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EUROPE & SCOTLAND

European Social Fund

Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

European Social Fund Aspiring Communities Fund

Application for Funding

Please read the Application Guidance and Help Notes before completing this application

Lead Applicant Organisation	South West Community Cycles
Consortium Application	No
Project Title	Southside Volunteer Support Services
Stage 1 or Stage 2	Stage 2
Programme Area (LUPS or HI)	NA

The Aspiring Communities Fund is supported by the European Social Fund (ESF) and Scottish Government. It is delivered by Social Justice and Regeneration Division, Scottish Government as Lead Partner for the 2014-2020 ESF Programme.

PURPOSE

The **Aspiring Communities Fund** will help enable community bodies and third sector organisations in our most deprived and fragile communities to develop and deliver long-term local solutions that address local priorities and needs, increase active inclusion and build on the assets of local communities to reduce poverty and to enable inclusive growth. Successful projects will put communities first by involving local people in the process and support the aims of the Fairer Scotland Action Plan to change deep seated, multi-generational deprivation, poverty and inequalities.

Community empowerment, capacity building and enhanced capability at a local level must be at the heart of your proposal to tackle poverty and reducing inequalities. Empowering communities can be achieved by:

- delivering on community-led solutions that tackle priorities that matter most to communities, or
- for more vulnerable and harder to reach groups, through local interventions that act as a catalyst for engagement and offer opportunities and pathways for social and community integration.

We recognise that both approaches can tackle multiple outcomes associated with poverty at both individual and community level. Applications are expected to demonstrate this type of focus.

The aim of this funding is to strengthen and empower communities, increase levels of economic activity, stimulate inclusive growth, local service provision and inclusion by:

- Enabling communities to design and establish new or enhanced services addressing poverty and inequalities;
- Supporting staff posts within community organisations to increase levels of economic activity, local service provision and inclusion, and enhance community resilience.
- Accelerating the implementation of projects and services delivering longer lasting solutions that empower individuals and communities to shape their futures by involving local people in the process.

This challenge Fund will contribute to the achievement of the Scottish ESF Operational Programme targets for:

- Community based or community services supported
- New childcare places available
- Deprived or fragile communities supported

and Aspiring Communities Fund targets for:

- Increase in earned turnover of supported organisations
- New or improved community owned assets (capital for acquisition from other non ESF sources).

Applicants will be required to clearly demonstrate the need for impact of their proposed investment, evidenced by:

- Stating why you know the demand exists. This should include evidence of shaping of services by local people;
- Setting out critical partnerships and relationships with other service providers – including statutory agencies such as local authorities or health boards as well as community bodies and third sector organisations as appropriate. As part of this we want you to set out your approach towards linking activity and making best use of local resources; and,
- Identifying, where appropriate, steps taken to enable, enhance and/or complement delivery of national and local priorities as set out in relevant local policy and delivery plans. The local activity that is seeking funding will reflect Scottish Government's national priorities.

This funding is targeted at the **most deprived and fragile communities** in Scotland and interventions will reflect local circumstances and needs, aimed at target groups identified by the ESF Programme and local priorities. These include workless households, lone parent households, homeless people, and people experiencing other forms of disadvantage or inequality (for example, disabled people, those with alcohol/drug dependence, ex-offenders, looked after children, BME communities and other communities of interest). Funding will not be restricted to these target groups as we recognise that multiple outcomes can be achieved through interventions that have a wider impact within a locality and across various groups.

This fund supports new or enhanced activity only and cannot be used for activities previously or currently funded under any other ESF funding programmes.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Eligible applicants can be community organisations, including community anchor organisations and third sector organisations that promote or improve the interests of communities that experience inequalities of outcome as a result of social or economic disadvantage.

Community empowerment and capacity building at a local level must be at the heart of your approach to tackling poverty and reducing inequalities. Empowering communities can be achieved by:

- delivering on community-led solutions that tackle priorities that matter most to communities, or
- for more vulnerable and harder to reach groups, through local interventions that act as a catalyst for engagement and provide opportunities and pathways for social and community integration.

Applications from a consortium of organisations will also be accepted, providing the consortium is governed by a memo of understanding (or similar) as confirmation of respective roles and responsibilities. The application must be submitted by a single eligible lead applicant on behalf of the consortium. We will only support organisations that are solvent and are in a position to continue to successfully deliver services in the longer term, and with reference to robust governance arrangements. Key responsibilities of a lead applicant include monitoring and reporting on the progress and performance of operations; ensuring that appropriate documentation is retained to evidence expenditure and all outcomes and to fulfil ESF compliance obligations; and complying with all appropriate rules and regulations.

All activity must take place in Scotland.

We cannot accept applications from:

- Individuals and sole traders
- Statutory bodies (as a lead applicant but they are eligible to be part of a consortium or partnership)
- Profit making organisations
- Organisations based outside the UK
- Non-departmental public bodies

APPLICATION PROCESS

We will use the information gathered through the answers to these questions to assess and score the eligibility, deliverability, and overall quality of your application.

Please refer to the accompanying Guidance Note and read this carefully before you submit your application. Please e-mail AspiringCommunities@gov.scot if you have further questions.

The application process recognises the different stages of development of community organisations and their links to local strategies and strategic partners. Organisations are invited to apply initially for Stage 1 or Stage 2 activity, depending upon their degree of readiness to implement and deliver long-term local solutions to tackle poverty and inequality. Successful Stage 1 projects will be expected to proceed to Stage 2 application stage.

