

**Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and Partners Grant Funding Factsheet**  
**January 2018**

This grant funding factsheet has been developed by the **Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Access to Finance Group (Chaired by Paul Brown)** This document provides an overview of available **grant** funding streams and is updated monthly. There are many other non-grant products available. This factsheet complements the Better Business Finance tool, which is an online searchable tool for all business finance: <http://www.betterbusinessfinance.co.uk/>. Whilst contact information about individual products is given below, all initial enquiries can be directed to the Black Country Growth Hub on 01902 321 272 or email [enquiries@bcgrowthhub.com](mailto:enquiries@bcgrowthhub.com)

Press CTRL and click on the text in the boxes below to quickly find the relevant schemes.

**Grants for capital  
expenditure**

**Grants for new  
product or process  
development**

**Grants for energy  
efficiency**

**Grants for business  
improvement**

**Grants for improving  
broadband speeds**

**Other grants,  
subsidies or tax relief  
schemes**

**Growing Priority Sectors in the Black Country** – Grants towards capital expenditure for businesses in the Black Country in key sectors that are innovative and visionary that will create jobs above the average salary (1 job per £10,000 grant, include jobs safeguarded). Minimum grant amount £50,000 and maximum £1,000,000. Currently accepting expressions of interest via [Black Country Growth Hub](#) website.

**Black Country Transformational Gold** (BCT GOLD) can provide capital and revenue grants of 30% of total transformational, job creation project costs. The grants available range from £1,500 to £9,000. Higher value grants to support a small number of exceptional transformational projects may be awarded at the discretion of the independent Investment Decision Group. More information and apply here: <http://www.bcgrowthhub.com/black-country-transformational-gold/>

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**The Smart Concept Fund** is a grant scheme offering up to 60% of approved project cost (Maximum value of grant £30,000) towards demonstrating 'Proof of Concept' and bringing a product or technology innovation closer to market. The grant is awarded against capital and/or revenue costs incurred in carrying out an approved project.

Tel: 01902 323 911 [www.wlv.ac.uk/smartconceptfund](http://www.wlv.ac.uk/smartconceptfund)

Email: [smartconceptfund@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:smartconceptfund@wlv.ac.uk)

**Warwick Manufacturing Group** delivering a new WMG centre HVM Catapult initiative specifically for SMEs. Our SME Team support fits into three key categories:

- raising awareness of new tools, techniques, and industry best practice through demonstrations, workshops, and collaboration networks
- collaborative, fixed-term, challenge-specific projects
- collaborative R&D within a consortium

Over the past 10 years, we've worked with thousands of SMEs to help them address technology challenges, exploit new market opportunities and gain a competitive advantage. We deliver funded projects on behalf of Innovate UK and other funding bodies to support SMEs – Accelerate Innovation – Advance UK Manufacturing.

**Innovation Funding Service.** December Sector Competition is now open UK businesses can apply for a share of up to £19 million to deliver game changing or disruptive innovations with significant potential for impact on the UK economy. More information [here](#).

All open calls from the UK's innovation funding body Innovate UK can be viewed at this [website](#).

**Innovation Vouchers** – one of the products from Innovate UK: up to £5000 for SMEs towards expert advice for new product development <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/innovation-vouchers-for-all>.

**Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP)** - scheme helps businesses to innovate and grow. It does this by linking them with a university and a graduate to work on a specific project. A KTP can last between 6 months and 3 years depending on the project and the needs of the business. It is part-funded by a grant. The amount businesses need to contribute is different for SMEs and larger companies [learn more](#).

**Food Innovation Network** The FIN's primary objective is to tackle the issues which are currently impeding innovation, productivity and growth in UK Agri-Food & Drink businesses. The FIN will join-up and improve access to the right information, research, skills, expertise and different funding mechanisms. More information [here](#)

**The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV)** is a team working across government to support the early market for ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV). We are providing over £900 million to position the UK at the global forefront of ULEV development, manufacture and use.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-low-emission-vehicles>

**Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vehicles: Funding Fleets to be Early Adopters** - £2 million funding competition for fleets to buy or lease hydrogen fuel cell cars and vans. [Learn more](#).

