



Working in partnership to deliver the Social Enterprise Accelerator Programme

Social Enterprise Accelerator Programme

Application process

Purpose of the programme

This programme is to provide Business Support to assist social enterprises, and those organisations and individuals that are developing social enterprises, in the Maldon District by supporting and enhancing growth, resilience and transformation after the Covid pandemic.

We want to fund activities that support the economic, social and cultural life in the Maldon District, and we want to support the development of a resilient social economy to deliver activities that either directly benefit local people and communities and/or contribute towards the District's Climate Action Strategy.

The programme consists of a grant programme, on-going development support and networking. Organisations could be eligible for other support even if they are unsuccessful in bidding for grant funding.

With ongoing support from Social Enterprise East of England up to end of March 2023, we intend that the organisations supported by this programme will continue to work together and draw strength from each other in a local social enterprise network, linked to wider District networks.

Who is eligible to bid for a grant?

Definitions

1. **Social enterprise** – an organisation that earns 50% or more of its income through trading, is registered/incorporated, has its social values written into its constitution, its surpluses and assets are used to support the social purpose and there is an asset lock. Social enterprises include co-operatives, community businesses and trading businesses owned by charities.
2. **Professional voluntary organisation** – a registered charity but earns some income or wants to develop sustainable trading activities. Has paid staff and the majority of its income is from grants and service level agreements.
3. **Community organisation** – might have a constitution as an unincorporated association or be a charity, mostly dependent on volunteers and derives its income from small grants, donations and fees
4. **Social entrepreneur** – might be constituted as a Community Interest Company or Company Limited by Guarantee, but might also be a sole trader, could be trading but also seeking grant money. Will have a social purpose.
5. **Traditional business with corporate social responsibility** – many privately owned businesses do good things in their communities. To be eligible for this fund, if you are not one of the business types described above, the business **must have a written CSR policy** and be able to show how the money will be spent only on the social activities proposed.



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New organisations

If you are starting a new organisation from scratch then you are not eligible to bid for this fund. However, if you are working as one type of organisation and you want to develop trading activities to become more financially and socially sustainable then you are able to bid.

Grants available

Applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis and may close before the application deadline prescribed.

Grants of up to £5,000 deadline for applications: 28th February 2022

Grants between £5,001 and up to £50,000 deadline for applications: 15th March 2022

Grants of over £5,001 will be required to demonstrate that they have met standard commissioning requirements (such as getting three quotes for commissioned work). These will require a more detailed application and further supporting evidence.

Any application for more than £10,000 must attend a meeting (likely to be by phone or online) with our programme managers. No bid of over £10,000 will be considered if you have not had an interview with our programme managers (Social Enterprise East of England).

In exceptional circumstances we will consider bids of over £50,000 but this **must** be subject to an early discussion about your intentions with our programme managers (Social Enterprise East of England).

Eligibility criteria

The activity and the beneficiaries will be within the Maldon District. The applicant does not have to be registered in the District, but priority will be given to those that are.

- The applicant has a bank account in the name of the applicant organisation (for all bids over £5,000). If you do not have a separate bank account we will ask to see other identification.*
- The applicant has provided a clear rationale for the proposed activity
- The applicant has provided a budget showing how the grant will be spent
- The scale and scope of the proposal are based on identification of need
- The scale and scope of the proposal are realistic and the applicant has provided clear goals for the work that is planned
- The applicant has identified achievable outcomes



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**Any applicant that cannot meet this criterion should contact the programme managers (Social Enterprise East of England) with an outline of your idea and if we think it delivers one of the eligible activities (below), we may be able to help you to work with another organisation to develop your project.*

Eligible activities

The following activities are eligible for funding:

Activities that will help your organisation to grow or become more resilient

- ✓ Taking on new premises
- ✓ Taking on new staff, new FTE posts, not to replace staff who have left naturally
- ✓ Recruiting more volunteers
- ✓ Developing new skills for staff and/or volunteers
- ✓ Feasibility studies and business plans
- ✓ Pilot projects to test new activities
- ✓ Community consultation/market research
- ✓ Additional resources such as vehicles or equipment
- ✓ IT such as setting up online trading, establishing or upgrading a website
- ✓ Developing online services
- ✓ Setting up new trading arms
- ✓ Measuring your impact
- ✓ Capital costs – buildings and equipment
- ✓ Revenue costs – funding for activities such as developing new products or marketing

Ineligible activities

We do not want to fund the continuation of existing projects unless you can show us how these activities will reach more people and create greater value.

The following activities are not eligible for funding

- Ongoing funding for current projects
- Replacements for other funds, unless future economic sustainability can be demonstrated
- Contributions to general overheads and wages
- Activities outside the Maldon District
- Developing commercial businesses

Delivery period

If your project is successful, you will receive the funding before the end of March 2022. Applicants will be expected to submit a progress report by end of May 2022.