

A UK Citizens Wealth Fund

Independent Of National Government

The proposal is to set up a Citizens Wealth Fund held in trust for all citizens in perpetuity. It would not be a charity but would pay out income back to every account holder. The Trust would hold the assets on behalf of every citizen and aim to reward everyone with an annual, growing income. All, any UK citizen needs to do is open an account.

Funding could come from:
Savings/bonds linked to an account.
Donations and legacies.
Carbon offset fees.
Some reinvestment.
Grants and payments from Government and other bodies.

Fund Structure

The Fund would only be open to citizens of the UK (or those with a right to reside).
The Fund would only invest in the UK.
Each individual would only be able to open one account.
The account could hold your one share, cash and “mini bonds”.
A mini bond is valued at £10 and pays an annual interest of 1% plus a bonus.
The bonus is a share of the net income of the fund from the previous year.
The total net income would be split:
 40% shared equally to each account.
 40% shared out equally to each bond.
 20% retained by the fund.
Realised capital profits could be treated in the same manner.
Bonds are trade-able having interest and bonus paid to buyer and seller pro-rata at year end.
Essentially every citizen could claim their single share by opening an account. You can not buy or sell your share. When you die your share dies with you. Parents can open accounts for children from birth. Your share entitles you to the annual account bonus even if you have never put any money into the fund.

Donations of land, cash, trade-able or income producing asset from individuals or entities could be accepted.
By keeping the borrowing costs down to 1%, projects are more likely to show a return and succeed and lead to higher returns in future years.

Investment by The Fund

The Funds aim would be to invest in the UK economy, with a long term view, by linking the acquisition of assets, social improvement and profitable revenue. Allowing citizens to make a contribution to the improvements in their country and seeing multiple benefits and rewards.
The Fund could be split into a group of sub funds with their own management teams. This would allow the Fund to grow and move into new areas.

Housing

The Fund will initially need to build a large, income producing, asset base. Therefore at least 50% of funds would be invested in building well designed, affordable, carbon neutral homes to rent – mostly apartments.

Initially all local councils, housing charities and trusts could be approached, with the offer of completely funding any low cost or social housing projects. The Fund would pay for the land and construction costs. Relying on the Council or Trust to manage the project and subsequent rental and repairs.

Carbon Fund

Many companies and individuals would like to offset some of their emissions through a trusted organisation. The Fund could offer a ready made scheme to plant and manage forests or retrofit carbon neutral heating systems.

Agriculture and Fisheries

The Fund could buy farmland for onward rental to young farmers. Help finance new agricultural ideas to improve land use, reduce CO2 emissions, reduce food waste and produce more local food. Help to fund fishing communities with a new sustainable fishing economy.

New Technology

By forming a relationship with universities the fund could be a joint investor in start up businesses covering such areas as energy, transportation, chemicals, computing, robotics. This could be sub-fund of Business.

Business

This part of the Fund would cover areas such as manufacturing, commercial property, wind farms, shops, pubs, banking and finance, recycling, charities and local community enterprises in fact any kind of business operation.

Health

This could range from involvement in drug manufacture to building convalescent accommodation to relieve hospital beds, building specialist treatment units or running or funding retirement homes.

Education and Training

The Fund would have strong links with schools, colleges and universities. It would be instrumental in creating “skill clusters” combining training, research and manufacturing.

Transportation

Funding the decarbonisation of our transport system by funding the acquisition of electric vehicles.

Ownership of the above businesses could be either as full owners with management and staff or joint ventures with private and public companies. The Fund would have a valuable logo which could be used where a business has partnered with the fund to offer an approved product or service.