

**PRESS RELEASE – FAO LOCAL REPORTERS**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LOCAL MSP HAILS SECOND ROUND OF RBS SKILLS & OPPORTUNITIES FUND**

**£35K GRANTS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT LOCAL GROUPS IN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES**

SNP MSP for Kirkcaldy, David Torrance MSP, has warmly welcomed the launch of the second round of this year's RBS Skills & Opportunities Fund. The £2.5 million fund is aimed at empowering charities, social enterprises, community groups, state-funded schools and colleges; in order to support local people in disadvantaged communities to find employment or to set up their own business.

The fund - first launched in 2015 at a value of £2.5million - returned for a second year worth a further £2.5million. Eligible applicants can apply for grants of up to £35,000 from the Royal Bank of Scotland, with winners of the first round of applications announced in July.

MSP for Kirkcaldy, David Torrance MSP said:

“This is a great opportunity for local community groups in my constituency who are seeking funding to develop, sustain and expand their work.

“Throughout my constituency, there are many fantastic community activists in areas of high deprivation doing outstanding work with limited resources. I'm very keen to support their efforts and to point them in the direction of funding sources.

“I'd like to encourage all groups who feel they may be eligible to make an application.”

The second round of 2016 applications for the RBS Skills & Opportunities Fund launched at midday on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Applications are open until midday on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

**ENDS**

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

The RBS Skills & Development Fund offers £2.5million to fund projects in charities, social enterprises, community groups, state-funded schools and colleges across the UK and Ireland across two rounds in 2016. The fund was first launched in May 2015.

Scotland has been designated as one of seven regions with a designated decision-making board to allocate the distribution of funding.

The launch of the fund is promoted on Twitter via @RBS and #skillsandopportunities.

Further information and details on how to apply can be found at:

<http://skillsandopportunitiesfund.rbs.com>

## CONTACT DETAILS

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*Serving the Kirkcaldy Constituency.*

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