

Rural Perth & Kinross Micro Enterprise Fund – Proposed Criteria

Overall Aim

“To support business growth and business start-ups in Rural Perth & Kinross”

The Rural Micro Enterprise Fund has been designed to assist rural businesses and other organisations looking to undertake viable growth projects, and individuals looking to set up a business. The recipient must be able to demonstrate that any proposed project is essential to ongoing business growth, and that it will have a positive economic impact on the local area. Potentially viable projects include the purchase of capital equipment, product or market development and commercial property acquisition or improvement.

Eligibility – Businesses employing fewer than 10 people, including sole traders, constituted community groups, social/community enterprises and co-operatives.

Level of Grant – Grants of between £1,500 and £10,000 covering up to 90% of eligible costs.

Sectors – All business sectors are eligible for support with the exception of betting shops.

Eligible costs – Supporting capital equipment and property acquisition for the purposes of business expansion (excluding vehicles), the development of e-commerce platforms or digital transformation activities, specialist consultancy support, targeted marketing in relation to new markets, and as leverage for co-finance to secure additional investment through debt or asset finance etc. The invoice value must be for at least 10% more than the amount of grant applied for.

Payment – on receipt of paid invoices.

Eligible Areas/Wards – all of Perth & Kinross **excluding the 3 Perth City wards.**

Fund value - £100,000 in 2018/19 and £100,000 in 2019/20.

Applications will need to include:

- A detailed description of how the proposed investment will benefit the business or organisation
- Accounts for the last two years where these exist
- Cash flow forecasts for two years
- A business plan will be required for all applications exceeding £5,000
- A minimum of two quotes. Perth & Kinross Council reserves the right to restrict grant funding to 90% of the lowest quote.

Conditions:

- The Council reserves the right to request a meeting with the applicant prior to reaching a decision
- Monitoring report to be submitted 12 months after grant payment. The grant cannot be used for working capital including the payment of rent
- Project must not be started prior to approval being given
- Grant may be fully repayable if business ceases trading or moves out with the Perth & Kinross area within 3 years of receiving the grant
- The full costs need to be met by the recipient and the receipt(s)/copy invoice(s) then submitted to Perth & Kinross Council
- Only 1 grant per business/social enterprise/community organisation.
- The project must be completed and grant claim invoices received within 6 months of the date of the letter of offer
- Following payment of the grant, the recipient will be required to provide a report on the outcomes achieved by the investment
- Business should be prepared, if required, to participate in publicity initiatives arranged by Perth & Kinross Council to promote this grants scheme.