Social Enterprise Challenge Fund

Application Guidelines



**Aim**

West Dunbartonshire Council, in recognising the increasing role of social enterprise in regenerating local communities throughout Scotland, has chosen to commit to increasing both quality and quantity of social enterprises in our area through the Social Enterprise Challenge Initiative, which will provide one off awards of up to £15,000 to help create new social enterprises.

In delivering the Scottish Government’s Just Enterprise Start Up support throughout the country, Firstport supports individuals with great business ideas that benefit people, communities and the environment. Firstport is partnering with West Dunbartonshire Council to provide a full package of support and resources to enable ambitious individuals or groups to bring forward enterprising projects that can offer a long term solution to a social issue and specifically, create enterprises that are likely to generate and sustain employment opportunities in West Dunbartonshire.

**Eligibility**

* The idea will come from an individual or new start organisation
* Lead applicant must be over 16
* Lead applicant must be a UK resident
* The proposed social enterprise will be established in West Dunbartonshire

**Assessment Criteria**

* The application must demonstrate a viable business model that delivers both economic and social outcomes.
* The idea must have the potential to create local jobs.
* The proposal should clearly demonstrate the social impact that can be achieved.
* Costs identified in the application must be clearly evidenced as essential to the start up phase of the project
* The proposal should clearly demonstrate the skills and experience of the primary applicant as well as their drive, passion and motivation to succeed.
* If the application is shortlisted, you will be invited to pitch your proposal to the assessment panel. Assistance will be provided by Firstport to help you produce and fine tune your presentation.

**Eligible Costs**

Only costs essential to the start up phase of the project are eligible. The award can be used to purchase capital equipment, cover marketing costs, or contribute to the running costs of the business, e.g. costs of incorporation, insurance, premises etc.

**Notes**

* Priority will be given to the creation of new social enterprises over existing organisations developing new ideas. The quality of the proposal will, however, be of prime importance.
* The grant award cannot be used for business purchases made prior to any grant award letter date.
* Businesses may not apply for further funding in subsequent funding rounds under this initiative.
* West Dunbartonshire Council and Firstport are committed to sharing best practice and promoting examples of service delivery that meet the needs of our communities. The council and Firstport reserve the right to use details of funded projects for publicity of the programme and share information with any parties appointed to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this funding.
* The funders 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. Applicants should make the Council aware of any parts of the application or project proposal which could prejudice its interest if made public.

**Application Deadline**

Applications should be submitted to business.support@west-dunbarton.gov.uk (contact: 01389 737777)

Applications will be shortlisted with the selected candidates invited to present their business case to panel (date to be confirmed) who will make the decision on which business case is successful to receive the grant.

**Additional Assistance**

Should you require assistance with your application, or clarification on any aspect of these guidelines, please contact Brian McMiIIan on 07760751622 or alternatively e-mail brian@firstport.org.uk