As EU funding is supporting this fund, all applicants must ensure that they comply with all ESF guidelines. A list of eligible and non-eligible costs is contained in the Applications Guidance. For detailed information on costs, please refer to the [National Rules on Eligibility of Expenditure](#) for the Scottish ESF programme.

Costs will be based on the Flat Rate funding model of Direct Staff Costs + 15% or 40% Indirect Costs as outlined in the National Rules. This means that we can pay the direct costs of staff who are employed 100% on the project, plus an additional 15% or 40% towards indirect project costs. A Staff Cost is salary + employer's NI + Pension contributions. Further information is provided in the Applications Guidance.

Note that ESF operates on calendar years (i.e. January-December) and **not** financial years.

Submitting your application

Applications, the pre-application eligibility checklist, supporting evidence, the lead applicants most recent accounts and governing documents, together with the memorandum of understanding (or similar) for consortium applications must be submitted by 5pm on the 7th April 2017 to the Aspiring Communities email box AspiringCommunities@gov.scot. You will immediately receive an automated email message acknowledging receipt of your application. If you do not receive this, please check that you have sent the application to the correct email address and that the acknowledgment is not in your spam/junk folders.

Two certified hard copies of your completed application, signed in blue ink, must be received by us no later than 3 working days after the above deadline. Please send to:

The Scottish Government
DG Communities
EHRTS Division
Longman House

**28 Longman Road
INVERNESS
IV1 1RY**

Your application will be checked to ensure it meets the eligibility criteria. All applications will be considered by an independent panel. All panel decisions are final.

Section 1: Applicant Details

Lead Applicant Details	
Name of Organisation:	South West Community Cycles
Applicant's Legal Status	Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
Organisation Type	Charity
Registered Company Number	SCO37799
Registered SCIO Number	SCO37799
Any other registration numbers	NA
If your organisation is a subsidiary of, or affiliated to, a parent company please provide details	NA
When was your organisation established?	11/2012
VAT Registration Number (if applicable)	NA

Contact Details for Correspondence	
Main Contact:	Kirsty MacDonald
Job Title/Designation:	Volunteer Coordinator
Full Address, including postcode:	South West Community Cycles, Pollokshaws West Train Station, Pollokshaws Road, Glasgow, G43 1AT
Telephone:	0141 632 7155
Email:	kirsty@southwestcommunitycycles.co.uk
Website:	www.southwestcommunitycycles.co.uk

Partner Organisation	
Name of Organisation	Glasgow Kelvin College
Consortium member (Y/N)	N
Main Contact:	Eilidh Lamb
Job Title/Designation:	Community Development Worker
Full Address, including postcode:	Glasgow Kelvin College, 123 Flemington Street, Glasgow, G21 4TD
Telephone:	██████████
Email:	ELamb@glasgowkelvin.ac.uk
Website:	www.glasgowkelvin.ac.uk

Partner Organisation	
Name of Organisation	Glasgow the Caring City
Consortium Member (Y/N)	N
Main Contact:	Ross Galbraith
Job Title/Designation:	Project Manager
Full Address, including postcode:	Glasgow the Caring City, WEEE Scotland Ltd, 249 Govan Road, G51 1HJ
Telephone:	0141 632 8560
Email:	ross@glasgowthecaringcity.com
Website:	http://www.glasgowthecaringcity.com

Partner Organisation	
Name of Organisation	
Consortium Member (Y/N)	
Main Contact:	
Job Title/Designation:	
Full Address, including postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Website:	

Partner Organisation	
Name of Organisation	
Consortium Member (Y/N)	
Main Contact:	
Job Title/Designation:	
Full Address, including postcode:	
Telephone:	
Email:	
Website:	

Section 2: About your organisation – Lead Applicant

Q.1 Please describe your track record, as well as the current activities delivered by your organisation and how these are supported. (max 500 words)

SWCC has been delivering the 1848 Volunteer Project since June 2015 (funded by Scottish Government PCF). We now have an extensive record of providing local people (the majority of whom reside in the Southside of Glasgow, encompassing Shawlands, Pollokshaws and the Greater Pollok area, which is a “Thriving Place”) with volunteering opportunities, training and personal development activities within our cycling centre. As a result of our work with the community and our ability to provide holistic support to individuals that have a variety of complex needs we have seen our participant numbers grow and we are keen to build on our success and enhance our activity to support more people within our community.

This year we have engaged 51 individuals and provided them with volunteering opportunities, exceeding our target by 21. Our volunteers have accumulated 2125 volunteering hours between them, supporting the running of our centre and gaining skills in mechanics, cycle coaching, hospitality, administration, IT, customer service and community events.

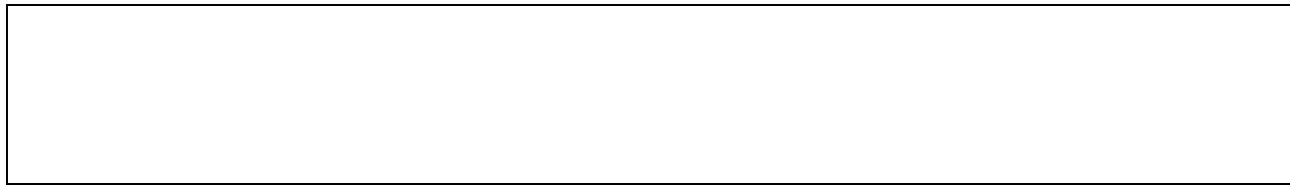
We provide employability support and career guidance, which enabled 15 volunteers to progress to paid employment; 7 volunteers have moved on to further training or education (eg Employability Fund – Skills for Life, ECDL/ NQ Beauty and Make Up/ Level 1 Beginners French at College, Working Rite Placement); and 3 volunteers with additional support needs have found long term volunteering placements.

