

Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and Partners Loan Funding Factsheet January 2018

This Loan funding factsheet has been developed by the **Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Access to Finance Group (Chaired by Paul Brown)** in response to a number of requests from companies and intermediaries. This document provides an overview of available funding streams and includes links for further information for each of the funding streams currently available, or due to be launched soon. This complements the Business Finance Finder available at <http://www.betterbusinessfinance.co.uk/> which includes more mainstream finance available through banks and larger lenders. This factsheet is updated as new funding streams are announced/confirmed. If you would like more information about any of the schemes highlighted in this factsheet please contact the Growth Hub using the details below.

The Midlands Engine Investment Fund, supported by the European Regional Development Fund, will invest in Debt Finance, Small Business Loans, Proof-of-Concept and Equity Finance funds, ranging from £25,000 to £2m, specifically to help small and medium sized businesses secure the funding they need for growth and development.

Contact the fund managers:

BCRS Small business loans from £25,000 - £150,000 <https://bcrs.org.uk/midlands-engine-fund/>

Maven Debt Finance business loans from £100,000 - £1.5 million <https://www.mavencp.com/meif-maven-debt-finance>

Black Country Investment Loan Fund - The Fund has been established to provide loan funding to landowners to fund the cost of site remediation and servicing of sites for employment uses. There is a separate but similar fund for residential development. The proposed loan arrangements provide for repayment of loans (and associated interest) upon site development or disposal with a longstop date of repayment of 10 years. Loan funding may meet 100% of the costs of remediation and servicing works with the loan secured against the remediated site value. The Black Country Investment Fund will not provide a designated aid to beneficiaries and accordingly would not impact on the eligibility of parties to seek additional public sector funding to support the delivery of built development <https://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/about-us/plans-for-growth/black-country-investment-fund/>

Applications Open: Currently Open

Contact: The Black Country growth Hub 01902 321 272

email: enquiries@bcgrowthhub.com

Black Country Growing Places Loan Fund - Loan funding will be available from autumn 2015 based on recycled capital and interest from previous funding rounds. Growing Places Funding is only available for land and property projects in the Black Country that are stalled and subject to funding would be in a position to proceed on site within around 6 months. See <https://www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/business-growth/funding-opportunities/apply-for-growing-places-fund/> for details and a factsheet.

BCRS Business Loans – Loans from £10,000 - £150,000 available to companies who are unable to access finance from traditional sources, such as banks. <http://www.bcrs.org.uk/> **Contact: email** enquiries@bcrs.org.uk **tel:** 0845 313 8410

Impetus Business Loans Impetus has general capital funds for Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin and the wider West Midlands area. For viable activities in the region, From £1,000 to £150,000, for SMEs, start-ups & social enterprise and when bank support is limited, or additional finance is required. <http://www.impetus-marches.co.uk/>

Aston Reinvestment Trust – Loans from £10,000 - £150,000 available to companies who are unable to access finance from traditional sources, such as banks. <http://www.reinvest.co.uk/>

EV Business Loans provides loans ranging from £15,000 to £1 million to both new and existing businesses. Loans are available for a wide range of purposes, now owned by Mercia <https://www.merciatech.co.uk/our-business/funds-we-manage/actively-investing/ev-sme-loans/>

Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative (AMSCI) WMLCR– The aim of AMSCI is to increase the growth of the manufacturing sector. The fund will adopt a flexible approach to funding (loans and grants) focusing on the provision of funding towards the purchase of capital equipment and funding working capital requirements as well as funding the complementary requirement of R&D and skills development.

- Research & Development
- Capital Investment
- Skills & Training

Package of Support Range: minimum £100,000 funding request in the form of Grant OR Loan

Applications: Open

Contact: AMSCI Helpdesk: 0121 2334927 **web:** <https://www.financebirmingham.com/amsci/wmlcr/>

National Tooling Fund - The £24m revolving National Tooling Fund is open and has been created to help toolmakers and component manufacturers fund the design, development and manufacture of tooling or the expansion of tooling capacity. The fund will offer a commercial rate of interest and focus on the creation and safeguarding of jobs, further details of the fund includes:-

- Evidence that traditional sources of finance are not available
- >2 years trading track record and proven ability to complete similar projects
- The final manufacturing of the tooling and components must be located in England
- Firm order for the tooling from an OEM/Tier 1 or similar

Loan Range: £50k - £1m

Contact: Steve Hetherington **tel:** 0121 2334903

web: www.financebirmingham.com/tooling

RGF Mezzanine Loan Fund – this £56m fund is currently open to SME businesses within the West Midlands which have been operating for two years or more, and are looking to create and/or safeguard jobs. See below for further details of the fund:-

- Open to all sectors and can be used for any purpose
- Equity or warrants considered but not required
- No personal security required
- Commercial rate of interest and repayment premium
- Offers flexible repayment structure and terms
- Debenture security but priority given to existing debenture holders

Loan Range: £250K - £2m

Contact: Graham Mold: **tel** 0121 2334903

web: www.financebirmingham.com/mezzanine

UK Export Finance Offers a range of financial products, including credit, loan guarantees and insurance via banks to assist UK businesses when exporting <https://www.gov.uk/export-finance-and-insurance-an-overview>

UK Steel Enterprise Access to Finance - scheme is privately funded with support from the Regional Growth Fund. The scheme can provide loan and equity finance from UK Steel Enterprise a subsidiary of Tata Steel. The project must support capital investment projects which create or safeguard jobs. <http://www.uksteelenterprise.co.uk>

Applications: Open to March 2017

Package of Support Range: £25,000- £750,000

Contact: Allan Wood/Keith Williams on 0800 915 1188

Waste Reduction Action Partnership (WRAP) – loan funds to assist businesses to purchase plant and equipment for recycling of various waste materials including mixed plastics, anaerobic digestion <http://www.wrap.org.uk/category/what-we-offer/funding>

Energy Efficiency Finance – loans from The Carbon Trust and Siemens for energy efficiency measures and to install renewable energy and make repayments from the savings http://finance.siemens.com/financialservices/uk/products_solutions/equipment-finance-leasing/energy-efficiency-financing/pages/index.aspx?stc=dexfs120383

Arts Impact Fund – Repayable funding from £150,000 for not-for-profit arts organisations to deliver social impact <https://artsimpactfund.org/>

Creative England Business Loan – interest free loans from £50,000 to £200,000 over three years for creative and digital businesses outside of London. <http://www.creativeengland.co.uk/story/creative-england-opens-1.5-million-interest-free-loan-fund>

Big Issue Invest scale-up social enterprises and charities by providing finance, not grants, £20,000 to £3Million from unsecured loans to equity investment <http://bigissueinvest.com/>

Coventry and Warwickshire Reinvestment Trust (CWRT)

Providing commercial loans to companies who are unable to access finance from traditional sources such as banks. CWRT offer commercial loans from £1,000 to £75,000 CWRT is one of the official Delivery Partners for the Start Up Loans Company and can offer start-up loans from £500 to £25,000 <http://cwrt.uk.com/>

Contact Details

Black Country Growth Hub 01902 321 272

email enquiries@bcgrowthhub.com

Things to be aware of - 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>