



Funded by
UK Government



High Peak
Borough Council



East Midlands
Combined County
Authority

High Peak Business Development grant

Application Deadline: Sunday 15th June 2025

All applications for the Business Development Grant need to be submitted before midnight on the above date.

Applications submitted after this date will not be considered.

Future rounds of funding may be released subject to any remaining funds.

Overview and Guidance

Grants for the development and growth of Small and Medium sized Enterprises.

The objective of this grant is to support the development of Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME) through investment in the adoption of new technologies and processes and/or the adoption of new or improved products or services that have the potential to lead to business growth.

Grants are available for up to **£10,000** for SME Businesses who are looking to grow their businesses.

Minimum grant = £3,000 (project cost at least £3,750).

Maximum grant award per business/organisation = £10,000 (project cost at least £12,500).

Maximum 80% of total project costs. Minimum 20% match funding contribution required.

Funding may be used to support all areas of business development leading to the creation of new products, services, markets, and potentially an increase in employment (new jobs). Whilst you can apply for capital or revenue items, the expectation is that grants for capital investment will be preferred. Funding cannot, however, be used to support existing ongoing costs and should be related to a specific time-limited project.

All successful grant applicants must complete their projects by 31st January 2026 at the latest.

Please note that if a proposed project involves physical building works or alterations (both internal & external) the relevant permissions should already have been obtained at the point of making your application. This includes, but is not limited to; planning permissions, listed building consents and advertisement consents.

Due to limited funding timescales, if you do not have the necessary permissions in place upon submitting your application, your application will be deemed ineligible. Evidence will be required at due diligence stage.

Applications will only be considered for projects within the High Peak Local Authority area delivered by High Peak registered businesses between 14th July 2025 - 31st January 2026.



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Previous recipients of UKSPF/REPF grant awards under the 2022-2025 tranche of funding are eligible to re-apply under this current grant scheme. However, priority will be given to organisations that have not previously received funding from this scheme.

Further Details

A total of £110,261 is available in this fund, with £50,261 ringfenced to support rural business development projects.

All grant funding will be paid on completion of the project via a claim process. Applicants must ensure that they have the required funds to cover the full costs of the project before applying to the fund.

Claims will need to evidence original quotes/invoices for works to be undertaken, payment to suppliers and evidence of the completed project, associated outcomes.

Claims will not be paid against individual receipts (low-cost items screws/nails etc) only invoices from established organisations/businesses.

Claims are limited to a maximum of 10 invoices; however, we expect the majority of projects to be submitting around 3-5 per project.

VAT can only be included in your proposed costs if you can supply evidence at due diligence stage that your business/organisation cannot recover VAT from HMRC.

Applicants will be required to make their final claim submission, including evidence of meeting expected project outcomes by 31st January 2026. No further extensions will be granted beyond these dates for delivery and the claim submission.

Grants will be funded from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund as appropriate.

Who can apply?

Grants are available to SME Businesses located within the High Peak who are looking to grow their businesses.

Businesses must:

- **Be registered with Companies House or with HMRC as appropriate.**
- **Have been trading for over 12 months.**
- **Have a registered Business Address within the High Peak Borough Council area.**
- **Be classified as an SME.**

Evidence of eligibility will be checked as part of any grant offered

SME stands for 'small or medium-sized enterprise,' To be defined as an 'SME', businesses need to meet the following criteria:

1. Turnover of less than £50m
2. Balance sheet total of less than £43m



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3. Fewer than 250 employees.

Please note micro businesses and Social Enterprises who meet these criteria can apply.

All eligible organisations need to provide evidence of being financially stable (solvent) and comply with the [Minimal Financial Assistance](#) rules of the UK Subsidy Control requirements.

Farm based enterprises will also need to comply with the [Concordat on the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Agriculture \(Domestic Support\) Regulations 2020](#) which requires the Council to report on aid granted to Defra.

Rural businesses should not apply to this fund where alternate funding is available from other Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) funds.

Who cannot apply?

We cannot accept applications from:

- Individuals
- Start Up businesses (pre-trading)
- Community organisations which are non-trading.
- Businesses based outside the High Peak Borough Council area.
- Businesses not registered with Companies House or HMRC.
- Businesses not classified as SME's.

Project Activity

The objective of this grant is to contribute to the delivery of [the UKSPF Government Priority of Supporting Local Business](#) (advice & support) through the adoption of new technologies and processes and/or the adoption of new or improved products or services that have the potential to improve products & services and lead to business growth.

The funding may typically be used to invest in equipment, machinery, low carbon improvements or marketing/website improvement for example which will lead to the introduction of new technologies, processes or products that will lead to business growth.

