

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL FUND – Round 4

Guidance Notes for Bidders

Please read this guidance carefully as it offers you

- An overview of eligibility rules
- How and when to submit your application
- How much you can apply for
- The selection procedure

This Guidance note and associated information is available at:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-employment-and-benefits/business-support/nottinghamshire-economic-development-capital-fund>

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1. Introduction

This guidance is intended to provide information to potential applicants to the Nottinghamshire Economic Development Capital Fund (NEDCF).

This call offers an open and competitive route to grant funding for projects that meet specific criteria and contribute fully to the overall objectives and outputs of the Fund as outlined in this guidance. The Fund operates over two stages with projects being invited to Stage 2 if they pass a threshold score and ultimately only projects that are State aid compliant will be supported.

Please note - this guidance has been amended since the opening call for projects and thus all applicants are requested to read this new guidance carefully and thoroughly.

Overall the Fund will be open until all the remaining funding has been allocated but a phased approach will be adopted to ensure the Fund delivers against its expectations. Further details are offered at Section 4.

2. Background

Nottinghamshire County Council has allocated a total of £6M from its capital programme over 6 financial years 2014/15 to 2019/20 towards the establishment of the Nottinghamshire Economic Development Capital Fund (NEDCF). The Fund is designed to stimulate economic activity and create new jobs. As a guide, every £10,000 of grant funding should create one full time job, within the applicant company, which is retained for three years.

In order to maximise the impact of the NEDCF resources, the Council is looking for applications which:

- promote and are able to demonstrate resultant economic and job growth
- are located within the County of Nottinghamshire and demonstrably benefit Nottinghamshire businesses and residents;
- demonstrate that the grant sought is the minimum required to secure the delivery of the project and achieve the stated outcomes;
- provide proof that other funding sources have been suitably explored;
- operate within State aid guidelines.
- within the context of State aid, will satisfy one or more of the following
 - ❖ accelerate the implementation of the project
 - ❖ increase the project's value or scope
 - ❖ increase the size or spend
 - ❖ offer evidence that the project would not go ahead without the support
- will see leverage on the Council's investment, resulting in the release of resources from elsewhere over the duration of the programme;
- satisfy the Council that proposals are viable, offer value for money, are realistic and deliverable;

The following are examples of types of project which the Council seeks to support:

- **Investments in companies to enable the purchase of productive plant or machinery with a view to company growth.** This may include expansion into new markets, the fulfilment of new orders, or diversification but must be for capital items.
- **Investments to enable improvements/expansion of premises or the development of new business premises, again with a focus on job growth and end users.**

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how the project will contribute to the Council's wider objectives in terms of:

- the development of local supply chains and job and training opportunities, particularly those opportunities aimed at young people such as apprenticeships. For further advice on **apprenticeships** and the additional support available to businesses to establish them please visit: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/living/jobs/apprenticeships
- the creation of quality job opportunities with rates of pay at or above living wage. Please note this is the **rate set by the Living Wage Foundation**, currently £8.45 per hour. It is the overall aspiration of the fund that 85% of jobs created will be at or above this rate. Please review this at: www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/pressreleases/show/county-council-leader-reaffirms-commitment-to-living-wage and generally at www.livingwage.org.uk
- ensuring positive **equality and environmental impacts** and compliance with related legislation

The Council is keen to encourage applications that meet its ambitions on business growth by seeking projects from SMEs seeking direct capital investment. Please note: the maximum grant available will vary depending on the focus of your application and State aid regulations as they apply to each application. Please see later in this Guidance for State aid advice and the definition of an SME.

3. Scope of Call and Targeting

As the name implies, the Fund offers **CAPITAL** finance only. Bids for cashflow assistance and non-capital expenditure are not eligible. The asset **must** be owned (or have an obligation to be owned, depending on the wider finance arrangements) by the applicant business and shown on the applicant's books.

This Fund is aimed at delivering eligible activity within the County of Nottinghamshire. Proposals which will take place outside the County's administrative area will not be eligible.

The fund is primarily targeted at SMEs. However, there may be projects from large companies which we would wish to consider but large companies must be located in an assisted area to apply. Please see section 8 and annex 2 for further details.