Our volunteers play an active role in their community and have accumulated 512 hours of dedicated community work involving: supporting the delivery of cycling related events and activities; coaching children at “play on pedals” events; delivering mechanical services with Dr Bikes at community events; supporting coaches deliver cycling classes and groups; market research in the community and event feedback; providing café facilities for a local walking group and putting on a food stall at a local gala day.

We source training relevant to the needs of our volunteers and individuals have achieved Health and Safety Training, First Aid Qualifications, cycle ride leader qualification, silver velotech, customer service training, mindfulness training, social media training, child protection training, a block of healthy eating classes and confidence building.

Our ability to engage individuals in leisure activities such as cycling or walking allows us to help our volunteers improve their health and wellbeing. Alongside employability support and the promotion of physical exercise and the outdoors we support our volunteers by liaising with statutory bodies on their behalf, signposting to relevant agencies, provide assistance with job centre/housing related forms, give emotional support and a friendly ear.

In addition to our 1848 Volunteer Project we currently deliver youth services to young people disengaged from education under the Trax Project (funded by The Robertson Trust). Our cycling centre promotes cycling through our workshop which provides repair and maintenance services to the community and as part of the Glasgow Community Cycle Network (funded by Smarter Choices Smarter Places) we deliver cycling related activities. We also deliver the South West Community Rail Partnership (funded by Scotrail/Abellio) which is designed to link up the community surrounding our railway line.



Q.2 Please describe how you will ensure there are robust systems and suitably experienced staff in place to manage the project and comply with ESF requirements. (max 500 words)

South West Community Cycles is supported by passionate staff with valuable experience. Our Project Manager has 22 years of experience in public sector finance, 6 years in grant giving and for the past 2 years has managed South West Community Cycles.

Within the board we have myriad support: our Chair has over 30 years of experience in project management and community development with a focus on working with deprived children. Our board has recently been joined by a local MSP Richard Sullivan who has worked on the board of large community organisations for 10 years; and Liz Thomas MBE, a volunteer director at a local community centre who received her MBE for work on the flagship New Deal initiative. Our enterprise officer within Jobs and Business Glasgow also provides support and guidance in relation to funding and monitoring.

Since commencing delivery of 1848 Volunteer Project our experienced staff have developed robust systems to support volunteers and monitor project output. Our volunteer coordinator is experienced in the development and delivery of employability projects, youthwork, working with vulnerable people, data management, monitoring and reporting (with 5 years of experience gained reporting on European Funded projects) and has rolled out monitoring systems and KPI reporting across the organisation.

All participants will complete registration paperwork and an action plan at an informal meeting with the Community Training and Development Officer (CTDO). Their volunteering hours and associated activities (such as attending training or working on employability skills) will be recorded on our database alongside the projects outcomes. [By supporting volunteers and liaising closely with them on their volunteering hours and associated activities we are able to monitor: attendance at training; numbers of volunteers accessing the SWCC community hub; number of volunteers; number of volunteers demonstrating improvements in confidence and self-esteem \(which will be monitored by self-assessment at the beginning and end of voluntary placement\);](#) number of volunteers engaged with external community organisations; number of volunteers achieving community achievement awards; and number of voluntary roles developed within our partners GCC.

The CTDO will be responsible for liaising with external partners to ensure volunteers are being supported and monitored in line with the project aims and objectives. The CTDO, SWCC Project Manager and Volunteer Coordinator will meet on a monthly basis to monitor the progress of the project as a whole. To do this we will look at the various sources of data collated to ensure that the highest standard of service is being delivered and set targets are being met. By monitoring the project in this way we will be able to identify any issues, apply corrective procedures and ensure we are able to deliver the service in line with ESF requirements.

Our stakeholders and partners know us to be a good organisation, who have a dedicated staffing team that are passionate about making a real difference to our service users. We have robust financial systems in place to ensure every penny we receive in funding is used to provide the best possible outcomes for our service users.

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Q.3 How many staff do you employ?					
Full-time:	1	Part-time:	8	Volunteers:	15 active at present (52 this financial year)

Q.4 Does your organisation have an equality and diversity policy?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Q.5 Does your organisation have an environmental policy?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Section 3: Your Proposal

Our application process recognises the different stages of development of community organisations and their links to strategic partners.

Organisations are invited to apply for Stage 1 or Stage 2 activity, depending upon their degree of readiness to implement and deliver long-term local solutions to tackle poverty and inequality.

Stage 1 funding

Successful Stage 1 applicants can apply for up to £50,000 to support eligible activity over a **maximum of a consecutive six month period**. It will support organisations or consortia to do preparatory work to inform and/or strengthen strategic local partnership working, and to increase community capability through focussed activity between community organisations, local partners, third sector organisations and communities. This will enable organisations or consortia to then submit strong Stage 2 applications for activity that is strategically aligned locally, and based on delivering solutions to local priorities and needs.