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**Non- Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive** – guaranteed payments made by government over 20 years to businesses for each unit of heat generated through approved technologies (ground-source and air-source heat pumps, biomass boilers etc). Visit the [website](#) for more details.

**The Carbon Trust Green Business Fund** A financial contribution towards your energy saving equipment.

The Carbon Trust Green Business Fund is offering up to £5,000 or 15% of the cost to small and medium sized businesses, which could benefit from financial support when buying energy saving equipment.

This could mean up to £5,000 towards a new lighting system for your warehouse, heating and air conditioning equipment for your offices or a controls system for your factory - to help you rise to the challenge of becoming a greener business. Call 020 7832 4773 to speak to an advisor.

<http://www.carbontrust.com/client-services/technology/implementation-and-finance/>

**Low Carbon Workspaces** offers eligible small to medium sized enterprises in Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and the Black Country, grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to cover a third of the cost of installing energy saving projects; such as LED lighting, insulation or heating and cooling controls. Apply [here](#).

The **Low Carbon Growth Support Project (LCGSP)** is designed to help eligible Small and Medium Enterprises in the Black Country and Greater Birmingham & Solihull areas deliver projects that will increase their energy efficiency, reduce their carbon footprint and, importantly, reduce energy costs. Grants up to £25,000 More [here](#).

#### **Funding for Low Carbon Industry**

Innovation to reduce the carbon emissions from UK industry and driving down the cost of carbon capture, use and storage. More information [here](#)

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**Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales Invest Programme** - Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales is currently accepting initial applications to its Invest Grants programme. Funding programmes offer short and long term grants. Support is adapted to the needs of small and medium sized charities that are committed to delivering work which breaks or prevents cycles of disadvantage. Visit here for more details [www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk](http://www.lloydsbankfoundation.org.uk)

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**Lloyds Bank/School for Social Entrepreneurs** - there are many courses in the regional schools who have their own [programmes and workshops](#), applications accepted now.

**Creative England and Creative Europe** various grants (and loans) available to finance growth in film businesses for feature film/documentary production, computer games, animation and FX in the West Midlands. For details, visit:

- [Media](#)
- [Creative Europe funding](#)
- <http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/grants-arts>

**Capital Allowances** again not a grant, but count as State aid and therefore receipt of capital allowances will affect how much State aid a business can receive. Tax relief available against qualifying expenditure on integral features, insulation, heating systems and others: [www.hmrc.gov.uk/capital-allowances](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/capital-allowances)

**Plug-in car and van grant** Grant towards the cost of each new electric (plug-in) car or van purchased, if it meets certain conditions. Grants are available for 35% off the cost of a car, up to a maximum of £4,500 or 20% off the cost of a van, up to a maximum of £8,000 <https://www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants/overview>

**UKTI international trade services** help available for UK companies looking to or already exporting. The Tradeshow Access Programme provides funding in the form of grants for eligible businesses to attend overseas trade shows.

Export Communications Review (ECR) will help you develop an international communications strategy. This can help your business overcome language and cultural barriers. For more information visit [here](#)

**Heritage Enterprise** a range of different grant programmes with grants from £3,000 to over £5million. From [www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)

**Momentum Music Fund** - Grants of £5000 - £15000 for artists and bands to break through to the next stage of their career. [Learn more](#).

**PRS for Music Foundation** We are here to help bring new music to life. We are PRS for Music Foundation, the UK's leading charitable funder of new music and talent development across all genres. <https://prsformusicfoundation.flexigrant.com/>

#### **State aid**

**State aid relates to the payment of public funding to private companies.** If you are not familiar with State Aid rules look at the "handbook" produced by the European Commission for a summary of the Regulations. **It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that any bid submitted is compliant with State Aid Legislation.** <http://www.gov.uk/state-aid>

#### **Contact Details**

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