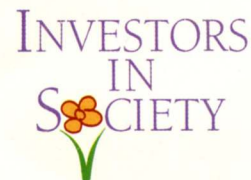


HASTINGS TRUST LTD  
**BUILDING AN  
ASSET BASE**



**Based in the 'prosperous south-east' and with its unique history, Hastings would not seem to be an immediate candidate of a town in need of the renewal of its social, economic and environmental infrastructure.**

However, a combination of factors have given Hastings a high level of unemployment, per capita income some 30% less than the national average and a low level of investment. Its rich architectural heritage is proving a mixed blessing, attractive to tourists but expensive to maintain. The result is that Hastings has long been recognised as a regeneration priority area.

In 1986, a partnership between Hastings Borough Council, East Sussex County Council and English Heritage sought to turn the tide and conserve its heritage. In the following five years, over 100 buildings in key locations were assisted with carefully targeted grant schemes.

Hastings Trust emerged out of this legacy. Its remit is to build on the success of The Hastings Urban Conservation Project in conservation by helping to initiate and support regeneration and development in the town, considering all economic, social and environmental impacts of each scheme.

Like many other development trusts, it had a problem. Without an asset base, the Trust was vulnerable to the vagaries of project funding. A case in point was the cancellation of the Government-run, Community Action scheme which hit the Trust hard. Consequently, the Trustees were keen to acquire a building which would provide a shopfront to its work, become a community resource and - most importantly - provide an independent income stream. This need became somewhat more pressing when the landlord of the then existing premises sold them without reference to the Hastings Trust.

The Director, Christine Goldschmidt, approached Investors in Society for help. Along with English Partnerships, Investors in Society provided the funding which will allow the dream to become a reality. As Christine said "Owning our own office was a vital plank in our plans for a long-term, sustainable future"

For more information on the work of Hastings Trust, please contact:

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