Activities could include:

- Scoping out baselines for Stage 2 activity;
- Discussions with strategic partners, including CPPs, to agree the role of community organisations in local/neighbourhood strategies and plans to tackle poverty;
- Running community consultations and events specifically to enable community organisations and individuals to understand and contribute to local action plans

- Agreeing a plan of activity to tackle poverty and increase inclusion, linked to local strategic plans, which will be taken forward as part of their subsequent Stage 2 application.

Payment of the grant will be made retrospectively on evidence of activity and progress towards targets, and will include 100% financial checks on direct staff costs.

Stage 2 funding

Successful Stage 2 applicants can apply for up to £250,000. The minimum amount of grant that can be applied for is £50,000. It will support organisations or consortia that have already engaged with local partners, community organisations and individuals, to take forward action plans that link with local/area strategies, e.g. locality plans. Funding will be focussed on proposals that most effectively understand and address local deprivation and need; the potential for longer-lasting change; and effective collaboration and partnership working.

Activities could include:

- Developing and implementing a plan of activity to tackle poverty and increase inclusion, linked to local plans
- Supporting staff posts within community organisations to increase levels of economic activity, local service provision and inclusion, and enhance community resilience
- Enabling communities to design and establish new or enhanced services addressing poverty and inequalities.

No funding will be offered beyond the end date of the Aspiring Communities Fund and there is no commitment to further funding of successful projects beyond 31 December 2018.

Section 3: Your Proposal – Stage 1 and Stage 2 Applicants

Q.6 Please state the proposed start and end dates of your project.

Start date:	1 st July 2017	End date:	31 st December 2018
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Q.7 In which local authority area(s) will this activity take place?

Please tick all that apply:

Aberdeen	<input type="checkbox"/>	Edinburgh	<input type="checkbox"/>	Orkney Islands	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aberdeenshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Falkirk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perth and Kinross	<input type="checkbox"/>
Angus	<input type="checkbox"/>	Fife	<input type="checkbox"/>	Renfrewshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Argyll & Bute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Glasgow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scottish Borders	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clackmannanshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highland	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shetland Islands	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dumfries & Galloway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Inverclyde	<input type="checkbox"/>	South Ayrshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dundee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moray	<input type="checkbox"/>	South Lanarkshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
East Ayrshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Midlothian	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stirling	<input type="checkbox"/>
East Dunbartonshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nan Eilean Siar	<input type="checkbox"/>	West Dunbartonshire	<input type="checkbox"/>
East Lothian	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Ayrshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	West Lothian	<input type="checkbox"/>
East Renfrewshire	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Lanarkshire	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Proposed Activities

Q.8 Please provide details of your project proposal and all planned activity. This must include timescales for completing this work outlining how you will deliver the activity and any information on work already undertaken to date. (max 800 words)

Over a period of 18 months we would like to enhance the services we provide to those in the Glasgow Southside by developing "Volunteer Support Services" for the wider community and expanding our volunteer opportunities. With the support of "Aspiring Communities Fund" we will be able to grow into a community hub where individuals engaged in volunteering at external local organisations can be awarded for their community work and learning, receive employability support and access training.

There are myriad opportunities for individuals to volunteer within our local community, however, we believe many are missing out on the training and support services on offer to 1848 volunteers. We are seeking funding to deliver "Volunteer Support Services" to those out with the 1848 Volunteer Project. Whilst partner organisations may be able to provide voluntary opportunities many do not have the capacity or capability to support volunteers appropriately, ie develop and deliver training, provide guidance and personal support or job seeking assistance. For those volunteering within small organisations our support will enable them to: attend relevant training and personal development activities that will help them grow and develop; access informal education; develop and deliver voluntary services within their community.

We have been trialling a new initiative with Glasgow Kelvin College (GKC): Community Achievement Awards. Our 1848 volunteers have the opportunity to work on their community achievement award and are supported to reflect on the learning and development which arises from involvement, delivery and development of community activities. We are also supporting 2 volunteers who deliver a youth group at Mansewood Community Centre to complete their awards. Participants are able to achieve awards at different levels:

SCQF Lev 4: Involvement in Community Activity
SCQF Lev 5: Assisting in delivery of Community Activities
SCQF Lev 6: Delivery of Community Activities
SCQF Lev 7: Development of Community Activities

These awards enable the most vulnerable in our communities the chance to engage with learning and education in an informal environment whilst working towards achieving a formal recognised qualification. Additionally, participants become a registered student with GKC and can get a student card and access campus facilities. By developing our partnership with GKC we will be able to offer the awards to the wider community and those volunteering within third sector organisations in the Southside of Glasgow.

By using Community Achievement Awards as a support and supervision mechanism we believe we can enthuse and motivate the hardest to reach in our communities, helping them give back to their area, build self-esteem and gain valuable experience and qualifications to help them move forward in life.

Our 1848 Volunteer Project allows individuals to contribute to the running of our cycle centre and the delivery of associated activities, they receive high quality training, employability guidance and personal development. Our opportunities cover particular vocational areas: bike service and repair; cycle coaching; events; and administration and IT. As our cycling centre is relatively small this puts limitations on the amount of time a volunteer can spend with us on a weekly basis.

Our work in the Southside allowed us to develop a strong partnership with "Glasgow, the Caring City" (GCC), a local charity based in Govan which supports children in crisis at home and overseas, predominantly through recycling and fundraising. Their operations see them involved in activities ranging from: clothes/fabric collection and sorting; bike refurbishment; and more recently have hosted the hugely successful "Big Feed" within their warehouse.

