

BLAENAU GWENT SOCIAL ENTERPRISE GRANT

The Blaenau Gwent Social Enterprise Grant is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and managed by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The grant aims to support the growth and development of new and existing Social Enterprises within the Borough for both Capital & Revenue costs for 2024/2025.

WHO CAN APPLY

- The grant is aimed at new and existing Social Enterprise businesses that are located or relocating to Blaenau Gwent.
- The support is aimed at Small and Medium Sized Businesses e.g. those employing less than 249 people.
- Sole traders, Partnerships, Limited by Guarantee Companies, Co-operatives, Limited Liability Partnerships are eligible to apply.
- The support is aimed primarily at Social Enterprises that have the capacity to add value to the local economy.

KEY PROJECT DELIVERABLES

- Jobs created (including apprenticeships).
- Jobs safeguarded.
- Economic Impact i.e. local supply chain opportunities, private sector investment.
- Green Energy & Decarbonisation.
- Growth, Increase in turnover, future proofing.
- Use of Innovation & Technology to improve productivity or Service.
- People accessing training within the organisation

PROJECT EXPENDITURE

Examples of eligible capital costs include:

- Machinery & equipment
- Marketing materials
- IT hardware
- Changing of existing lighting, heating to green options
- Factory vehicles such as forklifts which are green energy.

Second hand equipment is eligible for grant provided that:

- the price of the equipment does not exceed its market value and is less than the cost of similar new equipment, and
- the equipment is technically appropriate and complies with any relevant legislation (e.g. health & safety).

Examples of eligible revenue cost include:

- Training – face to face or online,
- IT software.
- Purchase of advertising licences.
- Marketing Support.
- Social Media support including optimisation of existing Website & ecommerce site.

- App Development.

No expenditure should be incurred before grant approval, as the grant cannot be awarded retrospectively.

GRANT SUPPORT

The grant offer is based on up to 50% of reasonable eligible capital and revenue project costs, please note the budget is limited and applications will be assessed on a need basis.

- Minimum grant £2,500 (project spend at least £5,000).

Final grant payment will be based on an assessment of actual project costs/works, or the project value at quotation stage, whichever figure is lower.

The Blaenau Gwent Social Enterprise grant is discretionary and dependent on the availability of funds. It is not a statutory function and there is no right of appeal. The Council is not obliged to enter any further discussions for the reason for refusal.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Initial expression of interest form providing an outline of project, if accepted then: -
- Application form and cash flow forecast accompanied by:
 - Business Plan required for new business start ups
 - 2 to 3 comparable quotations, depending on level of funding required, for each item
 - 12 month cash flow forecast
 - Financial accounts i.e. audited accounts and 12 management accounts
 - Payroll list required for existing businesses (personal details to be anonymised)
 - Evidence of match funding i.e. business bank statement
- The application guidance notes should be **read and understood in full** before application is submitted

OUTCOME OF APPLICATION

- Applicants will be notified within 4 weeks of submission of **all** application documentation
- Successful applicants must accept the terms and conditions of the grant by signing and returning the certificate of acceptance within 14 days of the date of the offer letter.
- Grant will not be offered or paid if the business is in arrears with any payment to the Local Authority

The Blaenau Gwent Business Development Grant is discretionary and dependent on the availability of funds. It is not a statutory function and there is no right of appeal. The Council is not obliged to enter into any further discussions for the reason for refusal.

For further information on the scheme please contact the Business & Innovation Team, Blaenau Gwent CBC

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Email: business@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk