

**Back to Business Fund
(Visitor and Wider Economy)
Q&As**

<p>What is the Back to Business fund?</p>	<p>The £1.18m Back to Business Fund provides small and medium-sized businesses within the Tees Valley's Visitor and Wider Economy with access to 100% grant funding of between £1,000 to £4,000. Grants awarded for this fund include access to specialist professional advice such as HR, accountants, legal, financial, IT and digital, and to purchase minor equipment to adapt or adopt new technology in order to continue to deliver business activity or diversify and support their COVID-19 recovery.</p>
<p>Who can apply for funding?</p>	<p>Tees Valley SMEs (within the Visitor and Wider Economy) of fewer than 250 employees.</p> <p>Only businesses/charities with one employee in addition to the owner are eligible for this grant.</p> <p>Sole traders must have at least one other employee.</p> <p>The application page has a quick form to fill in to see if you are eligible.</p> <p>Eligible businesses/charities must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be an SME with between 2 and 250 employees / or a registered charity; ○ Have been trading for over 6 months; ○ Be trading from premises in the Tees Valley; ○ Not be part of a franchise; ○ Have a business/charity bank account; and ○ Has not been in administration.
<p>What is the funding for?</p>	<p>Grants awarded for this fund include access to specialist professional advice such as HR, accountants, legal, financial, IT and digital, and to purchase minor equipment to adapt or adopt new technology in order to continue to deliver business activity or diversify. Professional services and advice may include HR, accountants, legal, financial, IT, digital and sector specialists, or a combination of different advisors. Please see examples below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accountancy ○ Business planning and reshaping strategy ○ Business admin support and bookkeeping ○ Cashflow planning and debt finance ○ Human resources e.g. navigating HR policies, procedures and legislation ○ Coaching and mentoring ○ Legal services ○ Digital marketing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IT Support/consultancy ○ PR and comms ○ Health and safety ○ Health and Wellbeing <p>Businesses can use multiple services for the value of their grant award. For example a business may request the services of digital marketing for the value of £1,500 and then an additional £1,000 for new technology.</p> <p>Please Note: If applying for specialist professional services you must be able to procure and evidence payment for these services by 30th April 2021.</p>
How much funding can I apply for?	<p>You can apply for a grant of between £1,000 and £4,000. Please note any grant request value indicated may require further assessment to determine the impact of Covid 19 on your business and the purpose for which you are requesting the grant.</p> <p>Please Note: If applying for specialist professional services you must be able to procure and evidence payment for these services by 30th April 2021.</p>
Are any business sectors ineligible for support?	<p>SMEs in the following sectors are <u>not eligible</u> for this Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agriculture; ○ Fishery and aquaculture; ○ Retail; ○ Banking; ○ Insurance; ○ Tobacco and tobacco products; and ○ Construction or decommissioning of nuclear power stations
I have more than one premises, can I apply?	<p>Yes, but only for help with one premises. This is to make sure as many businesses as possible can be helped.</p>
I am a franchisee of a larger brand, can I apply?	<p>No. This fund is designed to help smaller independent firms without larger support networks.</p>
How will I receive the funding?	<p>You will need to submit a supplier quote for the professional services that you require for your business recovery with your completed application.</p> <p>Tees Valley Combined Authority have a menu of local professional services which outlines the offers of support available.</p> <p>You will be required to pay for the service, and you can then claim the money back from us. An offer letter confirming the grant can be provided</p>

	<p>if you need to secure interim funding from a bank or lender in order to pay for the services.</p> <p>Please Note:</p>
Do I need to include VAT in my grant?	If the organisation is not registered for VAT and therefore cannot reclaim the VAT from HMRC then they can include the VAT in the grant claim.
I have already had COVID-19 support – am I eligible	If you have received a grant offer for the Back to Business Fund (Visitor or Wider Economy) you will not be eligible for this fund. Otherwise, yes, you are still able to apply for this grant as long as you fit with the core eligibility criteria.
How quickly will I know the outcome of my grant application?	Grants must be awarded by the 31 st March 2021 and will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis for applicants who meet the eligibility criteria. We are asking businesses' to complete a two-stage process. Once you have completed an EOI we aim to get back to you within two working days to invite you to full application. Once you have submitted your full application, we plan to get back to you within two to four working days.
How is Back to Business Fund funded?	The project is receiving £1.18m of funding from the England European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) are the Managing Authorities for European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund funding through the Growth Programme, funds established by the European Union to help local areas stimulate their economic development. By investing in projects the funds will help to support innovation, businesses, skills and employment to improve local growth and create jobs. For more information visit https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding .