

Your local **GBSLEP** area representatives

Birmingham Chamber Group

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Cannock Chase District Council

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East Staffordshire Borough Council

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Lichfield District Council and Tamworth Borough Council

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North Worcestershire

Bromsgrove DC, Redditch BC
& Wyre Forest DC
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Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

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financial assistance

SCHEME

Grant support of £10,000 – £15,000

Are you an **existing business**
ready to **expand** and **create jobs**?

If so, we may be able to help you with grant
support from the Financial Assistance scheme
of the **Business Development Programme**.



The **Business Development Programme** provides comprehensive business support to **existing small to medium sized enterprises** (SMEs) in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) area. The programme is funded by the *European Regional Development Fund* and runs from **September 2012 until May 2015**.

Financial assistance provided by the Business Development Programme:

A grant award between **£10,000** and **£15,000** is available to **existing businesses** against eligible project costs.

To qualify for consideration, businesses **must meet** the following eligibility criteria:

- be profit-seeking and have been trading for **6 months** or more
- be an existing **SME**, ie
 - have between **1-249 employees**
 - have an annual turnover less than **£42m**
 - have a balance sheet less than **£36m**
 - be less than **25%** owned by another company or combination of other companies
- have a current business plan if less than **2 years** old
- have a viable project that qualifies for the minimum grant of **£10,000**
- create new jobs/safeguard existing jobs as a direct result of the project's implementation
- be based in or relocating to the **GBSLEP** area*
- be in one of the eligible business sectors*

Eligible revenue costs include:

- relocation to new premises
- difference in rent and rates associated with moving to new premises
- business stationery as part of relocation
- expansion of existing premises
- installation (heating, lighting, cabling)
- signage
- marketing and branding
- promotional material
- maximum of **£1,500** for accredited business advisor support to assist with completing the application form if required

The grant is against eligible costs subject to satisfying criteria and approval by an awarding panel. The grant is fully funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Project partners

Birmingham City Council manages and delivers the programme with the **GBSLEP partners**

Birmingham Chamber of Commerce Group, Cannock Chase District Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, North Worcestershire Economic Development (representing Bromsgrove District Council, Redditch Borough Council and Wyre Forest District Council), Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Tamworth Borough Council.

Partner Support available:

Support provided by the **GBSLEP partners** includes:

- knowledge of scheme criteria
- advice on the application process
- access to additional support
- referral and signposting to other support.

To find out more, please contact your local **GBSLEP area representative**, details overleaf.

* To establish if your business activity and anticipated project costs are eligible, contact your local respective **GBSLEP** area representative. Details are overleaf.