

How can you plan for the future?

In the context of the *Space and Place* programme sustainability refers to planning how to finance the activities and services in the long term after the grant award for your project has concluded. Sustainability is an important consideration particularly for capital funded projects for grantees to consider how to utilise their project and asset as a key resource.

Financial sustainability is an issue that should be considered at an early stage of your project and connections made with interested stakeholders from the outset rather than waiting until your project has been completed. Taking responsibility for the running and managing of a capital project is very different from a revenue project and requires a different approach when planning for the future. Management, maintenance and financial sustainability are key to the long term success and legacy of any project.



Key resources in planning sustainability

There are a number of key plans to consider:

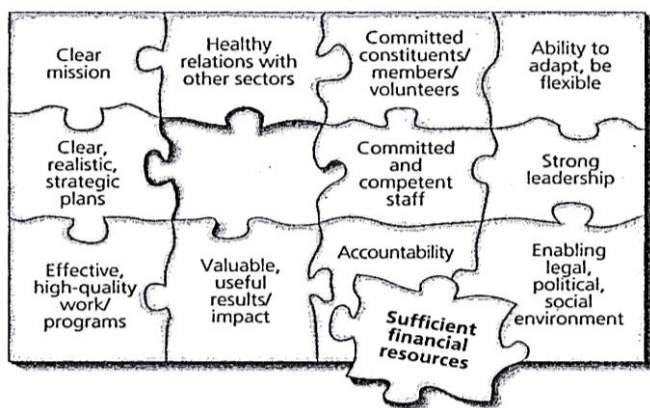
- **Strategic planning:** is important in setting out your organisations **vision, aims and values**.

- **Operational planning:** helps you develop how you will implement your **strategic aims and activities** considering your **outcomes, timescales and resources** required.

- **Financial planning:** can help you **focus** and achieve your **goals**.

A SPICED focus is required:

Secure – Planning – Integrated – Cost centred – Evaluated – Diverse



“Money is merely one piece of the jigsaw”,
Community Change, Northern Ireland.



Fundraising ideas,

Space & Place Tranche 1 Grantees

Developing a Sustainability Plan

Your organisation should aim to develop a sustainability plan so that it is clear on how it will achieve its goals after the programme funding ends. The sustainability plan for the project should fit into the overall sustainability plan for the organisation. You need to ask yourself:

Q. What are your organisation outcomes and goals?

Q. Who is your target audience?

Q. What services will you provide and how will these be sustained?

Q. What does it cost to run, manage and maintain these services?

Q. How can you increase people’s participation in your project?

Other things to think about when answering these questions:

- Financial management/ business plans
- 'People & skills' sustainability: Supporting, supervising and managing staff/ volunteers
- Management and maintenance of the project/ asset
- Income & activities diversification
- Accessibility vrs. Affordability
- Partnerships & sharing resources

Some tips to consider:

“To be successful, you need to respond to community need in the most cost effective way possible.”

“Relationships help instil value, buy-in and funding.”

“Turn monitoring into money- Has your project positively impacted on the local area? Have local businesses benefited?”

Further Information

[Community Change Resources](#) on sustainability & planning for the future.

NIEL [HLF Catalyst Umbrella Programme](#) on fundraising.

BIG Lottery Fund information on [sustainability](#).