Please note in addition, the NEDCF will **not** support:

- projects submitted by individuals or sole traders;
- investments below £20,000 or above £250,000;
- start-up businesses (ie those starting up or less than a year old);
- direct retail business;
- business to consumer services eg health, education, training, sport and leisure;
- simple replacement of capital kit / equipment. Investment in new equipment may apply depending on the company's job growth as a result;
- generally speculative development schemes;
- any VAT as part of the grant;
- housing development schemes
- export related activities
- aid contingent on the use of domestic over imported products
- enterprises in difficulty (credit checks will be made)
- enterprises subject to an outstanding order for the recovery of illegal State aid
- a project where work has already started. It will be deemed ineligible for financial support and this applies right up until an award is confirmed
- For those businesses active in the road freight/transport sector, the de minimis maximum is €100,000. In view of the overcapacity in the road freight transport sector and the objectives of transport policy as regards road congestion and freight transport, aid for the acquisition of road freight transport vehicles by undertakings performing road freight transport for hire or reward are not eligible for support.

The funding is subject to some further restrictions in order to comply with State aid law. Please see Annex 1 for detailed information.

4. Timeframes

The NEDCF funding, c£2.5m is available from the 2017/18 financial year. Projects have until 31st March 2020 to be fully completed and all grant must be **spent** by this date. There is a two stage application process.

At Stage 1, projects will be assessed individually, scored and all applications ranked with a general quality threshold being applied. They will then be reviewed against the overall Fund objectives and the amount of resources available before any progress to Stage 2.

In this light, this call for projects is now open and the closing date for Stage 1 applications is 4 pm Monday 6 March 2017. Applications received after this date will be held in reserve. Applicants will be informed if a further phase will be available and by what timetable further assessments will be made. This is at the discretion of the County Council.

5. Outputs

The Council's aims for the NEDCF are to achieve the following outputs, results and impacts over the six years of its operation:

Jobs created	550
Jobs safeguarded	350
Leverage from public and private sector	£13m
Benchmark cost per job	£10,000
Businesses assisted to improve performance	70
Living Wage Foundation rate per hour	85%

Potential projects will need to make an appropriate contribution towards these targets and this will be a key part of the assessment. Since the primary objective of the scheme is to secure job creation and economic growth, projects which do not result in both demonstrable growth and clear job outputs will not be supported. Please note, jobs created need to be permanent, full time equivalent (30 or more hours per week), have to be maintained for a minimum of 3 years and must be employed by the applicant's business. Jobs should be created within 12 months of the last grant payment. Apprenticeships and work-placements etc cannot be counted in this context but are absolutely encouraged and should be accounted for separately as referenced elsewhere in this Guidance.

Additional outputs will be required of individual projects depending on the nature of the project. Applicants are requested to propose additional targets appropriate to the project which may be the subject of further discussion as part of the assessment process.

6. The Application and Selection Process

There are two stages to this process – Stage 1, followed by Stage 2 for selected projects by invitation only.

Stage 1 - (Expression of Interest) Form

The application form can be downloaded from <http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-employment-and-benefits/business-support/nottinghamshire-economic-development-capital-fund>

Applicants should complete the form as fully as possible. Failure to do so is likely to result in the project being rejected. To aid you there is guidance on the form relating to individual questions.

Initially projects will be checked to ensure they meet minimum eligibility requirements. Those which are judged to be eligible will proceed to a Stage 1 assessment. The assessment criteria are also available to download from the above web address. Applicants are strongly advised to look at this document before completing the form.

After the Stage 1 assessment is complete, if they have reached the required threshold, a credit check and financial review will be performed where applicable **before** applicants are invited to submit a Stage 2 application. The credit check reviews a number of factors including the time taken in the payment of suppliers, the filing of accounts, the company's net worth, outstanding CCJs and overall, whether there is judged to be any form of risk. Finance cannot be offered to companies / applicants deemed at risk.

The risk assessment is summarised through a traffic light assessment from Green (low risk) to Red (high risk) and this will guide progression to Stage 2 of the application process. Please note, the credit check is an important part of the process and the County Council reserves the right to reject applications should concerns be raised.

If the project is unsuccessful at Stage 1, the applicant will be informed.

Please note – not all applicants reaching the required threshold at Stage 1 will be progressed automatically to Stage 2. As referenced in Section 4 above, applications will be ranked but reviewed against the Fund's overall objectives and the amount of resource available.

