

Aim

West Dunbartonshire Council recognises the important role social enterprises play in regenerating local communities throughout Scotland. The aim of this programme is to assist established social enterprise businesses to develop through growth and become more sustainable in the long term. The Social Enterprise Growth Grant will provide up to 50% of project expenditure up to a maximum grant of £3,000 to registered enterprises located within West Dunbartonshire. This grant aims to provide a financial contribution towards business growth projects which will safeguard or create local jobs. The grant can be offered towards the next stage of growth for enterprises that may have previously accessed the WDC Business Start-Up Grant or Firstports - Start-It Fund.

Eligibility

- All types of social enterprises may apply regardless of sector.
- Enterprises must be located in West Dunbartonshire and have been actively trading for at least 6 months at the time of making their application.
- Enterprises must have less than 50 employees at the time of their application.
- Enterprises must not have any debts owed to the Council.

Conditions

- Enterprises must clearly demonstrate the viability of their project, how it will assist with the development and growth of the business and how it will safeguard and/or increase employment.
- Enterprises must provide up to date financial accounts **or** most recent management accounts.
- Evidence of expenditure must be provided by submitting paid invoices/receipts and business bank statements showing payments. Payments made by cash or credit card will not be eligible to claim.
- Purchases / expenditure **must NOT** commence before approval is given as the grant cannot be awarded retrospectively.

Eligible Expenditure

The Social Enterprise Growth Grant can assist enterprises with any combination of the following examples of project expenditure which demonstrates that they contribute to the development and growth of the enterprise. Projects should be linked to the safeguarding and/or creation of local jobs:-

- Capital expenditure – purchase of equipment or machinery
- Digital investment
- Diversification of business activities
- Innovation projects – new or improved products, processes or services.
- External Consultancy costs directly linked to the project
- Discretion may be used for projects that clearly demonstrate how improvements will make the enterprise more sustainable and safeguard or increase employment.

Approval of the Grant is at the sole discretion of Council Officers and will only be given when all conditions have been met and detail of eligible spend has been agreed.

Notes

- Social Enterprises may not apply for further funding through the programme within **12 months** of any offer being made.
- Once the grant is approved the applicant must confirm acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant within 4 weeks of approval.
- Successful applicants will be required to report on outputs and outcomes in alignment with the objectives of this grant.
- The grant must be fully claimed within 6 months of approval.
- West Dunbartonshire Council is committed to sharing good practice and promoting examples of service delivery that meet the needs of communities. The Council reserves the right to use details of the project for publicity for the programme and share information with any parties appointed to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this funding
- The Council may be required to make any application or project proposal for this funding available for public scrutiny under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. The Organisation should make the Council aware of any parts of its application or project proposal, which may prejudice its interest if it were made public.

Subsidy Control – Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA)

The Social Enterprise Growth Grant is classified as a Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) subsidy under the [Subsidy Control Act \(2022\)](#).

To be eligible for the support, you **must not** have already exceeded receipt of £315,000 in MFA subsidies over this and the previous two financial years.

Note: Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) is a relatively new term which you may have previously seen referred to as “De Minimis” or “Special Drawing Rights” (SDR).

Before making any payment, written confirmation that receipt of the payment will not exceed your company’s MFA threshold of £315,000 cumulated over this and the previous two financial years, as specified in section 36(1) of the Subsidy Control Act (2022), is required. This means you must confirm you have not received more than **£315,000 minus the value of this grant** in MFA subsidies or comparable types of subsidy (see section 42(8) of the Subsidy Control Act (2022)) in the current or previous 2 financial years.

We take this opportunity to remind you that you are required to keep a written record of the amount of MFA you have received and the date/s when it was received. The written record must be kept for at least three years beginning with the date on which the MFA was given. If your application is successful at the point of claiming the grant we will issue you with an email which you can use as your written confirmation. This will enable you to respond to future requests from public authorities on how much MFA you have received and whether you have reached the cumulative threshold

How to Apply

To receive an application form or to receive additional information, please contact the Business Support Team at West Dunbartonshire Council on:

Telephone: 01389 737777 or Email: business.support@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.west-dunbarton/business/grant-and-loan/>