



FINAL VERSION - WITH CONFIRMED AGENDA AND VENUE

Background

This is a joint effort between Local United and the Transition Network.

Local United (LU) is currently a project funded by NESTA's 'diffusion' activities and powered by the successes of local groups coming out of Big Green Challenge and now the Low Carbon Communities Challenge. It is a gathering of social entrepreneurs eager to work out how social enterprises, that in part deliver transition, can be both developed and deployed at a pace and scale commensurate with the scale and immediacy of the problem of climate change. Currently just ten social enterprises are sharing and incubating their business models, and will draw them in to 'packs' that can be readily accessed (socially franchised or open sourced) and to take them out to the market place for proofing and for dissemination.

The Transition Network (TN) is just beginning a new project called 'REconomy', kindly funded by the Roddick Foundation. The aim of this project is to help transition communities to grow new enterprises and influence local businesses such that they contribute to the wellbeing of that community, and society overall (including the most disadvantaged and marginalised), rather than pursuing economic growth at all costs. The stimulation of social enterprise is, of course, a critical component of this.

As the Local United project is drawing to a close, and the TN project is getting underway, we see potential here to integrate the learnings from the LU project into the TN project, and at the same time as allowing the experience of the leading transition initiatives to help shape the work of LU. The TN project provides a test bed of around 10 transition initiatives (TIs) that we can work with over the next 12-24 months to explore the reality of scaling-up social enterprise and alternative economic models. The results of the LU project will help shape the way in which transitional social enterprises develop in the UK.

Workshop aim

To explore ways to support the rapid development and deployment of social enterprises across the Transition Network and beyond.

This will be based on work already underway in Totnes and some other transition towns, as well as the social enterprises currently being developed through the Local United project. This is an opportunity to focus on actual social enterprise in action - to learn from their real life experiences and to use this insight to best effect in propagating new enterprise around the country, which is of an appropriate scale to match the size of the challenges facing us.

Workshop objectives

1. To make significant progress in addressing the following questions:
 - What are the attributes of our desired new local economy?
 - What/where are the opportunities (both short and long term) in this new marketplace?
 - What do we mean by social enterprise in this context of transition, and what role does it play?
 - How can social enterprise best be stimulated and nurtured today (while still in the old paradigm)?
2. To bring together the leading 'social entrepreneurs' along with a leading marketplace (Totnes and other transition towns) who are taking on the challenge of starting, developing or deploying new enterprises today, and to define the real opportunities, challenges and barriers. In effect to start help draw out a plan for developing the sector.
3. To understand how best to help social enterprise (and possibly these specific enterprise models as appropriate) to rapidly propagate across the TN (and beyond).
4. To provide time and space to build/strengthen social connections and informal networks between the entrepreneurs, support providers and other partners.
5. To capture the learnings and outcomes such that they provide an evidence base for the pursuit of social enterprise solutions in the UK (i.e. the economic, social and environmental potential and the best means to achieve this potential) by Local United and the Transition Network along with other partners.



Confirmed agenda

Venue: the workshop will be held in the Mansion Hall, at the Mansion House and NOT the Civic Hall as stated in the draft agenda. Full address is The Mansion House, 36 Fore Street, Totnes, TQ9 5RP. To find the Mansion Hall, go straight through the Mansion House (a large redbrick Georgian mansion on your left hand side as you go up the main high street) and out the back, go across the courtyard and through the double glass doors at the back right hand corner. The Mansion Hall is at the very top of the stairs on your left.

Preparation: to get the most out of your 2 days with us, please take a moment to look at the enterprise summary sheets that have been provided by some of the Totnes social entrepreneurs attending (attached), and to download the Local United diffusion packs from this website <http://www.nef.org.uk/communities/local-united.html>.

Please also bring your own copy of this agenda and if you desire, a copy of the attendees list, which is available at <https://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=0AizJ2xVlviaudFpuZ2dCRnd4Tk1mLUc3OWVIOHpWLUE&hl=en&authkey=CN3fm8wO> then click on FILE > DOWNLOAD AS to make your own copy. Also make sure your details are correct if you haven't already done so – you can edit this googledoc directly.

If there are people you specifically want to talk to, we have set the final hour of the second day to be a time for ad-hoc meetings so please feel free to contact people directly to arrange this.

Sunday 30th January, 2011

Transition Tour: if you are booked on this tour, then Hal Gillmore has emailed you directly about this. Then some of us will be meeting for drinks and food at the Seven Stars Hotel (pub at bottom of the high street, in the older pub not the wine bar) from around 7pm – everyone is very welcome!

Monday 31st January, 2011

Timing	Activity
10.00am	Registration, tea and coffee
10.30am	Welcome and introductions
11.15am Incl. break	SETTING THE CONTEXT & DEFINING THE MARKET PLACE: What does our desired new local economy model look like? What are its attributes? How does it differ from what we have today? What/where are the new opportunities (short/long-term)? What do we mean by social enterprise in this context of transition, and what role does it play?
1.30pm	Lunch
2.30pm	SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN ACTION – part 1: Local United social entrepreneurs present a summary of their enterprises.
3.30pm Incl. break	IDENTIFY THE NEEDS: Are there common themes around opportunities of the market place, and the needs and barriers of the social enterprises? Are there differences depending on place, and if so, why?
5.45pm	Free time or meet for drinks at the Seven Stars Hotel
7pm	Dinner for all in the cafe at the Mansion House (2 sittings). Alcohol not provided with the meal, but we will be in the pub before/after! Please make sure you have indicated if you are NOT attending the dinner (either on the attendees googledoc or tell Helen).



Tuesday 1st February, 2011

Timing	Activity
9am	SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN ACTION – part 2: Some of the Totnes-based social entrepreneurs present a summary of their enterprises.
10am	Break
10.20am	REPLICATION and SUPPORT: LU's ideas around 'incubating' and diffusing some social enterprise models, and developing a cohesive plan for the sector. What is on offer from LU? Does this help us? Is replicating any of these specific businesses useful? Is the concept of a diffusion pack useful? Which needs and barriers are NOT addressed in this way? How might these gaps be addressed?
12.30pm	Lunch
1.30pm	WHAT NEXT? Reflection time – where to go next? This will be left open and defined on the day to be most useful, possibly to allow for some specific planning in groups.
2.10pm	Wrap-up and agree next steps.
2.30pm	Official end of workshop.
2.30pm – 3.30pm	Open time for ad-hoc meetings. Already planned: REconomy project team and the 10 x project TIs – all meeting in the Harberton Room for the whole hour to discuss project activities and plans (Nadine is main contact). LU project team and advisers – all meeting in the TTT meeting room across the road at #43 (Adam is main contact).

Costs

There is no charge to attend the event as it is funded by Local United (NESTA) and lunch both days, and dinner on the Monday night, will be provided for all participants.

There is some limited funding available to help cover the costs of accommodation and travel for those attendees that most need it. This has been agreed with individuals in advance by email. Claim forms will be available at the workshop – please complete these and attach receipts and give them to Helen or Fiona directly, or send them to Helen La Trobe at Transition Network, 43 Fore Street, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 5HN. We will pay these claims ASAP.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Fiona Ward, Helen la Trobe (Transition Network) & Adam Kennerley (Local United)