



# Connect Fund Overview



# THE CONNECT FUND – WHY?



The Connect Fund seeks to build a better social investment market in England by:

- improving the connection of social investment to the needs of charities and social enterprises
- better connecting social investment intermediaries through shared data and resources
- connecting existing voluntary sector infrastructure organisations to the social investment market

## DEMAND

Charities and social enterprises still struggle to access small amounts of unsecured, affordable finance from the social investment market.

## SUPPLY

There are a number of social investment intermediaries, but sustainable business models for fund managers and advisors remains challenging.

## VALUES

- VOICE
- INDEPENDENCE
- COLLABORATION
- LEARNING
- QUAKER VALUES
- ENGAGEMENT
- INNOVATION AND EVIDENCE

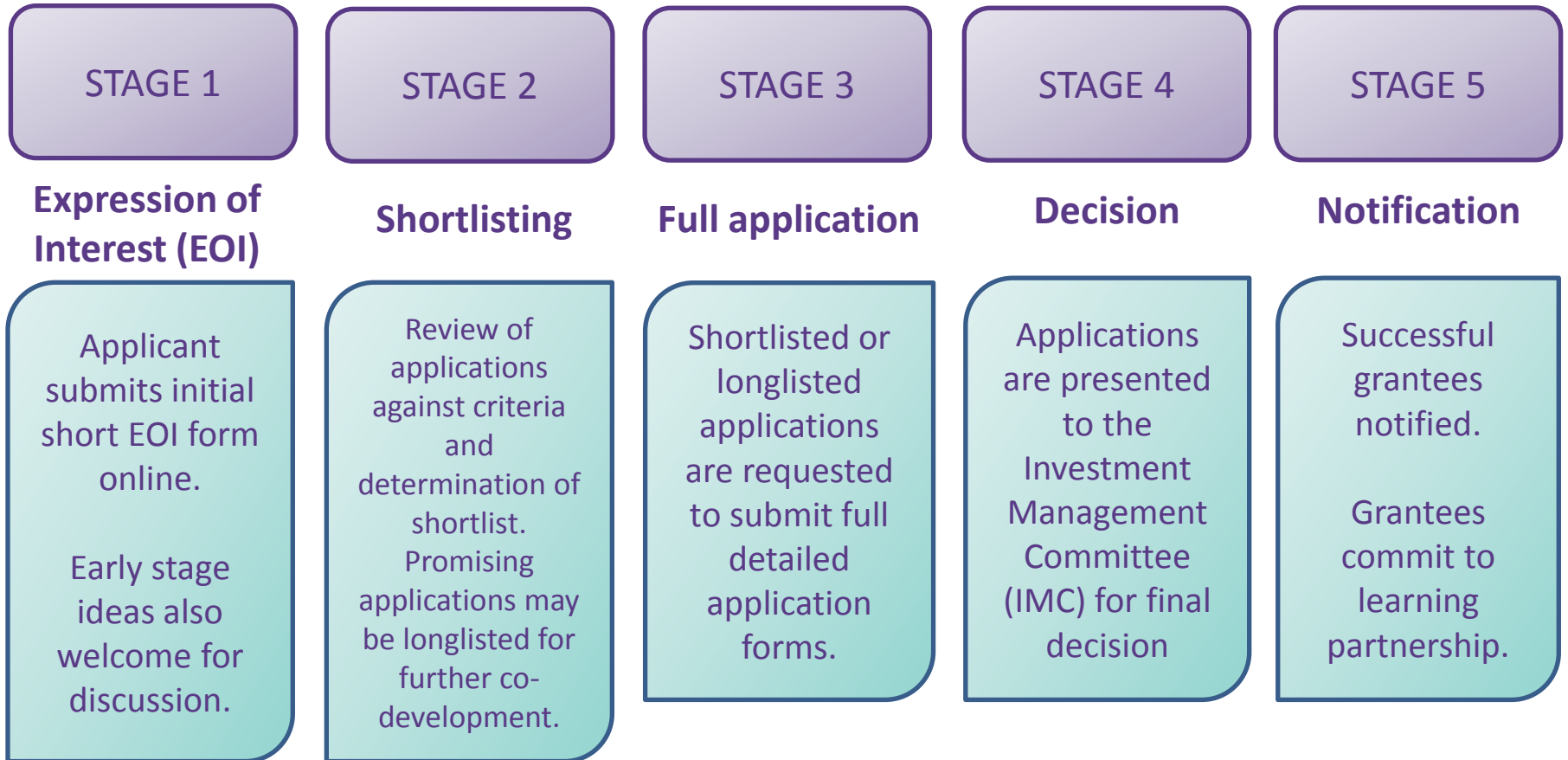
# THE CONNECT FUND – WHAT?



