

IEE Employer Fund: Social Enterprise/CiC Fund

Specification, September/October 2022

In response to the challenges affecting many businesses and employers, Capital City Partnership (CCP), as the Integrated Employer Engagement (IEE) lead across the Edinburgh and South East Scotland (ESES) City Region Deal, has again developed a small grants programme to support *micro businesses across the 6 local authority areas (Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian, Scottish Borders, West Lothian). This is to ensure that jobs are either retained or created with the monies granted.

*micro businesses – less than 10 employees or annual turnover less than £632,000

This year our focus is linked to businesses:

a) whose aims are to transform the world for the better by aspiring to build a fairer society and a more inclusive economy. They reinvest or donate any profit they make into creating positive social change within their organisation or local communities in a more ethical and sustainable way.

b) who may have initiated their company out of necessity, rather than through choice, as a result of the after-effects of the pandemic. Given that the DWP's New Enterprise Allowance (NEA) closed to new participants on 1 January 2022, we believe that our provision, could be an alternative monetary option for financial help.

We are principally looking to support micro businesses through these potentially unfamiliar, uncertain and challenging times as life, work and trading returns to greater normality, following Covid-19 and adjustments.

Following engagement and feedback from the Regional Business Gateway Teams, 2 areas emerged that would particularly benefit from additional funding namely:

- 1) Social Enterprise/Community Interest Companies (CiCs)
- 2) Start Up Businesses (similar to last year)

This document is for **Social Enterprise/Community Interest Companies (CiCs)**.

1. Invite for Applications

Applications are invited from Social Enterprise/CiCs (who have not received funds from IEE over the past 12 months) to enable them to create positive social change within their organisation or local communities in a more ethical and sustainable way.

Each company can only make one application to the fund.

Applications should be emailed to
IEEemployerfund@capitalcitypartnership.org

The deadline is 5pm, Friday 9th of September 2022

Late submissions will not be accepted. If the fund is not fully allocated, it may be reopened, subject to uptake.

2. Focus of Grant Programme

It has been brought to our attention that funding would be welcomed to support and develop the work delivered via Social Enterprise/CiC businesses.

Rather than creating profit for owners or shareholders, they reinvest and/or donate monies back to ensure positive social change is created within their organisation or local communities in a more ethical and sustainable way. They may, for example, provide training and employment opportunities for those furthest from the job market and/or to help improve the environment.

Financial assistance could be used for the following:

- capitalise on current social and/or conservational missions e.g. provide training and employment opportunities for those furthest from the job market and/or to help improve the environment.
- assist with increasing profits for business and/or community reinvestment to aspire towards building a fairer society and a more inclusive economy.
- help with continuing to trade more ethically and sustainably.

The minimum award for each application is £500 and the maximum award for each application will be £1,000, to be spent and evidenced within six weeks of award. The total available fund is £50,000.

3. Funding Allocation Split & Impact

Local Authority Area	Allocation	Minimum number of businesses to be supported
Edinburgh	£13,000	13
Fife	£10,000	10
West Lothian	£9,000	9
Scottish Borders	£6,000	6
East Lothian	£6,000	6
Midlothian	£6,000	6
Total	£50,000	50

4. Additional information

For more information on eligibility criteria and administration of the fund, please consult our Eligibility and FAQ document.