to make certain types of offers for the foreseeable future.

Our team will continue to assess the situation and promote safe practice for all stakeholders.

GUIDANCE FOR BUSINESSES AND SUPPLIERS



Community benefits are now mandatory to consider in procurements from public funding across Scotland, with businesses encouraged to make positive contributions to those living in the region and promote sustainable operations.

ESESCommunities will aim to develop understanding of community benefits amongst not only those hoping to receive benefit, but also businesses of all sizes and industries in the region.

Support to facilitate community benefits and good deeds is available to all businesses in the region – even those not in the ESES CRD supply chain. This includes those looking to deliver community benefits obligations under any other public sector spending – but also those not currently engaged in receipt of public sector contracts who wish to benefit their community.

I'm completely new to community benefits

Community benefits can be mutually beneficial to your organisation in a number of ways – including tendering for and fulfilling public sector contracts. The Supplier Development Programme hosts various relevant resources and events, information on which can be found at https://www.sdpscotland.co.uk/ and on the "For Business" section of ESEScommunities.org.

I've seen a community benefit request I think I can fulfil, what next?



In the first instance, all enquiries pertaining to specific community benefit requests on the portal must be directed to our helpdesk. At no point should businesses contact those making requests through the portal directly.

Our team will discuss the suitability before any potential links will be made, then facilitating the process to ensure a smooth and successful outcome.

I have a specific offer of support which isn't linked to a current request?

We are keen to support any businesses undertaking deeds regardless of whether you supply the public sector or not. If you feel that you can provide some other sort of benefit such as a sponsorship donation, donation of resources/capital, host spaces for activities or have a particular cause you are passionate about but want advice and guidance before benefitting we can also offer advice and signposting. Please contact our helpdesk for assistance.

What will I receive in return?



As well as bringing much needed support to communities and causes in the region, it is also important that businesses receive recognition for their proactive goodwill. This in turn can be beneficial to public perception and boost staff morale.

With the consent of both parties, all delivered community benefits and matches made will be featured on the website and acknowledged through social media. Where appropriate, acknowledgement may also extend to events-based or print media.

For more information, please contact us on:
0131 376 1846
info@esescommunities.org