

Blaenau Gwent Business Pre-Start Up Grant

The Blaenau Gwent Business Pre-Start Up Grant is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and the Waterloo Foundation, managed by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. The grant is available to support pre business start-up costs for those individuals seeking full time self-employment. The grant is potentially available to those business that will be established within the Borough of Blaenau Gwent within 3 months of accessing this grant support.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Those individuals wishing to become full time self-employed within 3 months of receiving this grant support.
- The applicant must be a Blaenau Gwent resident.
- Small and Medium Sized Businesses e.g., those employing less than 249 people.
- Sole traders, Partnerships, Limited Companies, Co-operatives, Limited Liability Partnerships

WHO CANNOT APPLY

- Due to market saturation mobile businesses including hairdressers and beauticians are ineligible via this grant scheme.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECT EXPENDITURE

- Market research to help develop a business plan.
- Engaging with creative content specialists to advise on social media content and various platforms.
- Research & Development costs associated with developing a business plan.
- Attending various networking events to gain a wider understanding of your planned business venture.
- Hire of stalls to test trade your product (i.e. Market stalls, trade fairs etc).
- Accessing expert advice to help develop your business plan and product/service.
- Training – face to face or online.
- App development.

Ineligible costs:

- Staff costs (including staff costs to attend exhibitions for delivery of the project);
- Vehicles
- Replacement of like for like items.
- Hire purchase/lease purchases.
- Repair, maintenance, and decoration costs etc.
- Contingency fees.
- Working capital costs such as rent, rates, admin, stock.
- Costs of works being carried out as a legal statutory requirement.
- Costs that were committed or spent before the offer and acceptance.

No expenditure should be incurred before grant approval, as the grant cannot be awarded retrospectively

GRANT SUPPORT

- 80% of eligible and reasonable costs up to a maximum of £500.
- Applications for both revenue and capital costs will be accepted.
Minimum grant £100.00

• **APPLICATION PROCESS**

- Application form accompanied by:
 - Business Case from applicant supported by your Enterprise Facilitator/Business Advisor
 - 2 comparable quotations for each item included in application.
 - Evidence of match funding i.e., business bank statement.
 - ID – Driving Licence/Passport & Home Utility Bill
- The application guidance notes should be **read and understood in full** before application is submitted.

OUTCOME OF APPLICATION

- Applicants will be notified within 4 weeks of submission of **all** application documentation.
- Successful applicants must accept the grant offer letter of the grant by signing and returning the agreement within 14 days of the date of the offer letter.
- Grant will not be offered or paid if the business is in arrears with any payment to the Local Authority

The Blaenau Gwent Business Pre-Start Up Grant is discretionary and dependent on the availability of funds. It is not a statutory function and there is no right of appeal. The Council is not obliged to enter any further discussions for the reason for refusal.

PAYMENT OF GRANT

- All items listed in the application must be **purchased within 8 weeks of grant approval**.
- Confirmation that all statutory procedures (e.g., building regulations, planning consent, food hygiene, etc.) must be in place before grant is awarded to the business.
- 50% of the grant approved will be paid direct into the bank account of the applicant once the signed grant agreement has been received, then the final 50% is paid after receipt of original invoices, bank statements to confirm payment.
- Please note cash payment are not accepted.

MONITORING

- Blaenau Gwent CBC will continue to monitor the outputs of awarded grants and will contact you to request updated information as and when required.
- Successful applications may be included in follow up marketing and case studies.
- Successful applicants will also be required to meet with an Enterprise Facilitator from BGCBC on a monthly basis to help develop their business idea further.

For further information on the scheme, please contact the Business & Innovation, Blaenau Gwent CBC

Tel: 01495 369496 Email: business@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

www.blaenau-gwent-business-hub.co.uk



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