



Business Growth Grant

Grant applications will be for a fixed amount of no more than £5,000 and require match funding (with discretion as to the proportion of match funding resting with the council). There will be a two-stage process, with an initial 'Expression of Interest' followed by a full application.

Eligibility

To qualify for the grant, businesses must be a legal entity and:

- Be a Micro or Small Enterprise: fewer than 50 employees and a turnover of less than £15 million OR a balance sheet total of less than £7.5 million.
- Start-up or new businesses (trading for not less than 1 year) as well as established businesses which are seeking to innovate, grow and scale up.
- Operate from a postcode in Wyre.
- Not have received more than £315,000 in subsidies over the past 3 years.
- Have an email address registered with the council's Wyred Up business network (free to join - <https://www.wyre.gov.uk/business-support/wyred-newsletter>). If in doubt of your Membership, please re-register, or wait for the team to advise further.

Support that can be funded:

- Investment in plant, equipment or machinery.
- Improvement or adaptation of business premises including energy efficiency/carbon reduction measures.
- Training, gaining accreditation or membership of a recognised body.
- Installation or upgrade of business broadband to a high-speed connection.
- Marketing the business including website and promotional costs.

Project Outcomes that are expected of the grant:

Projects must offer good value for money and applicants must achieve one or more of the following outcomes: new or improved products or services; increased business sustainability; jobs safeguarded; jobs created; increased profit; increased turnover and zero carbon energy infrastructure installed.

Grant Details

- 50% grant (up to a maximum of £5,000) of the eligible costs. The minimum grant is £2,000.
- Three quotes for costs of £2,500 and above with explanation of selected choice.
- Milestones must be achievable to create the outcomes agreed.
- A business can only submit one application per grant round.
- All limited companies will need to be registered with Companies House. All Sole Traders and Partnerships will need to be registered for self assessment with HMRC.
- Any grant must be spent and claimed within the period identified in the Grant Funding Agreement. Round 1 grants being by 28 February 2026 and Round 2 grants being by 28 February 2027.
- Applications will be prioritised in accordance with their scores and they will be assessed against each other.
- Grants will be conditional on securing appropriate permissions. Any offer of a grant does not imply that permissions will be granted.
- Applicants may be required to undergo a business diagnostic and/or undertake business support, in order to ensure that the business will be able to achieve the outcomes of the grant terms, and provision sustainability.

Exclusions

- Businesses using the funding to promote a particular religious, faith or political belief or activity.
- Retrospective funding.
- Businesses at risk – credit checks will be performed on applying businesses.
- Businesses in arrears on business rates.
- Businesses where a Food Safety Hygiene rating is deficient.

- Businesses in breach of planning control or with a history of breaches.
- Businesses in breach of any other council regulated activity.
- Non Wyre based businesses – a Wyre Postcode for an operational business is required.

Costs which are not eligible

General costs:

Any costs incurred before the project start date shown in the grant funding agreement

- Contingency costs
- The cost of getting any permissions or consents, such as planning permission
- Any items which you have already had public (including EU) funding for (or intend to get EU or other public funding for)
- Relocation costs – if an established Wyre business needs to relocate in order to expand, it can only apply for funding for the cost of the expansion.
- Costs associated with the provision of housing
- Projects that are carried out only to meet a domestic legal requirement

Buildings, land and equipment costs

- Repairs and maintenance of existing buildings, equipment and machinery
- Improvement of the visual appearance of a shop front, commercial premises or building in a town centre.
- Like-for-like replacement of existing items (such as buildings, equipment and machinery)
- Machinery or equipment that will not be on the asset register of the business 5 years after payment of your last grant claim
- The cost of moveable fittings – like soft furnishings, beds, tables, chairs, cutlery, crockery, curtains, televisions and audio equipment, hand tools, small domestic kitchen equipment and utensils
- Purchase of land or buildings

Business running costs

- Salaries and running costs
- In-kind contributions such as labour, vehicle or office space
- Recurring licence fees, subscriptions and service charges
- Computers, software and printers used in the general running of the business
- Mobile phones
- Consumables
- Standard non-specialised domestic vehicles such as cars or motorbikes

Financial costs

- Bad debts
- Advance payments
- Insurance policy costs
- Working capital
- Financial charges such as bank charges, fines and interest
- Reclaimable VAT

Queries on eligibility can be made to regeneration@wyre.gov.uk prior to completing the EOI