We would like to set up an outreach bike workshop within GCC's premises. GCC has a good relationship with Strathclyde Police who currently donate unclaimed bicycles for recycling: due to the lack of volunteers skilled in bike mechanics they have struggled to recycle these. GCC also envisage many attendees at their events travelling by bicycle. By providing a qualified mechanic to work with and train volunteers, we would utilise additional space with GCC's premises and work with them to

service, recycle and refurbish bikes. This would offer volunteers further opportunity to develop skills in bike mechanics, build confidence and gain work experience. Additionally, volunteers would contribute towards carbon reduction and the promotion of environmentally friendly methods of transport.

Having worked successfully with volunteers throughout the 1848 Volunteer Project we are well placed to develop 15 additional voluntary roles within GCC (covering bike mechanics and activities associated with running the warehouse ie administration, clothes recycling). We would provide support to these volunteers to build on their existing skillset, attend training and achieve qualifications.

We would utilise ESF funding to: support a new staff post "Community Training and Development Officer; fund training for volunteers in our community; fund the set-up of a workshop/tools/equipment within GCC; purchase laptop/office equipment/stationary; develop marketing materials; contribute towards the running costs of South West Community Cycles; contribute towards Project Manager, Volunteer Coordinator and administrative support.

Q.9 Who will benefit from this funding, what impact will this make at a community level and how are you putting communities first by involving local people in the process? (max 500 words)

We believe our planned work would benefit the Southside of Glasgow and residents of our local community. We have an excellent track-record of working with vulnerable and hard to reach individuals. Our organisation is well placed to: develop new volunteering roles with partner third sector organisations; support members of our community to access volunteering; upskill and support those already engaged in volunteering; and enable those contributing to their community to achieve qualifications in return.

Our local community and project participants are diverse and come from a range of backgrounds. We work predominantly with unemployed/under-employed individuals and with this funding we will be able to offer our services to more individuals in the Southside of Glasgow and contribute to tackling poverty in the city. We work with vulnerable and hard to reach individuals who have a variety of barriers to employment and education such as: mental health issues; physical disability; additional support needs; poor literacy; low/no qualifications; no work experience; low confidence; and offending background. We receive referrals from partner organisations, local job centres, GPs and Health practitioners, Social Work, Mental Health Services, support workers and through word of mouth.

By developing Volunteer Support Services that could be accessed by those volunteering within any local organisation in the Southside of Glasgow we will help those in our community develop valuable skills, confidence and self-efficacy. Access to employability guidance and training opportunities will benefit those seeking work and our personal development activities will help participants who are struggling with self-esteem and confidence issues. We understand that many individuals believe that education and employment is not an option for them, we believe that by engaging with our services those furthest removed from employment will develop the confidence to move along the employability pipeline.

We are keen to offer our voluntary opportunities, training, support and guidance to those who would struggle to access mainstream services. Glasgow Kelvin College believe organisations like South West Community Cycles are paramount and invaluable to the college being able to reach and engage with people who, otherwise, would not or could not attend. This project would give those involved access to formal qualifications in an informal environment. The chance to gain recognised qualifications for volunteering hours is an attractive opportunity for those who do not think college is for them. We hope that by engaging individuals in such a project we can encourage those involved to think bigger and build skills and experience that will help them move forward in life, ultimately improving their prospects and increasing social mobility.

By adhering to the 7 standards of community engagement we will ensure we: include our community in the development of the service; identify and tackle any barriers to engagement; plan our project in accordance with the needs of our community; work with our partners to achieve the projects aims;

use engagement methods that will work in our context; clearly communicate with stakeholders and our community; are able to assess the impact of our activities to inform future projects.

Q.10 Please describe the rationale for your project, setting out the need and demand and its fit with *national and local plans* (max 500 words)

Glasgow is home to 7 of the top 10 most deprived areas in Scotland and half of Scotland's 100 most deprived neighbourhoods (2016 SIMD). Our operational area in the Southside of Glasgow, encompassing Pollokshaws, Pollok, Priesthill and, Nitshill is in the bottom 0-5% SIMD index (2016) in terms of income, employment and education. 8125 people reside in the Greater Pollok area with a 5th of the population aged 0-15 years old and an above average population of 16-19 year olds. A third of the working age population claim out of work benefits and 51% of families are single parent households. The number of 16 to 24 year olds claiming unemployment benefit, in Glasgow, increased from 3,585 in November 2007 to 6,710 in April 2012. This is a rate of 8.1% which is above both the Scottish and UK figures.

Glasgow has embedded social issues with 33% of children currently living in poverty and the Council's Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Thriving Places initiative is targeting the Greater Pollok area in an effort to remove the barriers to education, employment, and health and wellbeing faced by those most in need within our communities. Our project compliments the CPP priorities 'vulnerable people' and 'youth unemployment'. The Thriving Places initiative aims to focus on building the capacity, skills and strengths in a community through partnership working and 'co-production' of services between communities and organisations. The result of this approach is that we help build more resilient, sustainable communities which are stable, thriving and growing, and people are proud to live in their neighbourhood

Many people within our community have become disengaged with traditional education and employability services, resulting in poor school attendance, low educational achievement, unemployment and under-employment. This has a knock on effect on confidence, self-esteem, physical and mental health, and contributes to the poverty experienced by those in the hardest hit communities. Our work with volunteers has shown that engagement in our projects can improve fitness, health and wellbeing, confidence, social skills, aspirations and motivation.