Stage 2 (Full Bids) Form

If selected to progress to Stage 2, applicants will be invited to complete a Stage 2 application with a deadline to be agreed. **Applicants will also need to supply supporting information to accompany the form:**

- (up to) two years' of the company's most recent full accounts and the most recent management accounts;
- CVs of the business' leadership team and of those managing the project's delivery alongside a company structure chart;
- full details of the company's group structure if applicable. Note - this will include details of any ownership by the applicant business of other enterprises and / or ownership in full or part of the applicant business by other enterprises. This is crucial for defining the status of a company (ie in terms of being a small, medium or large sized enterprise) and thence in terms of State aid;
- cash flow forecasts for the duration of the project to ensure the cash position to fund the project is clarified and to be accompanied by a brief explanation as to the assumptions. A profit and loss and balance sheet would be helpful in support of the cash flow forecast;
- a full breakdown of the project's capital costs including justification (eg quotes);
- supportive evidence of the level and type of funding from other sources including bank sources and any working capital to support the cash flow headroom;
- evidence that the asset will be owned by the business entity applying for the grant;
- full details of the jobs to be created and details of recruitment and wage levels alongside a commitment to retain the jobs and the asset investment for 3 years;
- a current payroll listing for your company so we have evidence on file of the existing jobs, which will enable us to substantiate job growth later on;
- details of any statutory or licensing requirements and how they will be managed. If planning permission is not deemed to be required, evidence to that effect may be requested via you from the local planning authority;
- three written quotes for each item for which grant funding support is sought.

Further guidance will be given at the time Stage 2 applications are invited but a failure to provide the above information may result in the application being rejected as incomplete. Applicants will also be required to confirm acceptance of the Terms and Conditions of grant as part of their Stage 2 application. The terms and conditions will be effected as a Deed of Agreement.

The information made available to prospective bidders at Stage 1 also includes the full Assessment Framework covering both stages of the bidding process and the Terms and Conditions of grant. Please review the website for details.

The Stage 2 application and the accompanying information will be sent to the Council's appointed specialist assessors to support the assessment of the project. Confidentiality will be respected. Their assessment will form an important part of drawing together the overall recommendation and as will be seen from the Assessment Framework, Stage 2 majors on:

- the business case
- the deliverability of the project
- financial viability of both the project and the business overall
- value for money
- state aid compliance
- a refresh of the targets / outputs to be achieved, quality issues and monitoring

Applicants at Stage 2 may be required to discuss the application with or host a visit from the appointed assessors and / or the County Council officers as part of the process. A failure to co-operate with this process may again result in a project's rejection. Please note too that should a conversation be required, it is expected that this should be with the applicant who must be employed by the applying business and not an appointed external consultant or advisor. It is of course acceptable for them to be involved should the need arise.

Final Assessment and Report

The final assessment will be made on the basis of the entire application process and information supplied. A report with an accompanying recommendation to refuse or support a project will be produced and this will be completed by the County Council. A decision will be made by the County Council in line with its agreed process at its Economic Development Committee.

7. Project Start and Finish Dates

To confirm; projects may **not** start until final approval is given and the Agreement signed. This restriction is part of complying with State aid law, so it is very important that you do not start the activity to be funded until you have formal approval.

Project started means either the start of construction work or the first legally binding commitment to order equipment, excluding preliminary feasibility studies, whichever is earlier.

It is presumed that the applicant understands and accepts that no offer of financial assistance is guaranteed at any stage of the process. The project will run for the time specified in the grant agreement and the accompanying schedule, but must be concluded both practically and financially by 31st March 2020. For financial management purposes, the final grant claim will need to be received by 1st March 2020 for processing in the financial year. The financial schedule must allow for this when applying.

8. Maximum and Minimum Amounts of Grant Available

You must be seeking at least £20,000 from the NECDF.

The maximum grant payable will be the amount required to complete the transaction for each item purchased with grant support. Therefore the amount paid out directly by the grant beneficiary, excluding VAT, must be greater or equal to the amount of grant claimed for each item. This is particularly relevant to asset finance and mortgage transactions – for example, if a finance provider is funding 80% of the transaction, the most that can be claimed in grant is the remaining 20% deposit paid by the beneficiary.

The maximum amount of grant available will be £250,000 subject to meeting State aid requirements. Annex 1 later in this document gives much more detail on the State aid restrictions and applicants should read that section carefully before completing the application form.

However, briefly here, grant may be offered under either the de minimis regulation or the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER).

- **The “de minimis Regulation”** – up to €200,000 (at the relevant exchange rate http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/infoeuro/index_en.cfm) over a rolling 3 (fiscal) year period. The exact amount that may be offered depends on whether the applicant has already received grant assistance under the de minimis regulation from other public sources within their last three financial years. Please note for undertakings in the road transport sector the maximum available under de minimis is €100,000.