**£3m fund that makes grants and investments to support intermediaries and infrastructure to make social investment work better for charities and social enterprises in England.**

The Connect Fund fosters learning partnerships to accelerate solutions to shared challenges in social investment, and to ensure that social investment focuses on the funding realities that social sector organisations face.

# THE CONNECT FUND – APPLICATION PROCESS



# THE CONNECT FUND – FUNDING ROUNDS



## Round 1

Grants for shared initiatives to address gaps in social investment market infrastructure.

**Social investors, advisors, interest groups & networks active in social investment in England**

Expression of interest:  
**June 2017**  
Decisions made:  
**November 2017**

## Round 2

Grants to enable the development of shared approaches to engage with social investment.

**Voluntary sector infrastructure orgs, membership bodies, CVS, networks & community foundations in England**

Expression of interest:  
**November 2017**  
Decisions made:  
**February & May 2018**

## Round 3

The priorities and eligibility criteria for the next round of grants and investments will be decided soon.

**Sign up to our e-news mailing list to be the first to hear about the next round of funding**

**Dates to be determined**

# THE CONNECT FUND – GRANTS



A total of 42 projects are now being supported by the Connect Fund

- Round 1: 17 grants totalling £740,000 were made in November 2017
- Round 2: 25 grants totalling £1,045,290 were made in February and May 2018

The projects fall under eight main themes, with many working across more than one theme.

## Capacity Building of Sector



10

## Data Sharing



2

## Diversity



8

## Networks



9

## Business development



2

## Skill development



8

## Standards & Templates



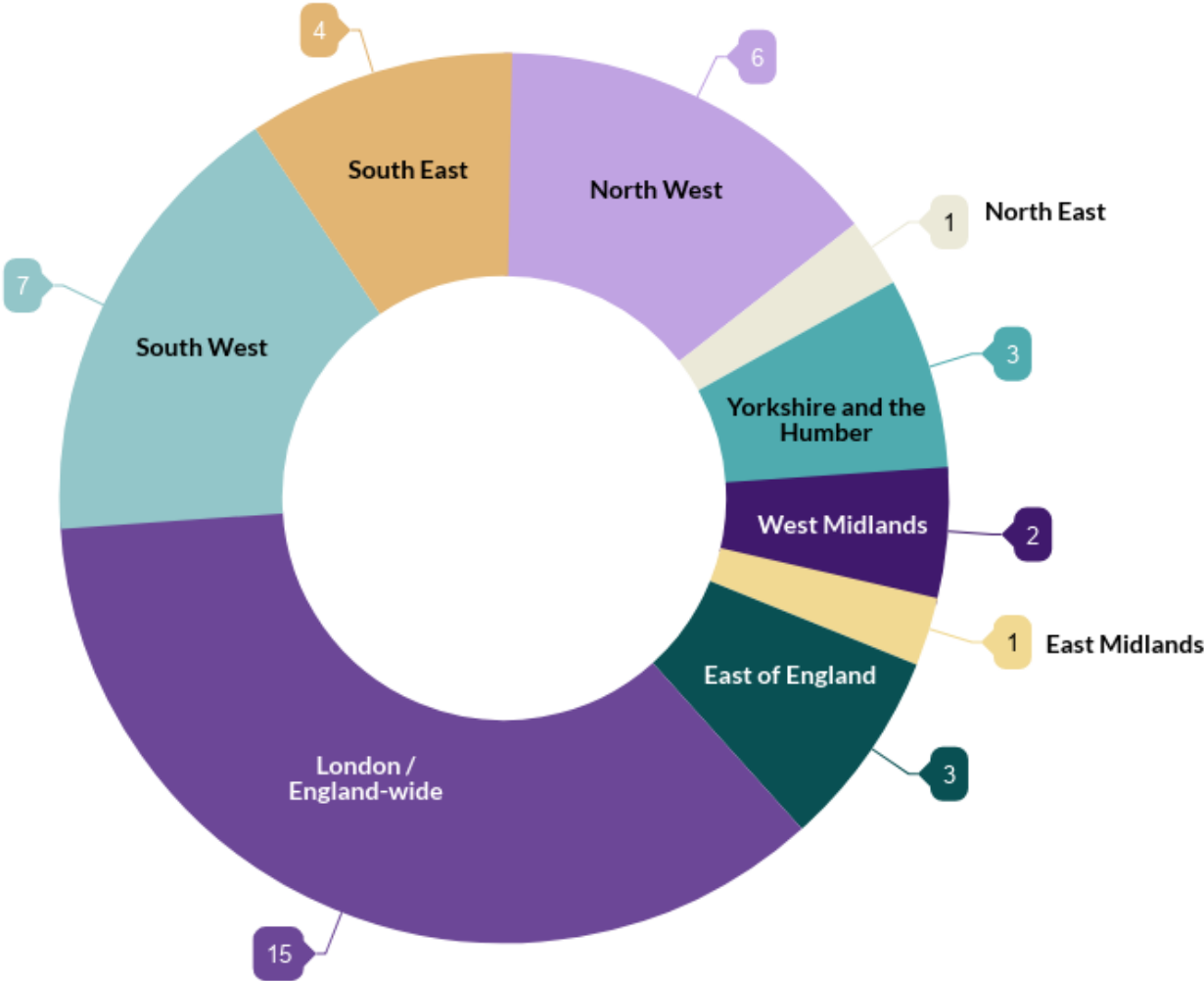
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## Market Information



