**Social Enterprise Investment Funding Opportunity**

**Growing Communities Programme and the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Social Enterprise Programme**

**Funding support available for existing or start up Social Enterprises.**

**Social Enterprise Inspiration Events**

Social enterprise offers a sustainable business model for individuals and organisations that aspire to do some good and make work sustainable through generating income. Social Enterprise has seen a huge growth in the past number of years in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and more and more social enterprises are starting up and becoming successful locally and nationally.

This workshop is aimed at anyone who is interested in starting up a social enterprise, developing an idea or delivering a social economy strand to an existing group or business and is intended to help people understand the challenges and provide access to the skills, knowledge and resources needed to get started.

**What is available?**

The Growing Communities Programme will award 3-5 initiatives ranging from £1400 to £2000 (depending on the number of applications) to use to invest in a social economy business which is **either based in or delivers** in the Armagh Neighbourhood Renewal Area.

Please note beneficiaries of the programme must be based in the Armagh Neighbourhood Renewal area, which includes the Callanbridge ward, and the two deprived districts in the Downs ward and Abbey Park Ward. Each of these wards are located in the West of Armagh City and contain estates which suffer the effects of deprivation such as Drumarg, Callanbridge, Mullacreevie, Callan Street and Drumbreda.

**All costs incurred must be spent by 31st March 2020 and programme delivery commenced.**

Officers from the Growing Communities programme and Economic Development Social Economy programme will provide support throughout the application process and to the successful applicants in developing their business or programme.

**What do I/we need to do?**

* Attend an information and brainstorming event
* Attend an application clinic – officers will guide you through the application process
* Submit an application.

**Timescale**

Event 1: Information and brainstorming: 14th January 7:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. Hayloft,

Palace Stables, The Palace, Armagh.

Event 2: Application Clinic: 21st January 6:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. Hayloft,

Palace Stables, The Palace, Armagh.

Application Submitted by: 24th January 4:00p.m.

Decision Made: 29th January 2020.

For more information or to register please contact:

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