



in partnership with Sunderland City Council



Strategic Initiatives Budget Grant Application Form

Project Title:
Polish Partnership
SIB Requested:
£9960.00

Section 1: Application Requirements

1.1
<p>Please note that this application will be presented to the relevant Area Committee for its consideration when determining your SIB Grant Application. The Agenda and the Minutes of the Area Committee Meeting will be available for inspection by members of the public. Please therefore ensure that your organisation is agreeable to the content of the information that is set out in the form.</p> <p>The Application Form should be provided in either electronic (e-mail or floppy disc) or typed format. If you have a problem with returning this form in either electronic or typed format, please contact the appropriate Area Regeneration Officer. Contact / address details are provided on the covering letter and in the Guidance Notes and Criteria and Project Guidelines.</p> <p>Please note: that a representative of your organisation must be available to attend the main committee meeting(s) to which this application is presented, as they may be required to answer questions. Failure to attend the meeting(s) may result in your application being deferred or rejected.</p>
1.2 Which Area Regeneration Framework(s) does your project cover? (please tick)
Coalfield <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> East <input type="checkbox"/> North <input type="checkbox"/> Washington <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> West <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> South <input type="checkbox"/>

Section 2: Sponsor Details

2.1 Name of Lead Organisation / Group:		
Education Business Connections Ltd		
2.2 Address of Lead Organisation / Group:		
Units 75& 78T, TNE BIC Wearfield, Sunderland Enterprise Park (East) Sunderland SR5 2TH		
2.3 Contact Name for Project:		2.4 Position in Organisation:
Barbara McClennan		Chief Executive
2.5 Tel. Number:	2.6 Fax Number:	2.7 E-mail Address:
0191 516 6411	0191 516 6412	info@ebcltd.org.uk

2.8 Day to Day Contact Name / Details: (if different to 2.3 above)	
Christine Vickers (Assistant Chief Executive)	
2.9 Legal Status of Organisation:	2.10 Registered Charity Number (if applicable):
Company Limited by Guarantee	1109144
2.11 Does your organisation have a bank account into which funds can be paid?	
Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
2.12 Has the organisation received SIB support previously?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If 'Yes' please provide details:	
2.13 Are any trustees / members of the organisation employed by or are Elected Members of the City Council?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
If 'Yes' please provide details:	

Section 3: Project Details

3.1 Project Title: (please re-state title as per front sheet)	
Polish Partnership	
3.2 Project Start Date:	3.3 Project End Date:
01/02/2009	30/06/2009
3.4 Please Describe the project:	
<p>EBC is developing transnational links with groups in the Gdansk area of Poland and is working with the RC Foundation in Poland to help local schools, colleges and VCS organisations to better understand and deliver the enterprise agenda and help them to develop programmes that allow young people to develop up-to-date employability and entrepreneurial skills. The RC Foundation is a major charitable trust that acts as an umbrella for a range of organisations that deliver services in the Polish third sector. In some ways it is similar to a CVS.</p> <p>EBC was originally involved in a study visit to Gdansk in June 2006 and developed links with the RC Foundation and began to identify how we might work together. In May 2007 a couple of RC Foundation staff visited the North East and saw a 'low key' EBC event for primary pupils as part of a week long trip. Following that visit, EBC staff went back to Poland in May 2008 to speak at a regional conference and links have become stronger as a result.</p> <p>The funding for the latest work in Poland is in place – however EBC is looking for funds to deliver events in Sunderland that the Polish people can see when they visit the city in late March 2008. EBC has been asked by the RC Foundation to show how three of our programmes are delivered so that the Polish visitors can see us 'in action' and then translate their learning into similar delivery models in Poland in May 2009.</p>	

Poland has done well in the allocation of the latest European Structural Funds and Sunderland can share its expertise with the accession countries so that they don't have to re-invent programmes we know well. This proposal, and the developing partnership, will showcase Sunderland, its schools and VCS organisations and will lead to further useful contacts and opportunities for all sectors.

EBC will deliver the following programmes (info enclosed);

- Welcome to the World of Work - 100 pupils
- All Directions Modern Foreign Language Days - 60 pupils
- Switch onto ICT - 100 pupils

Whilst each event last for a full day, the amount of preparation and securing the support of business supporters is very time consuming. Schools need to show how the work links with achievement, the curriculum and what opportunities the links with new businesses can bring. The employers are likely to be harder to recruit than ever with cutbacks and fewer people on the books.