As our population is now living longer, healthier lives, adult learning has a key role to play with this changing demographic. At the heart of the curriculum for excellence is the development of lifelong learners. The adult learning statement of ambition was one catalyst for the development of the Community Achievement awards that we will be delivering. Viewed alongside the GCC Single Outcome Agreement Priorities and Thriving Places initiative it is clear that all initiatives have linked outcomes focussing on health and wellbeing, supporting vulnerable people within communities, contains asset based community development, and, is essentially about tackling poverty in the Glasgow Area.

Our project fits with many of the Scottish Governments National Outcomes:

- We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people.
- Young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
- Public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.

Q.11 Please describe any established and/or proposed/ partnerships or collaborative approaches that will help to take this proposal forward. (max 500 words)

The partnership between GKC and SWCC is integrated and well established with a focus on positive, community-based education, progressive opportunities into Further/Higher Education and increased individual and community wellbeing. As a partnership - we are providing the opportunity and scope for self-directed learning programmes which are learner centred and have a direct ripple effect on the wider community (through reflective action, setting achievement goals, active participation and volunteer work) which only provides happier and healthier spaces in and around the city. Liaising with GKC on aspects of the community achievement awards will be a central aspect of the of Community Training and Development Officer's role to ensure participants are supported to achieve their awards.

Glasgow, The Caring City will work closely in partnership with us on this project. We would like to assist the organisation in the development of volunteer roles and the support of volunteers when in post. The organisation is managed by one member of staff and a limited number of volunteers to support the daily activities. We believe that by working together we can solve two problems: SWCC has limited space and GCC is under supported by volunteers. Partnership working would enable us to signpost volunteers to GCC and assist them to develop volunteering roles within the organisation. By increasing their pool of volunteers and developing interesting and diverse placements (for example in bike repair, administration, clothes recycling) we hope that we can ensure the organisation's recycling and fundraising operations are able to run smoothly and that they are fully supported to achieve their objectives. Our partnership will see us develop a workshop within GCC that will allow the volunteers filling these new roles to develop their skills in bike mechanics. As a participant on the project, volunteers would be able to access Community Achievement Awards, our community training and personal development activities, employability guidance and support, and volunteer expenses.

We will be working closely with both statutory and third sector organisations and will utilise our existing links with [local partners](#) such as: [GPs, health practitioners, social work and mental health services](#), [the local job centre, Volunteer Glasgow, NHS, Community Safety, Social Work, local High Schools](#), community centres, community interest organisations and local charities. This network will enable us to promote our services in the community and engage participants from a wide range of backgrounds. Our strong relationship [with our local Job Centre Plus office](#) ensures [we are able to engage local job seekers as many of the participants that start with the project will be registered unemployed with them.](#)

Our work with [Scotrail/Abellio](#) on the Community Rail Network has seen us engage with many charities and voluntary organisations in the Southside of Glasgow. We will take advantage of the [network of stakeholders interested in voluntary opportunities in the Southside of Glasgow. The additionality this will bring in is greater access to a diverse range of volunteering opportunities and training.](#) allowing us to signpost participants to [opportunities with our partners.](#)

Q.12 How will you ensure your project addresses the Horizontal Themes of Equal Opportunities, Environmental Sustainability and Social Inclusion? (max 500 words)

South West Community Cycles comply with the Equalities Act 2010 and are committed to equal opportunities and non-discriminatory procedures and practices. All employees and volunteers are expected to respect and act in accordance with the policy and any bullying or harassment in the workplace is totally unacceptable and subject to action. As many participants may be volunteering with external organisations we would monitor volunteer experience and only agree to work with organisations who comply with the Equalities Act 2010.

The project will be open to all members of our community who are un-employed or underemployed and we aim to make our services accessible and socially inclusive. We have no age restrictions and

there are no costs involved in participating in the project. We understand that many of our participants may struggle with mental health or physical disabilities and as such we endeavour to liaise with support organisations to ensure participants are able to engage with our services. Our Youth Development Officer has experience of assisting those with additional support needs and works closely with other staff to ensure our practices enable volunteers to get the most from their experience with us. We are working on developing visual aids and using coloured paper for notices and paperwork to overcome barriers in comprehension/literacy/language.

We receive regular feedback from participants to ensure we are meeting their needs. We will evaluate the project at regular intervals, taking feedback from participants to develop our services, using their experience of participation to inform project design. As this is a new project we are keen for those involved to help shape the service and we believe they will assist us to grow organically into a successful project. We have regular steering group meetings to enable the community to be part of shaping SWCC's overall service delivery and welcome feedback via our website and facebook page.

SWCC's focus is on the improvement of the health and well-being of those in our community and we encourage our customers and volunteers to take advantage of the greenspace on our doorstep at Pollok Country Park. Our regular cycle rides and led walks allow us to promote physical exercise and the outdoors as a practical action that makes a contribution to improving the environment, quality of life and personal change. It is hoped that those that participate in our project become more informed on issues relating to the environment. Indirectly, this can also be a way of tackling a variety of problems such as cutting carbon emissions and reducing the societal costs, as well as saving people money. This is recognised in a time of escalating travel and living costs, where cycling and walking can be instrumental in bringing communities closer together, improving social inclusion and have a positive impact on our environment and carbon reduction.

