

Are you looking for finance to support your business growth & creating jobs?



The Business Growth Programme is a package of support is designed to strengthen supply chains, stimulate innovation and grow existing Small to Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) across the Greater Birmingham and Solihull, Stoke and Staffordshire and The Marches Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

Part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund, this £33m programme limits awards to one grant per SME from any one of the four components of the Business Growth Programme (i.e, you cannot apply for a grant from each component).

Here some examples of businesses that have been supported by this programme.

Blink Medical, Radway Road, Solihull

Blink Medical manufactures a range of sterile, single-use surgical instruments for outpatient and theatre departments, distributing to 20 countries worldwide.

Roger Tyler, Managing Director at Blink Medical, said:

“The BGP has come at a right time for our company; the new facility will enable us to continue to grow as a business. The funding allowed us to develop a ‘clean room’ within the facility, it will also allow us to begin the latest phase of local job creation as we will be looking to fill new positions within the organisation.”

Councillor Ian Courts, Cabinet Member for Managed Growth & Deputy Leader at Solihull Council said:

“It is great to see the Business Growth Programme support which helps the growth of local companies such as Blink Medical. Finance is a key issue for businesses and this programme is providing a stepping stone that enables organisations to realise expansion and recruitment plans.”



Valveforce expands in Solihull once again

Valveforce, a leading industry specialist in valves, has recently expanded its Solihull offices thanks to support from the Business Growth Programme (BGP) and Solihull Council.

The company has relocated to Monkspath Industrial Estate from its offices in Cranmore, where it had been based since moving from London in 2010.

Solihull Council's Business Support Team provided assistance with Valveforce's initial relocation, providing a range of property options and supporting information about moving to the area.



Since moving to Solihull Valveforce has seen growth and taken on new staff, leading to the need for larger facilities. They have also quickly developed a strong client base in the UK and abroad, supplying industrial products and services for utilities into the NHS, Energy, Water and Food industries.

Marc Bozdogan, Director of Valveforce said:

"Having larger premises will give us an ideal platform to manage a string of new contracts and allow us to take on new members of staff. We found the application process really straight forward and welcome the support provided through the programme and also from Solihull Council".

Cox Exhibitions expands thanks to the Business Growth Programme

A Solihull company specialising in international exhibitions and fairs has received funding from a grant-aid programme to help businesses grow.

Cox Exhibition Consultants Ltd, which boasts over 40 years of experience, is one of a growing number of companies in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) area benefiting from the Business Growth Programme (BGP).

The company has used the funding to expand offices in Hockley Heath and take on further staff with the support of Solihull Council.

Stuart Whitehill, Account Director, said: *"The BGP Grant has come at a perfect time for us, as having larger offices will give us an ideal platform to manage our business growth. We have always been committed to Solihull and this support has enabled us expand our UK office."*

Councillor Ian Courts, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Managed Growth at Solihull Council said:

"It is great to see the growth of local companies such as Cox Exhibitions, supported by the Business Growth Programme. The borough has a proven track record in developing businesses and helping them expand within the local area, and we will continue to work with Cox Exhibitions to support their growth agenda."

The Business Growth Programme consists of 4 elements of support

Business Development Programme - Offers grant support of £10k-£20k towards project costs for businesses looking to expand, relocate and improve access to markets.

Type of Eligible Expenditure:
Capital equipment, Relocation and expansion & Market development

Business Innovation Programme - Offers grant support of £10k-£30k towards project costs for SMEs investing in innovative close-to-market processes, products and services.

Type of Eligible Expenditure
Capital equipment, Improvement of production processes and systems, New product development (concept development, prototyping, product testing and product launch), Market development & Business innovation



Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme- Offers grant support of £20k-£150k towards project costs for supply chain companies operating in, or diversifying into the green economy.

Type of Eligible Expenditure
Capital expenditure, New product development & Market development.

HS2 Supply Chain Programme is targeted at existing B2B supply chain Small to Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs)
Capital and revenue grants are available of £20,000 - £167,000 approx.

You do not have to have secured a HS2 Contract to be considered for HS2SCP grant funding, but applicants must be existing B2B supply chain SMEs looking to expand their business with projects which will improve their capability/capacity, thereby enabling them to pitch for HS2 opportunities.

Type of Eligible Expenditure:
Capital expenditure, Application of innovative advance technology, Building information modelling & Market development

Eligibility Criteria

You must NOT be a Franchise, Charity, Not-for-Profit, Community Business or in the Retail Sector. To be considered for BGP grant support you must be able to answer "YES" to each of the 9 points below by the time you submit your application form

1. Are you an SME actively trading for 6 months or more?
2. Do you operate 100% on a Business to Business (B2B) basis?
3. Do you have a project which will grow your business, resulting in jobs being created? (As a rule of thumb, a £10k grant = 1 job creation)
4. Can you deliver your growth project in a 4 month period following receipt of your offer of grant?*
5. Do you pay your business rates to Solihull Council?
6. Is your business activity listed as "eligible" on the attached Eligible



and Ineligible Business Activities List?

7. Do you have cash match?

8. You can obtain 3 competitive quotes (unless dealing with a very specialist item) for each element of the proposed expenditure.

9. You can confirm that your accounts will be audited, or you can provide a Business Plan if you have only been trading for 6 months

The Business Growth Programme is receiving up to £16.3m of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Department for Communities and Local Government is the Managing Authority for ERDF. Established by the European Union ERDF funds help local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding

For enquiries please get in touch in the following ways:

Phone: 0121 704 6151



Solihull MBC, PO Box 18, Council House, Solihull, West Midlands,
B91 9QS

www.solihullforsuccess.com



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