Each event will take an average of 12 business supporters some of whom will be new and will take time and support to be able to deliver at the event.

The 'Entrepreneurs of the Future' programme we are running in Poland is also attached.

EBC is working with the Council's International Team to identify further opportunities and other potential partners the Polish delegation should meet, including the University and other local third sector groups, during their visit to the city.

We will work with the following schools:

Houghton Kepier (Coalfields);

Pennywell 360 Academy (West) - to show how a 'different' type of school works;

Washington (Washington).

We have worked with these schools over many years and our partnership links with them are very strong, although our latest work with Pennywell goes back to the pre Academy days in 2007 whereas we have worked with both Houghton Kepier and Washington this academic year.

3.5 What service does the organisation currently provide and how will this be complemented by the project?

EBC is an independent education business partnership that has been based in the city for 10 years and works across the region. We deliver programmes in schools with pupils aged from 7 to 19 and have a particular expertise in working with disaffected learners, pupils in special units and pupils with significant learning barriers.

We have a portfolio of over 40 programme and our main funding comes from the LSC, schools and sponsorships. This project is an opportunity for several local schools to help showcase to an international audience how they work with business partners and also how partnerships work across the city. To deliver these events EBC will have to recruit and prepare a number of business partners who will come from across the private, public and voluntary sectors.

We want this project to be of the best possible quality so that the Polish visitors can see the schools and their partners at their best - the emphasis is on delivering something special rather than simply a standard event. They need to have a 'wow' factor - excellent resources,

high quality business input, clear objectives and a real 'buzz'.

3.6 What additional activity will SIB funding allow to happen (please tick the appropriate statement)

(a)	A project will go ahead which otherwise would not happen at all	<input type="checkbox"/>
(b)	A project will be provided to a higher quality / on a greater scale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(c)	The funding will accelerate the implementation of the project by 12+ months	<input type="checkbox"/>
(d)	A gap in funding will be filled pending other funds being secured (max 6 months)	<input type="checkbox"/>
(e)	Other reason	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain your answer:

The Polish visitors are coming the week beginning 30th March 2009 ECB will deliver all of these events in Sunderland, which will promote opportunities for wider transnational VCS partnerships. If needed, EBC might be able to find resources to deliver basic events but these would not have the opportunity attached to publicise wider partnerships and offer opportunities for other groups to work to foreign partners. Our chance of finding other funds is limited because of the time of year - schools traditionally do not 'buy into' our work in March/April because of other curriculum demands. By being able to offer schools the opportunity to take part in an event, cost free, we are confident they will embrace the opportunity this project offers their pupils.

3.7 How will you publicise that you have received support from SIB?

(Please refer to Section 3 of the guidance notes)

We will be promoting the project through media releases and through exposure on our website. All event materials will have SIB/local authority branding and we will invite the local councillors to attend the relevant events.

3.8 Has there been any consultations concerning the need for this project?

Yes No

If 'Yes' please provide details:

Barbara McClennan is a board member of ESFVON, the umbrella body that provides specialist support for the VCS in european matters. ESFVON has run several visits to Gdansk since 2005 hoping to spark partnership opportunities and get groups working together. This is the first practical project to emerge from these visits - both sides very much want to be able to report a success that can lead to other activities. We hope that this puts Sunderland organisations at an advantage.

The proposed programmes to be delivered under this proposal have all been developed following on-going partnership work with schools from across the city in which schools identified the products and services they wanted EBC to develop and deliver.

Local schools are often in a dialogue with EBC and we know that there is a strong demand for programmes that bring employers into schools, involve innovation and creativity as key themes and encourage pupils to consider a wider range of possible career options, including working in the VCS.

3.9 Is there any documentary evidence available to support the need for this project?

Yes No

If 'Yes' please provide details:

3.10 Who will benefit from the services provided by the project?

- * Local schools who will receive high quality programmes that will bring local employers into school and enhance work based learning and enterprise links for the pupils.
- * Local organisations who will have the opportunity to showcase their skills and potentially look for their own 'match' in Poland.
- * Local authority that will have an opportunity to make links with a city in a key part of the Baltic that has significant economic potential being in easy reach of Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Germany.

3.11 Will there be any implications for Council Services arising from this project?

Yes No

If 'Yes' please provide details:

3.12 Does this project require the support or sponsorship of a Sunderland City Council Directorate?

Yes No

If 'Yes' please provide details:

Whilst we have answered 'no' to this question we are working with the International Officer (Catherine Auld) to look at ways in which the five day visit to Sunderland can be afforded some civic support i.e. a tour of the city, meeting key potential partners etc beyond the scope of this application to SIB. This civic element would be in the hands of the local authority and not EBC - discussions are ongoing.