As an organisation we promote the recycling and reuse of bicycles and operate our premises with carbon reduction and energy efficiency in mind: we have a biomass boiler and are a cycle friendly employer.

Q.13 How will the project meet the ESF Operation Programme targets as set out below? It is not essential that you meet all of the targets but you must explain how your project will fit with at least one of these from (i) to (iii) and from (iv) to (v). (max 500 words)

The Fund will contribute to the achievement of the ESF Operational Programme targets:

- (i) *community based or community led services supported*
- (ii) *new childcare places available*
- (iii) *deprived or fragile communities supported*
- (iv) *increase in earned turnover of supported organisations*
- (v) *new or improved community owned assets (capital for acquisition via other non ESF sources)*

Our project will fit with targets (i), (iii) and (iv).

(i) Both South West Community Cycles and our partners at Glasgow, the Caring City are community based organisations and the support of ESF Aspiring Communities funding will enable us to develop

the services we provide to the community. This project will enable us to make an impact in the lives of those living in the area. Our aim is for our project to promote and increase volunteering in the Southside, the knock on effect of this is that many community based services will benefit from skilled and supported volunteers. By partnering with Glasgow Kelvin College we are directly contributing to the growth of community led services in the area giving local people easy access to recognised educational awards.

(ii) Our operational area in the Southside of Glasgow, encompassing Pollokshaws, Greater Pollok (part of the thriving places initiative), Priesthill and, Nitshill is in the bottom 0-5% SIMD index (2016) in terms of income, employment and education. 8125 people reside in the Greater Pollok area with a 5th of the population aged 0-15 years old and an above average population of 16-19 year olds. A third of the working age population claim out of work benefits and 51% of families are single parent households. This project could enable those from the most fragile and deprived communities in Glasgow the opportunity to access a supportive voluntary service and the option to increase their qualifications, confidence, self esteem, experience and skills in an informal and friendly environment.

(iv) The support of ESF Aspiring Communities funding would increase our turnover, allow us to employ more staff and develop our services to meet the needs of our community.

Q.14 What are your project’s planned outputs and outcomes by the end of the grant funding period? (max 500 words)

Within the grant funding period we hope to achieve the following outputs and outcomes:

Outputs	Outcomes
A dedicated service managed by a Community Training and Development Officer	Recruit a suitably qualified and experienced staff member into post
Provide access to a structured programmed that allows volunteers to learn, develop and positively contribute to their community	Support 50 volunteers engaged with external community organisations that are involved in the delivery of community based services.
Support opportunities that are specific to the community’s needs and are developed and designed in consultation with those participating	
Provide training opportunities that enable volunteers to develop relevant skills that will enable them to progress	35 volunteers will attend training to build confidence, increase skills and enhance qualifications
Community Projects are supported to integrate structured voluntary roles into their organisation, providing further opportunity for local individuals to engage in volunteering	15 voluntary opportunities will be provided within GCC over a period of 12 months

Volunteers are supported and well trained and have the relevant qualifications and experience needed to progress	30 volunteers will achieve their Community Achievement Award
Volunteers are supported to develop their confidence and self - esteem	30 volunteers will demonstrate improvements in confidence and self esteem.
Access to a community hub	35 volunteers will access SWCC community hub for training, personal development, leisure activities or employability support.

Q.15 Please describe the ‘added value’ of your project proposal, and explain why ESF grant assistance is needed to enable it to proceed. (max 500 words)

Our project supports the most vulnerable in our communities to access volunteering, personal development, training and employability support. We require ESF grant assistance to ensure we have the staff and resources in place to support this enhanced activity. Without ESF support we would be unable to deliver the outputs and outcomes mentioned in this application.

By working with those with complex needs such as mental health issues, physical disability, additional support needs, lack of confidence and self-esteem, lack of work experience and qualifications we have been able to make an impact in the lives of those in our community. We have been praised by our local job centre for supporting claimants that they have struggled to assist on their journey towards employment and believe we offer more than traditional services. We deliver a person-centred service that is truly user-led: we support our volunteers to achieve their aspirations, whatever they may be and however long that may take, as opposed to slotting them into roles that will lead to quick outcomes. By assisting our volunteers into employment and training we have reduced the number of claimants accessing DWP benefits and increased the employability prospects of those still on their journey towards sustainable employment.

This work is a community-led solution: we will support members of the community to take responsibility for the social, economic and environmental actions that will benefit the lives of those living in the Southside of Glasgow. By developing voluntary opportunities in the area and providing training, employability and personal development we will make volunteering more appealing and rewarding, therefore, increasing the volunteering time dedicated to the area. This work will also improve the prospects of those living in the Southside of Glasgow by giving access to learning and training opportunities and it is hoped that those accessing the Community Achievement Award will be encouraged to consider further/higher education. By developing voluntary roles within GCC we

will support their recycling and fundraising activities which will have a positive impact on the environment and the lives of children living in crisis in the UK and overseas.

Our ability to deliver intensive support to those accessing our services alongside the welcoming and supportive atmosphere we have fostered here has been key to the success of our current PCF funded project. We believe our informal and friendly approach makes us accessible to those who feel excluded from mainstream services. By making volunteering worthwhile, we will encourage those who would not normally be interested in volunteering to see what giving back to their community could do for them. We hope that as with our other projects, word of mouth from participants will see volunteering in the area become more popular and in turn, show those at the heart of our communities that they can play a huge part in what happens in their local area.

