

Access to Finance Grants

Coventry City Council now has access to Finance Grants available to established businesses that are unable to access their required finance through banks or equity investors. The grants can help a business to secure a full funding package for investments in equipment and machinery that will diversify or modernise operations, leading to growth.

- *Business must use the grant funding to diversify or modernise their operations with the potential for long term growth.*
- *Business must demonstrate that the grant investment will create new jobs for the local economy that can be evidenced and counted as outcomes for the package.*

Eligibility

- *Business must be based in Coventry or Warwickshire.*
- *Business must be a Small to Medium sized enterprise.*
- *Business must be operated within manufacturing.*

Funds Available

- *A range of grants are available based on the business size and location, up to a maximum of £100k.*
- *Grants are available at a higher intervention rate within assisted areas. See appendix 1 for details on the assisted areas.*

| Business Category | Employees | Location | Average Total Investment | Intervention Rate | Average Grant Size |
|--|-----------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| New spin off, diversification businesses | 10-49 | Assisted Area | £100,000 | Up to 30% | £30,000 |
| New spin off, diversification businesses | 10-49 | Non Assisted Area | £100,000 | Up to 20% | £20,000 |
| Small | Up to 49 | Assisted Area | £75,000 | Up to 30% | £22,500 |
| Small | Up to 49 | Non Assisted Area | £75,000 | Up to 20% | £15,000 |
| Medium | 50-249 | Assisted Area | £250,000 | Up to 20% | £50,000 |
| Medium | 50-249 | Assisted Area | £250,000 | Up to 10% | £25,000 |

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- *The business will need to provide the remaining match funding from their own/alternative funds, free from any public support.*
- *The grant will need to be matched with cash, in kind contributions (e.g. staff time) are not eligible.*
- *The business will need to pay for the purchase and defray the costs, prior to the grant being paid.*
- *If the enterprise has previously received grant support under a state aid risk capital measure (e.g. The English Risk Capital Investment State Aid Scheme) during the three years prior to this investment, reduced grant intervention rates will be available.*

Eligible Expenditure

Grants must be used on tangible capital assets that will improve business performance, productivity and profitability including:

- *Plant, machinery and equipment (inc finance leases with an obligation to buy*

The replacement of maintenance of existing items of plant/machinery/equipment or the replacement of items that no longer work is not eligible.

The investment must be maintained for at least three years after the whole investment has been completed. This shall not prevent the replacement of plant and equipment which has become outdated to rapid technological change.

The purchase of second hand machinery/equipment is eligible for support providing that:

- *The equipment has not been originally purchased as part of an ERDF funded project.*
- *The price does not exceed the market value..*

The purchase of vehicles and land is excluded from the Access to Finance grant support.

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