It is also expected that any Business Development Projects also clearly align with one or more of the below Aims of the [High Peak Borough Plan](#)

- Aim 3 - Protect and create jobs by supporting economic growth, development, and regeneration.
- Aim 4 - Protect and improve the environment including responding to the climate emergency

All Business Development projects need to demonstrate how they can support/contribute to the following UKSPF outputs/outcomes:

1. Adoption of new technologies and processes
2. Adoption of new or improved products or services



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The project must clearly demonstrate how the funded element will provide additional benefit to any previous or ongoing work/activity. Funding cannot be used to support ongoing costs.

The applicant must demonstrate that the proposed activity would not be possible without this funding.

Eligible items

We would expect most projects to focus primarily on capital expenditure, although some revenue items may be supported within total project costs.

By Capital we mean - lasting assets such as equipment/machinery.

Grants can be used on assets such as equipment which are expected to be used for a period of at least one year.

Grants may include enhancements to existing assets which:

- Significantly lengthen the life of the asset.
- Significantly increase the value of the asset.
- Significantly increases the usefulness of the asset.
- It will not include minor repairs and routine maintenance.

By Revenue we mean items such as IT systems, marketing,

consultancy. The following are examples of typical project costs:

- External Research and Development.
- Prototype development.
- Specialist tools/equipment.
- New Machinery.
- External consultancy.
- Tradeshows/Exhibitions (for new product launches).
- Website innovations/redevelopment (enhanced functionality).

A maximum of ten items of expenditure (invoices) can be submitted.

Ineligible items include:

- Costs incurred prior to the Grant Agreement being finalised and signed.
- Ongoing business overheads.
- Wage costs and related employment costs.
- Purchase of stock.
- Land or building purchases.
- Paid for lobbying, entertaining, petitioning or challenging decisions, which means using the Fund to lobby (via an external firm or in-house staff) to undertake activities intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, government or political activity including the receipt of UKSPF funding; or attempting to influence legislative or regulatory action
- Payments for activities of a party political or exclusively religious nature
- VAT reclaimable from HMRC – (irrecoverable VAT is an eligible cost under the UKSPF)
- Gifts, or payments for gifts or donations



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- Statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties
- Payments for works or activities which the lead local authority, project deliverer, end beneficiary, or any member of their partnership has a statutory duty to undertake, or that are fully funded by other sources
- Contingencies and contingent liabilities
- Dividends
- Bad debts, costs resulting from the deferral of payments to creditors, or winding up a company
- Expenses in respect of litigation, unfair dismissal or other compensation
- Costs incurred by individuals in setting up and contributing towards private pension schemes

These are examples of eligible and ineligible costs only. Accepted eligible costs will be confirmed on award.

Application Advice and Guidance

As part of our wider support for business we have partnered with East Midlands Chamber and Vision Derbyshire.

If you require any support with grant applications or would like to find out more about how the East Midlands Chamber Derbyshire Accelerator programme may be able to support your business, please email: info@d2n2growthhub.co.uk

All successful project applicants must have completed their project, including defrayed expenditure by 31st January 2026. Final claim submissions, including evidence of meeting expected project outcomes is required by this date.

How to Apply

[Complete the online application form](#) by the advertised deadline for funding.

Evaluation

Applications will be assessed by Council Officers and, if supported, recommendations made to the High Peak UK Shared Prosperity Board.

Evaluation Criteria

All Applications will be assessed on their own merit, against the criteria below:

1. The impact this funding will have on the growth of the business.
2. The level/type of innovation to be developed.
3. The amount/number of UKSPF Outcomes the project will provide
4. Value for money.
5. Previous applications
6. Strategic fit with High Peak Borough Council's Borough Plan



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If Successful:

Further information including accounts, terms of reference, insurance documents and operating policies will be required if your application is approved, as part of a due diligence check. A Grant Funding Agreement will then be sent, setting out the terms and conditions and required outputs/outcomes.

Applicants should note that if successful, they will be required to procure any items required in compliance with UKSPF procurement guidelines, which are as follows:

Value of contract

Minimum procedure

£0 - £2,499

Direct award

£2,500 - £24,999

**3 written quotes or prices sought from relevant suppliers
of goods, works and / or services**

Over £25,000

Formal tender process

Any items purchased not meeting these requirements will not be eligible for funding.

All eligible organisations need to provide evidence of not being insolvent and comply with the Minimal Financial Assistance rules of the UK Subsidy Control requirements.

Farm based enterprises will also need to comply with the [Concordat on the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Agriculture \(Domestic Support\) Regulations 2020](#) which requires the Council to report on aid granted to Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

Applicants should consider and identify other sources of funding prior to applying to this fund and should not duplicate funding from other sources.

For further information please contact UKSPF@highpeak.gov.uk