



Opportunity to build capacity for Transition in Britain

Summary Briefing January 2020: comments invited by mid February!

Transition Network have been developing a funding application to the National Lottery Community Fund UK Portfolio, to build capacity for Transition groups in Britain to support communities so that everyone can live within natural resource limits, with greater equality and wellbeing for all.

We'd like to get your views, opinions, feedback and ideas about our draft proposals please!

This will help shape the last stages of the bid development due to be submitted this spring.

The need for better support for Community-led climate action

In England, Wales and Scotland there are 260 Transition groups – some taking impressive and inspiring actions for a low carbon, socially-just future; some hanging in there. Many groups are feeling a lack of capacity – not enough people and / or not enough money, time, connections, support or publicity.

We also hear the value of local and regional connections with other Transition groups – the value of peer support and working together on complex challenges. Thank you to over 200 Transitioners who replied to our [survey](#) in August. We've used your views and priorities to help shape this proposal for building capacity in community-led developments to tackle the Climate & Ecological Emergency.

Our projects will make a real change through shared skills

Our proposal is for a four year programme from July 2020 – June 2024. This is a partnership between Transition Network and Transition Scotland (the Transition Hub hosted by Scottish Communities Climate Action Network). We want the project to be co-designed with the people who will be participating and led by community needs.

In England and Wales the project would create part-time paid Network Weaver roles who will both support and connect Transition groups in their region and also be part of a caretaker group developing the shape of a Transition Hub structure for England and Wales. Capacity-building for Transition groups will be through seed-funding and support we can deliver nationally such as training and collaboration.

In Scotland, the Transition Scotland Hub and Scottish Communities Climate Action Network will build regional capacity of community-led groups in the network across Scotland.

The project will support groups to help benefit the most disadvantaged members of the community. The initial priorities include supporting groups to influence and work with local authorities and other public bodies that have declared a Climate Emergency, including collaboration with the Centre for Alternative Technology on creating a Zero Carbon Britain community response.

Network Weavers:

In England and Wales we would recruit a set of regionally-based Network Weavers. These would be part-time roles to connect Transition groups in their area, encourage the development of a network, and feed priorities from these groups into the overall project direction. They will help groups in their

network agree collective priorities for how seed-funding could be used in their area. They will set up training courses that feel useful for their groups. Ideally Network Weavers will be from an existing Transition group and / or already involved in relevant local and regional networks, contributing to the livelihoods of people who are doing so much of their work voluntarily.

Also, together the Network Weavers will be part of a caretaker group to design the best structure of Hub or Hubs for Transition in England and Wales, bringing the priorities and perspectives of Transition groups in their area into the process.

We currently see the Network Weaver role as 2 days a week. There will be other project responsibilities (such as leading on Diversity & Inclusion, or Seed-funding) that some Network Weavers could take on with extra paid time. We will support the Network Weavers with training, support and a systems thinking course (we've got our eye on Schumacher Institute's Systems Thinking training).

We haven't yet reached a conclusion about where, and how many, Network Weavers – it could be 8-9 across England and 1 in Wales. As much as possible, we want to work from what is already there in terms of existing networks, clusters, regional facebook groups, active connections. We have considered spreading the funding further with a smaller 1-day a week role to connect smaller networks but we're concerned that working together as a project team would be difficult if some members had such limited paid time available.

Transition Scotland already connects and supports Transition groups in Scotland, and funding from this project will support the Hub to invigorate and strengthen their regional capacity and the support and connection they can offer. This will include online and in-person networking and learning, skill-share workshops, trainings and resources and developing the Future Voices podcast and other ways to tell the stories of Transition groups.

The key themes we are proposing

Transition groups engaging with the project will benefit from some or all of the following activities:

Seedfunding: A region (in England & Wales) could prioritise support for 2-3 groups or do something together. This could pay for time - for group coordination, for publicity, for peer support, for starting a new project or giving capacity to current projects.

Training: Free or subsidised Transition Thrive training courses to help your Transition group develop. Tell your Network Weaver about other training needs!

Diversity and disadvantaged sectors of the community: A guide, checklist and case studies for ideas on benefiting disadvantaged groups and working inclusively. Online webinars and Q&A sessions.

Liaising with councils on climate emergency: The August 2019 survey showed this as a priority. We'll highlight case studies of Transition groups with good practice to share, and we'll share what the network of organisations involved in the Zero Carbon Britain Hub can offer. We could start 1-2 pilots with Transition Network's Municipalities in Transition project (<http://municipalitiesintransition.org/>)

Zero Carbon Britain: The August 2019 survey showed this as a priority - working with Centre for Alternative Technology to co-design a community-led model of Zero Carbon Britain. This could be used by Transition groups and also help in liaison with councils that have declared climate emergency.

Proposed timetable

The first six months will involve recruitment and setting up. Then we see 3 year-long “delivery phases”. At the end of each delivery phase is a chance to review and adjust, for Network Weavers to bring in feedback and priorities from Transition groups, to adjust the direction of the project. We will look for opportunities for new priority themes for training and support.

Development	Delivery phase 1	Delivery phase 2	Delivery phase 3	Exit phase
Jul -Dec 2020	Jan – December 2021	Jan – December 2022	Jan – December 2023	Jan -Jun 2024

Transition Hub development

Around the world there are 23 Transition Hubs that support and connect Transition groups in their country / region – Transition Scotland is one of them. Transition groups in England and Wales could benefit from having a Hub or Hubs, led by people from Transition groups.

Is it one Hub for England AND Wales? Or separate Transition England and Transition Wales? Or are regional Hubs the way to go? The caretaker group of Network Weavers, Transition project staff and, potentially, other keen Transitioners will “take care” of the process to see if we can end this project with new structures energising and supporting Transition across England and Wales.

In Scotland we would recruit extra sessional staff and further develop the sociocratic circle structure, building a solid organisational capacity. The developing connections with the (23 networks comprising the) Scottish Community Alliance incl. the Development Trusts Association Scotland and Community Energy Scotland will greatly enhance the profile of community-led climate action, and enable our voice to be heard better by Scottish Government -for example to shape their proposed establishment of 5-6 Regional Community Climate Action Hubs.

Indicative budget:

The draft budget is not yet finalised, but current figures look like this – all total across the four years:

- Budget for E&W Network Weavers and additional paid time for project tasks - £415,800
- Seedfunding or related group support in England & Wales - £366,500
- Transition Scotland work - £146,500
- Training, Diversity support, priorities such as council climate emergency liaison - £145,500
- Zero Carbon Britain collaboration - £54,000

Timescale of bid and how to give comments and feedback:

First week of February 2020 – submission of draft funding proposal

Mid-February – we’d like to collect your comments and feedback by 14th February, via:

- A very short survey [here](#)
- a Zoom call 7-9pm on Monday 3rd February: <https://zoom.us/j/257625386> (all welcome) .

Mid-March – submission of final funding proposal

June 2020 – Funding decision from the National Lottery Community Fund UK Portfolio

Further Comments/Feedback to:

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