Q.16 How will European Social Fund and Scottish Government support be acknowledged? (max 250 words)

South West Community Cycles have recently developed a new website that has increased the traffic to our site and we have been working hard to develop our social media profile. We would ensure that ESF and Scottish Government were acknowledged on our website by displaying logos on our funders wheel and on any media/publication/marketing materials related to the project.

We would also ensure that our partners at Glasgow, The Caring City, acknowledged that ESF and Scottish Government funds had supported the development of volunteering roles within their organisation.

Q.17 How will project activity be sustained beyond the end of the funding period? (max 250 words)

[We are financially stable and have robust relationships with a number of different funders and businesses who want us to succeed, as much as we do. In developing this specific volunteering support focused project, we see ourselves having a long term future and this is what the Southside of Glasgow needs. We are working alongside other social enterprises to develop an employability consortium which we hope will move us towards financial stability and are seeking funding from a variety of sources to continue to expand the services in our community.](#)

We believe that by employing dedicated staff to work within our passionate organisation we will be able to meet the needs of our community, increase voluntary opportunities within the area, support volunteers to get the most out of the time they give, and meet the objectives of this project. By successfully delivering this project, and demonstrating the impact it has within the community we will ensure sustainability and continued interest from our stakeholders and funders.

Section 4: Financial Information – All Applicants (Stage 1 and Stage 2)

Q.18 Please detail the project costs

- Please list eligible project costs clearly below (refer to Application Guidance for these costs)
- **Stage 1 applications are for the calendar year 2017 only**

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Please complete for your application

Please detail the costs of all staff employed 100% on the project

Organisation	Job Title	No. of Months	Gross Salary (£) incl employer's NI & pension contributions	+15% or +40%	Total Eligible Costs (£)
South West Community Cycles	Community Training and Development Officer	18	£26,775	+ 40%	£37485
South West Community Cycles	Mechanic	18	£3570	+ 40%	£4998
South West Community Cycles	Administrator	18	£10582	+ 40%	£14815
South West Community Cycles	Project Manager	18	£15789	+ 40%	£22105
South West Community Cycles	Volunteer Coordinator	18	£6862	+ 40%	£9607
Total Project Cost					£89010

Q.19 If you have applied the +40% model above please provide justification for the higher indirect cost methodology.

We have applied the +40% model as we have costs in addition to staff salary (including employers NI contributions and pensions contributions).

For the project to operate successfully we require funding to cover:

- The set-up of a workshop within GCC's premises, including tools, equipment, renovations to space, PPE clothing
- Project costs associated with the training and development of volunteers

- Volunteer expenses associated with volunteering or moving forward (ie waterproof clothing required, PVG for employment)
- Travel expenses for staff and volunteers (public transport, cost of refurbished bike)
- Marketing Materials
- Laptop/mobile phone for staff member (CTDO and Administrator)
- Stationary/office supplies
- Contribution to the running costs of SWCC as project staff will be based here (ie water costs, electricity, internet, building rent)

	2017	2018	Total (£)
Total Grant Requested (£)	£29,670	£59,340	£89,010
Total Match Funding (£)	0	0	0
Total ESF Eligible Project Costs	£29,670	£59,340	£89,010
ESF Ineligible Costs	0	0	0
Total Project Costs	£29,670	£59,340	£89,010

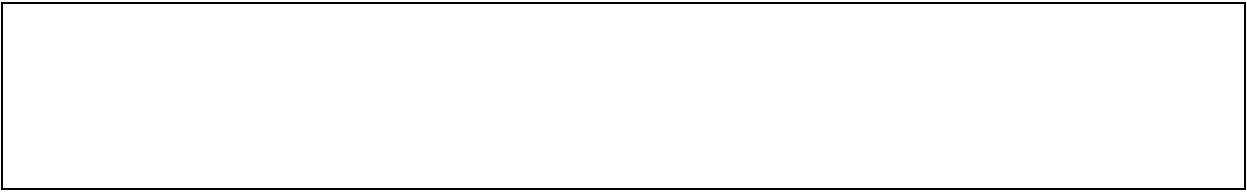
Expenditure Profile

Year	H&I Expenditure (£)	LUPS Expenditure (£)	Total Expenditure (£)
2017	0	0	0
2018	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

Match funding sources	Funding confirmed? (Yes/No) If no, then when is a decision expected?	Value 2017 £	Value 2018 £
NA		0	0

Q.20 Have you or any of the partners in your proposal received any *de minimis* aid in the last 3 fiscal years? Yes No

If yes, please provide details



Section 5: Declaration

By signing this declaration you are confirming that you are an authorised signatory for the community organisation applying for the Aspiring Communities Fund. You are also confirming that the statement below is accurate, and that you have robust governance arrangements in place.

As far as we know and believe, all of the information in this application form is true, accurate and complete. We are authorised to allow this proposal to go ahead. We are happy for the Scottish Government and the European Social Fund to:

- publish details of the financial support they are giving to this proposal;
- give any details they have about our proposal from this application or from future assessments to Scottish Government colleagues, other agencies, including other grant-making bodies; and
- use any of these details in news releases, case studies, publications and other publicity materials.

The Scottish Government and the European Social Fund can do these things without asking us again for our agreement and will not use any of these details for commercial purposes.

Authorised Signatory Details

Full Name:

Margaret Hood

Designation in Applicant Organisation:

Project Manager

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Signed:

Margaret Hood

Date:

07/04/2017