3.13 Are any legal and other approvals required?

Yes No

If 'Yes' please provide details of type of approval, date secured, or date expected to be secured:

Section 4: Equal Opportunities

4.1 Does your organisation have an Equal Opportunities Policy?

Yes No

If 'Yes' please describe how the project will comply with the Policy:

- These programme will fit the policy because;
- (1) All programmes will be delivered in accessible venues
 - (2) Consultation with schools about any special needs of pupils will take place well ahead of the events
 - (3) Special needs of business partners will also be accomodated
 - (4) Support will be available for any pupils requiring assistance to engage fully with the events

If 'No' please describe how your organisation addresses equal opportunities issues:

4.2 Does your project specifically address any of the following issues?	
Ethnic Issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes' please provide details as to how the project is in line with the Race Relations Act 1976:	
Gender Issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes' please provide details as to how the project is in line with the Sex Discrimination Act 1975:	
Disability Issues	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If 'Yes' please provide details as to how the project is in line with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995:	

Section 5: Relationship of Project to the Area Framework(s)

5.1 Identify which Area Regeneration Framework Action Plan Strategic Priorities this project will address through the use of SIB, and demonstrate how these will be achieved:
<p>This project is designed to have strategic fit with two key themes in the city strategy - Learning City and Prosperous City. Each of these points starts with a quote from the Sunderland Strategy and is followed by how this programme addresses these broad aims for the city.</p> <p>Prosperous City -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * To produce an enterprising and productive global city - this project is designed to put the city in something of a 'shop window' for how we can deliver effective education and regeneration programmes and how that expertise might be 'sold' abroad. * We will have a culture of enterprise to support growth and promote a diverse economy - the programmes EBC will deliver as part of this project are designed to bring out enterprise and creativity skills in young peoples well as highlight how those skills are used in the workplace. <p>Learning City -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * To create a city with a thriving learning culture - EBC is attempting to make links between what we do here in Sunderland with the learning available elsewhere in the EU. The stories about how technically skilled the Poles are compared favourably to equivalent workers in the UK are well known yet many Polish educators feel their system is one-dimensional and does not encourage creativity or enterprise. This programme should highlight some of the good practice in both countries and identify how it can be transferred. * Links with other towns, cities and countries are to be encouraged - this is target set for 2025, but there is no harm in beginning a long journey sooner rather than later. * Providers and employers need to work in partnership to ensure provision is comprehensive, inclusive and responsive - all three programmes we will be delivering in this proposal are a partnership between private, public and voluntary sector organisations, local schools and EBC. This is the type of comprehensive partnership in action approach we most want the Polish delegation to experience. * Digital Challenge will enable us to use technology to aid learning by excluded groups - a key element of the Switch on to ICT programme is that we call upon the support of several ICT community ambassadors to work with the pupils and often have the LIAZE bus in attendance.

This underpins the recognition of Sunderland as a leading Digital City both by the pupils at the event and the Polish delegation.

5.2 Identify outputs / outcomes against which the delivery of the project can be evaluated. Demonstrate how these will contribute to the Area Regeneration Framework(s).

Number of events delivered - 3
 Number of schools worked with - 3
 Number of pupils engaged - 260
 Number of business partners - 12 per event (average)

These are the bare facts - this programme is about a wider ambition to build sustainable links between organisations in Sunderland and Gdansk (with the potential for wider links across Poland at a later date) that cut across the private, public and voluntary sectors. There are opportunities that could arise for college and university linkages, business contacts and opportunities for VCS organisations to market their skills and knowledge.

As with standard EBC events, the plan is that the pupils taking part will have the benefit of meeting a wide range of business partners, have a real insight into the world of work, appreciate the values of foreign languages and overseas markets and get a clearer idea of the employability skills they will need to succeed in the workplace. As many of these are 'soft skills' (teamwork, communication, good timekeeping etc) it is often an opportunity for the less academically gifted to appreciate they have skills and attitudes employers could want in the future but also emphasises the need to have good basic skills such as reading, writing and being able to work with numbers.

As the Area Frameworks are being adjusted, the contribution for this programme is to the wider City Strategy and in particular to the Learning and Prosperous City elements.

