

RDPE - RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT

A competitive grant of £20,000 to £175,000 is available to new and existing small and micro businesses, and farmers for non-agricultural diversification. The grant is for 40% of the eligible costs.

Each project must achieve at least 2 of the national priorities, which are:

- **Create Jobs** – new, higher skilled, or higher paid. At least 1 full time equivalent employee for every £30,000 of grant funding.
- **Grow Business** – increase turnover and profitability.
- **Improve Productivity through Innovation** – introduce new techniques, equipment, or processes to increase productivity
- **Open New Product Markets** – help sell goods or services to new customers or new markets.
- **Export** – help access the export market.

Local priorities must also be met – Sworders are able to provide further information on these on a site basis, or alternatively they are available via the Business Development Handbook.

Eligible Costs

40% of:

- Construction or improvement of buildings
 - New equipment and machinery
- If part of a larger project the following costs are also eligible:
- Architects, engineer, or consultant fees for the project (up to maximum of 15% of projects total eligible costs)
 - Buying or developing dedicated computer software (but not off-the-shelf software)
 - Patents, licences, copyrights, or trademarks
 - Energy-saving and resource efficiency equipment.

Key Dates

- Expression of Interest by midnight 16 February 2020
- Decisions on expression of interest within 30 working days.
- If successful then will be invited to submit a full application, which is also competitive.
- All projects must be completed, paid for, and complete grant claims submitted by 30 September 2021.

The grant is paid in stages in arrears once the works have been completed and paid for. There is a maximum of 3 claims over the course of the project and you need to show sufficient funds to cover costs until the grant is paid.

DO NOT start work, incur costs or place orders before a grant agreement is signed as this could potentially make the whole project ineligible for the grant.

Further information is available in the RDPE Growth Programme Business Development Handbook or please speak to a member of Sworders team for information on specific grant funding for your project.



* This flyer provides a summary of the programme, all applicants considering applying must follow the RDPE Growth Programme Handbooks.