[Press release: Sheffield social enterprise to deliver £3m to creative projects across Northern Powerhouse]

More than £3 million will be invested to support creative and cultural organisations across the Northern Powerhouse.

Sheffield-based social enterprise Key Fund has been selected to distribute the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund to creative organisations that provide a meaningful social impact in their local communities.

Groups will be eligible for grants or loans of up to £150,000. This could include using music sessions for young people not in education or craft workshops with former offenders.

The fund, which was set up to provide a lasting legacy to this summer's Great Exhibition of the North, will also attract additional social investment to the region. It is part of the Government's ongoing commitment to grow a culture of impact investing, including improving access to finance for local cultural and creative organisations that do social good.

Minister for Arts, Heritage and Tourism Michael Ellis said:

> Creativity is one of the North's greatest calling cards. This funding will strengthen arts and cultural organisations across the Northern Powerhouse and boost the important work they do in their local communities.

Matt Smith, Chief Executive of Key Fund Investments Ltd, said:

> We are incredibly excited about the potential impact of the fund developing and supporting both the creative and cultural activity, whilst delivering social impact in disadvantaged communities across the North.

Key Fund will also partner social investor Social Investment Business for its work in the North East, and Creative United, a community interest company that works to help arts and creative businesses grow.

The social investment fund will run for two years from April 2019 and is open to non-profit creative, arts and cultural organisations. Small or medium creative businesses from industries such as crafts, design, fashion and art that can demonstrate positive social outcomes can also apply.

Notes to Editors

The fund will cover the following Local Enterprise Partnership regions: Cheshire and Warrington, Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Humber, Lancashire, Leeds City Region, Liverpool City Region, North East, Sheffield City Region, Tees Valley, York and North Yorkshire and East Riding.

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News story: Defence and Security Accelerator Dial-in: Don’t Blow It!

DASA will be hosting a dial-in event on 12 November 2018, 10am to midday to provide a short briefing on the ‘Don’t Blow It!’ Safely eliminating chemical and biological munitions on the battlefield competition followed by an open forum Q&A session.

Also available will be the opportunity to book a one to one telecon meeting with the competition team to discuss questions specific to your proposal.

Further information can be found in the competition document.

Published 6 November 2018

Press release: RPA confirms BPS 2018 entitlement and greening rates

The Rural Payments Agency(RPA) has published the Basic Payment Scheme(BPS) entitlement values and greening rates online today (6 November 2018).

This follows the confirmation of the BPS exchange rate for payments this year, which will start landing in bank accounts from Monday 3 December.

Under BPS, farmers need to hold an entitlement for every hectare of eligible land they are claiming on. The size of farmers' payments will depend on how many entitlements they use, supported by eligible land and the value of those entitlements.

The greening part of payments will be calculated by taking the number of entitlements that they have used with eligible land to claim payment and multiplying it by the greening value.

Now that the rates are set, the RPA is focusing on preparing payments so these are ready to land in bank accounts when the payment window opens.

Entitlement values

Region	2018	2017	2016
Non-SDA (Severely Disadvantaged Areas)	€181.39	€180.46	€175.27
Upland SDA, other than moorland	€180.00	€178.90	€174.01
Upland SDA moorland	€49.09	€49.63	€45.97

Greening rates

Region	2018	2017	2016
Non-SDA (Severely Disadvantaged Areas)	€78.13	€77.69	€77.71
Upland SDA, other than moorland	€77.53	€76.92	€77.15
Upland SDA moorland	€21.14	€21.32	€20.39

- The Euro exchange rate that will be used to calculate all payments is €1 = 0.89281

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