5.3 If the project relates to two or more Framework Areas, on what basis have you decided how to share the costs?

We are promoting this proposal to three areas and costs will be shared equally across the areas - £3,320 each.

Section 6: Management Arrangements

6.1 Describe how the project will be managed:

Barbara McClennan will have overall management responsibility but Christine Vickers, Assistant Chief Executive, will have operational responsibility for the EBC staff involved in actual delivery.

6.2 Are there any significant risks or uncertainties that may affect either the timetable of the project, or whether it achieves its objectives?

No - the project is good to go. EBC is already set to go to Poland in February 2009. EBC is only paid from Polish EU funds when we are working directly in Poland - there are no funds to support what we deliver for them in Sunderland.

The only real barrier might be the availability of business supporters in the current economic downturn, but we have two/three months to prepare for the events and will work hard to ensure we have a good and varied attendance.

Section 7: Financial Information

7.1 How much SIB funding is requested?

£9,960

7.2 Indicate the type of funding requested

Capital Revenue Both

7.3 Has funding been requested / allocated from any other sources, including Council Directorates and if so how much?

No

7.4 What other funding alternatives have been considered and why were these not appropriate?

- 1) Funding from schools - not appropriate as they and their pupils are being used for demonstration purposes, their contribution is to help showcase this partnership work.
- 2) Private sector sponsors - not a good time to be asking for funds.
- 3) EBC - we are being paid for what we do in Poland but not for the work here in Sunderland.

7.5 What are the financial implications for the project should it not receive SIB funding?

Will go ahead but in a diminished form - fewer if any schools, fewer if any pupils, less opportunity to involve/promote other Sunderland partners, less strategic impact.

7.6 When SIB expenditure is complete how do you intend to continue this project?

We hope it will lead to a confirmed relationship with the RC Foundation that will lead to future work funded at the Polish end - what we are doing is a demonstration project both here and in Poland. We also hope that other partnerships might emerge from this work that could also be of benefit to Sunderland organisations.

7.7 Provide a profile of projected costs:

Funding Source	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	Total Cost
SIB:				
Coalfield	3,320.00			3,320.00
East				
North				
South				
West	3,320.00			3,320.00
Washington	3,320.00			3,320.00
Other Sources (please state)				
1)				
2)				
3)				
Total Cost:				

7.8 Please provide details of any 'in-kind' funding (e.g Peppercorn rents), if included within the 'Other Sources' of funding shown above.

Support from business partners;
3 events @ 6hrs @ £15/hr average for 12 people per event = £3,240.00

Use of premises;
3 events @ 6hrs @ £25/hr average = £450.00

7.9 Please provide a breakdown of the Total cost to show the main areas of expenditure:

Recruiting employers to support events (100hrs @ £20/hr)	£2,000
Event delivery costs (3 events, 5 staff @ £20/hr for 8hrs)	£2,400
General support for Polish delegation (30hrs @ £20/hr)	£600
Work with schools to prepare for events (100hrs @ £20/hr)	£2,000
Catering (3 events - 20 people each @ £4.33)	£240
Pupil transport (6 buses @ £250/bus)	£1,500
Evaluation (60 hrs @ £20/hr)	£1,200
Total	£9,960

7.10 Please provide details of how you will ensure that the procurement and purchasing of services and equipment will be managed in accordance with requirements as detailed in the guidance notes and guidelines. Include any estimates that you have and details of any contractors or suppliers to be used.

EBC has a purchasing system that ensures we seek three quotations for work - in this case the catering and buses would be provided on the basis of the best quotes received. We have based the calculations for this bid on costs for the most recent events we have delivered involving catering and transport.

Section 8: Additional Information

8.1 Please provide any additional information that may be of use in support of your project proposal (Please append additional sheets if required):

The programmes we propose to deliver are attached, along with a summary of the work we are going to do in Poland. We think this is a valuable trans-national project to build links between organisations in Sunderland and an area of Poland with which it shares considerable shipbuilding and heavy industry heritage but with both areas now seeking to build new economies around areas such as new technology, a strong small business base and tourism.

Section 9: Declaration

This authority is under a duty to protect the public funds it administers, and to this end may use the information you have provided on this form for the prevention and detection of fraud. It may also share the information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds for these purposes.

I declare that the information provided is correct and accurate and that, should this application be successful, the organisation will agree to the terms and conditions of SIB:

Name:

Barbara Mc Clennan (digital signature)

Position in Organisation:

Chief Executive

Date:

23/12/2008