

Release: 12 December, 2010

Contact: Rachel Anderson at rachel@bigissueinvest.com, tel: 0207 526 3431

Big Issue Invest (BII) has now raised £3 million for its pioneering Social Enterprise Investment Fund and is looking to invest in more successful social enterprises looking to scale-up their social impact.

BII is a specialist provider of finance for social enterprises and is run “by social entrepreneurs, for social entrepreneurs”. It is led by social entrepreneurs, who have had first hand experience of running and growing social businesses in both the good and bad times. It is staffed by committed mission-driven financiers. As part of The Big Issue group of companies, BII pays any dividends to The Big Issue.

“When The Big Issue was founded it pioneered finding a business-like solution to a social crisis. Big Issue Invest is now pioneering new forms of social investment for social enterprises that seek to prevent, cure and dismantle poverty.” says Nigel Kershaw, CEO BII and Chairman of The Big Issue.

BII can provide a range of financing options, from loans to equity from £50,000 to £500,000 and with terms of up to ten years. Loans may be unsecured and repayments may be tied to future income, profits or surpluses. Typically, organisations most suitable for investment will already have a trading history and must be able to demonstrate the capacity to deliver while generating sustainable trading income and long-term profitability and social impact.

Big Issue Invest is keen to hear from social enterprises and the trading arms of registered charities needing investment. For details, see www.bigissueinvest.com or call the team on 020 7526 3431.