



A package of advice and information sheets produced by the Community Council for Somerset

Right to Challenge

The Right to Challenge is designed to give local groups the opportunity to express their interest in taking over a local service where they think they can do it better or differently. The local group has to be either; a voluntary or community group, a charitable trust, a parish council, 2 or more employees of a relevant authority or a social enterprise.

The group has to submit an expression of interest to the authority (which can be a County or District Council) to say that they would like to run a public service. This triggers a procurement exercise and a competitive tendering process which will mean that the group will very likely have to compete with others to win the opportunity to run the service.

Community Right to Challenge – FUNDING

The Social Investment Business has £10m in grants as part of the Community assets and services grants programme to help with feasibility studies or the initial setup of the service. This grants programme is available for organisations using the Community Right to Challenge and for the running of local services more broadly. There are three types of grants available:

Pre-feasibility Pre-feasibility grants are for amounts of up to £10,000 and are for organisations to build internal capacity to help them to compete to deliver public services.

Feasibility Feasibility grants will be available for organisations that are able to demonstrate that they have good potential to compete effectively to deliver public services. These grants are for up to £100,000 and can be used to support organisations in preparation for competing in procurement bids.

Service delivery grants There will also be a small number of service delivery grants which are not available by open application but will be invited from relevant bodies against a set of criteria which will be published on both this website and the Social Investment Business's website.

Investment and Contract Readiness Fund

The Investment and Contract Readiness Fund supports social ventures to build their capacity to be able to receive investment and bid for public service contracts. Grants between £50,000 and £150,000 will be available on a rolling basis to ambitious social ventures who will go on to raise at least £500,000 investment, or who want to bid for contracts over £1 million.

For information on the criteria in applying for a Community Right to Challenge grant visit the Social Investment Business's website <http://www.sibgroup.org.uk/our-funds/communityrights/criteria/> or [CLICK HERE](#)

Community Right to Challenge – SUPPORT and ADVICE:

In addition to the local council, the following organisations are able to offer general help and advice; some with funding, social enterprise structures and business and project planning and case studies. Community Council for Somerset www.somersetccc.org.uk: tel – 01823 331222

- Locality: <http://locality.org.uk/about/> 0845 345 4564 between 09.30 – 12.30 week days
- My Community Rights: <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/community-right-tochallenge/>
- Social Enterprise Coalition Co-operatives: <http://www.socialenterprise.org.uk/>
- UK Voluntary Sector Partnership, Somerset - <http://www.vpsomerset.org.uk>
- Social Enterprise Works - <http://www.socialenterpriseworks.org> Tel – 0117 204 7511
- Urban forum - <http://www.urbanforum.org.uk/community-right-tochallenge/community-right-to-challenge>
- Community Matters: <http://www.communitymatters.org.uk/content/561/CommunityRight-to-Bid-Support-Programme> and <http://www.communitymatters.org.uk/content/363/Community-Asset-Transfer> : Tel - 0845 847 4253
- Can Do Communities: <http://candocommunities.co.uk/>

CCS Support

CCS can support you with tailored information and advice, as well as supporting your community or group with business planning, surveys and delivering community engagement. If you would like to know more, please contact us on 01823 331222 jane@somersetccc.org.uk or clare@somersetccc.org.uk