

GUIDELINES FOR THE

EAST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Social Enterprise Support Programme

Supported by East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action (EDVA)

Introduction

Social enterprise is critical to East Dunbartonshire's wellbeing economy. Across the Local Authority, social enterprises are already reimagining and embracing a fairer way of doing business. Covid-19 has seen social enterprises stand up and play vital roles within their communities, displaying innovation and determination to support the most vulnerable. These social enterprises trade for the common good and largely, do so in a way consistent with the shared principles and characteristics set out in the Voluntary Code of Practice for Social Enterprises in Scotland. Inherent in the social enterprise approach is a singular focus on addressing complex social and environmental issues. Social enterprises demonstrate how businesses can help us work towards a modern wellbeing economy through prioritising sustainable growth, environmental responsibility, promoting fair work, inclusion, and opportunities for all.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

is a central pillar of the UK Government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. It will help places right across the country deliver enhanced outcomes and recognises that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support.

Fund Priorities of the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. This aligns with Levelling Up White Paper missions, particularly: 'By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.'

Alongside economic pull and push factors, people's lives are shaped by the social and physical fabric of their communities. The local mix of social and physical capital gives local areas their unique character and shapes where people choose to live, work and invest. Recognising the acute challenges town centres and communities have faced during the pandemic, this Fund will improve the places people live in, and support individuals and businesses. It will drive noticeable improvements that matter to local communities, foster local pride in place and increase life chances including health outcomes.

Underneath the overarching aim of building pride in place and increasing life chances, there are three UKSPF investment priorities one of which is Supporting Local Business.

Overall Aims of the East Dunbartonshire Social Enterprise Support Programme

Supporting Not for Profit Local Business (Social Enterprise)

Objectives

- Boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing and new Social Enterprises, offer a range of support for young social enterprise businesses.

- Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together Social Enterprise businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise, resources, helping to stimulate innovation and growth.
- Increasing investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized social enterprise businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies, and techniques. Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems. Increase in number of potential entrepreneurs providing assistance to be business ready. Number of new social enterprise businesses created.

Eligibility

Applications must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The applicant is aged 16 or over.
- The enterprise operates primarily for the benefit of people or communities within East Dunbartonshire
- The enterprise is an independent organisation and not the project or subsidiary of an existing body.
- The enterprise aims to provide direct social impact to individuals, communities and/or the environment within East Dunbartonshire.
- If the enterprise requires premises to start trading, the applicant must have identified a property and be able to confirm an agreement in principle.
- The Enterprise must show a clear social impact– You must identify the social or environmental issue you want to tackle. You must tell us how you will make a direct, positive impact and measure the difference you are making.
- Your social enterprise will reinvest its profits into the business and its social aims. No private individuals or bodies benefit from the assets or uncapped dividends of the business.
- The enterprise and its activities do not involve political campaigning or the advancement of religion.

The range of organisations that can apply are:

- Not-for-profit asset locked company or Community Interest Companies (CIC)
- Companies Limited by Guarantee Without a Share Capital.
- Registered Charities which are **trading goods or services**.
- Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations (SCIO) **which are trading goods or services**

- Companies must be registered with Companies House or the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator.
- If you are registered on Companies House we will also check that no person has more than 50% control of your group.

National organisations undertaking initiatives in the local area are not excluded but are not the focus of the Fund. The majority of grants will go to small and medium sized Business– with incomes ranging from £10,000 per annum up to £500,000 per annum.

What size of grant can be awarded to applicants?

Small-scale Grants of up to £2,000 aimed at smaller Enterprises in their first few years of trading.

Larger grants of up to £5,000 for established Social Enterprise development.

To ensure a broad reach across small community enterprises, it is envisaged that the majority of grants will be made to grass roots organisations.

All funds must be spent by the 31st of March 2025

What can be funded:

- equipment, materials, and capital costs
- one-off events
- website branding logo design and marketing
- training costs
- utilities and running costs
- volunteer expenses
- safety equipment

The Fund will NOT support applications for:

- contingency costs, loans, endowments, or interest
- salary costs
- profit-making or fundraising activities

- VAT which can be reclaimed
- statutory activities
- alcoholic beverages and other harmful substances (e.g. tobacco)

Capital Costs

The benefits of any capital expenditure must clearly contribute to the aims of the fund. If your proposal involved capital expenditure, please indicate this on the application budget and say how much of the total spend is capital expenditure.

Capital costs are the costs of buying equipment, furnishings, premises or other items that cost substantial amounts and will last for several years. For example, costs incurred in purchasing IT equipment, Machinery or White Goods are all capital costs.

How to apply and what happens next

The East Dunbartonshire Social Enterprise Support Programme will open on the **13th May 2024** and will close on the **17th of June 2024**

Successful applicants will be notified by award letters no later than **12th July 2024**.

The online application form and guidance for completing the application are available at the funding section of **EDVA's Website... <https://edva.org/funding>**

If you are unable to use the online application form you can download a Word document from the website. If you require a hard copy of the form, you can get this by contacting EDVA on 0141 578 6680.

Once submitted your application will be assessed against three criteria:

Criteria	How you can maximise your chance of success
Eligibility (Pass / Fail)	<p>Read this guidance carefully and ensure your application is eligible before you submit it. In particular check that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - your organisation is eligible to apply - your project meets the criteria, - you have answered all relevant questions

The ability to demonstrate social impact	Show us how your project is embedded in your community. Be clear what Community Benefit your Social Enterprise offers.
Value for Money	Ensure your budget is appropriate for the work you intend to undertake. Consider what funding you will need to make your project inclusive.

EDVA and a local assessment panel will complete the assessment of each application. We may ask you for further information to help you demonstrate your project is fundable. The assessment panel will make the final decision on which projects are funded. If successful, projects will have until March 2025 to spend their grant funding.

Please note. It is a condition that all payments made from the fund to applicant organisations are completed by **27th July 2024**. It is therefore critically important that if your project is successful that you respond quickly in providing any required information.

Monitoring and Evaluation- As part of the fund we will be looking for successful applicants to report back on the difference the fund has made to their Trading Arm of the Business. There will be an interim evaluation to be completed online during October 2024; outlining progress to date and also a final evaluation will be required in March 2025. The aim is to keep these as 'light touch' as possible but we will ask for some information such as the number of people who have benefited and for some quotes, receipts, case studies or story. Where it is appropriate, we would also like to see photographs or videos of your work, and to be able to come visit the project and meet with the people involved. If you would like any help or guidance with evaluation please do let EDVA know and we can provide support with this.

To improve signposting to the wealth of community supports afforded by the Fund, East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action will ask those organisations funded to register their projects on the ED Asset Map where relevant.

<https://www.eastdunassets.org.uk/>

We want the work of this fund to inform future policy and funding decisions. EDVA may provide opportunities for great projects to showcase their work and the impact they have on business and communities. Applicants will be encouraged to participate in these.

East Dunbartonshire Voluntary Action

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC042983

In partnership with the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and East Dunbartonshire Council.

