Top 10 Tips for Distributing Community Investment Funds

1. VCSE Endorsement
   - Take the idea of the CIF to the community via trusted VCSE organisations or local Community Champions.

2. Flexibility of Application
   - Conversations, videos or simple forms for the community to convey their ideas to you.

3. Relationship Building
   - Build relationships, get out into communities and get to know the applicants and their beneficiary groups.

4. Representative Panel
   - Develop a local diverse panel who understand local needs. Share the power of decision making.

5. Rolling Funding
   - Create a rolling programme for applications to avoid timetable barriers.

6. Quick Decision
   - Regular panel communications results in quick turn around. Weeks not months!

7. Flexibility of Output
   - Focus on quality of outcomes not KPIs.
   - What will happen or change as a result of the funding?

8. Capacity Build
   - Support the 'not ready' applicants to be grant ready.
   - Finance 'plus' support offer.

9. Physical Activity as a Side Effect
   - Ability to award projects with Physical Activity as secondary outcome. Physical Activity by stealth.

10. Create & Share Knowledge
    - Create robust and simple evaluation process.
    - Provide opportunities to promote learning opportunities to connect across the system and within communities.
    - Show others what is possible.