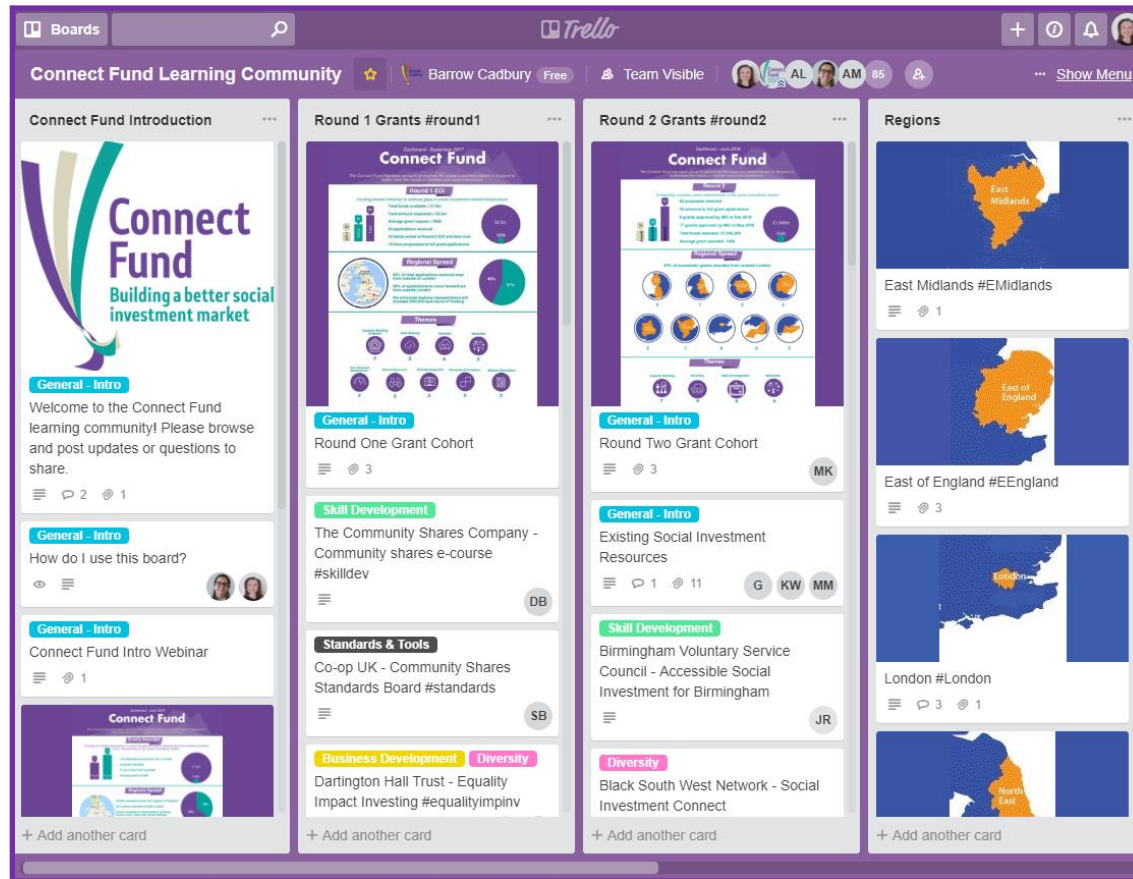
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# THE CONNECT FUND – REGIONAL SPREAD



The Connect Fund projects are spread across all nine regions of England.

# LEARNING COMMUNITY



The Connect Fund grantees form part of our Learning Community, which we have established to ensure the knowledge and best practice from the projects can be shared and retained for the benefit of the market.

Find out more on the [Learning page](#) on our website.



# How to stay in touch



For general enquiries contact Alex Padilha:  
[a.padilha@barrowcadbury.org.uk](mailto:a.padilha@barrowcadbury.org.uk)

Follow us on Twitter: [@connectfund](https://twitter.com/connectfund)

To hear the latest news from the Connect Fund and information about our next funding round sign up to our E-news mailing list by completing the registration form at the bottom of the home page:  
[connectfund.org.uk](http://connectfund.org.uk)