We generally expect most NEDCF grants to fall under de minimis. You will be required to provide details of the de minimis funding already received in the relevant period to test the amount of grant

that can be offered. Accepting the grant will also affect your organisation's future ability to accept other public sector funding offered under the de minimis regulation.

- **GBER Exemption** - The NEDCF also complies with Article 14 or Article 17 of the GBER. These are:

- regional investment aid (Article 14) - limited to **Assisted Areas** only
- investment aid for SMEs (Article 17) – limited to **SMEs** only

A list of the current Nottinghamshire Assisted Area wards can be found in Annex 2 of this document.

A full definition of an SME is contained in the detailed information on State aid at Annex 1. You must assure yourself that an award can be made under State aid and you must equally supply the relevant information to allow for a clear assessment to be made. If you require any advice on State aid, please contact a specialist advisor. The table below summarises the maximum grant rates available by location and business size (within the ceiling prescribed by the Capital Fund).

Nottinghamshire Economic Development Capital Fund: Aid Intensity Levels under GBER		
Size of business	Maximum grant rate (% of project cost)	
	Regional investment aid (Art. 14)	Investment aid for SMEs (Art.17)
	Project located in Assisted Area (specific wards in Nottinghamshire)	Project located in Non-Assisted area – rest of Nottinghamshire
Small businesses (up to 50 group employees)	Up to 30%	Up to 20%
Medium sized businesses (up to 250 employees)	Up to 20%	Up to 10%
Large businesses (over 250 employees)	Up to 10% *	0

It is important to note that the grant will either be at de minimis levels, or a percentage based on the table above – not both.

** Large companies in Assisted Areas can only be given Regional aid for investment in a new establishment or diversification of an existing establishment into a new economic activity. A new establishment should be fully functional, autonomous and self-standing. This is a complex area and it is recommended that potential large business applicants contact us prior to commencement of an application via the email address at Section 12 below of this document. Further brief details are offered in the Annex.*

The remainder of the criteria of course apply and regardless of whether de minimis or GBER exemption applies, the case must be made for the minimum amount of grant required for the project to go ahead.

9. Match Funding / Leverage

The NEDCF is intended to be funding of last resort. You would be expected to have a funding package that substantially provides what you need with the Council's contribution being the difference that will enable the project to go ahead.

Other or "match" funding may come from the organisation submitting the bid, from public sector organisations, from other public sector funding sources (for both of these, you will need to be aware of the State aid rules for public sector support to companies as set out in Annex 1 below) or from private sector sources. Match funding applied for and any necessary permissions required should be listed but need not be necessarily confirmed at Stage 1. All funding sources and permissions must be in place before grant is finally confirmed.

10. Grant Terms and Conditions / Agreements

The general Terms and Conditions of grant are available to applicants to download from the Council website. Further conditions specific to individual projects may also be set within the Deed of Agreement, which will typically include a schedule / timeframe for grant payments, start and finish dates, and the maximum amount or percentage of grant offered alongside the expectations as to outputs. Nottinghamshire County Council reserves the right to withhold, vary or reclaim funding if any information supplied through the application and approval process proves to be inaccurate.

11. Commercial Confidentiality

The information provided via the application process will be made available to the external assessors supporting the assessments. It is generally presumed that the information provided at all stages of the process is commercially sensitive or confidential and will be treated as such. However, when signing the application, you agree to us sharing the details of your application with other funding partners. Further details on this issue are referenced on the application form.

12. Help and Support

If you would like to discuss the general **eligibility** of your proposal, please contact us with your query initially via email at ecdev@nottscc.gov.uk

Please speak with your usual business advisor for help with your project in the first instance. We have provided information and advice on the scheme to a range of business advice bodies, as well as to membership organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Small Businesses. Should you wish to explore independent assistance you can review the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership's pilot "Growth Hub" web site for local sources of support available here:

www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk/ and specifically for sources of advice:
www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk/growing-your-business/25/local-sources-of-business-advice

However, please note. Applications must be received from the applicant organisation directly and while help and support in completing your application is entirely acceptable, we would encourage you to write the Stage 1 application in your own words and to have a full understanding of the application if any clarification is requested.

13. Submission of Applications

Applicants are asked to submit fully completed Stage 1 forms in **both** electronic **and** hard copy; the hard copy is required for an original signature on the documents.

The timescales referenced in section 4 may change due to unforeseen circumstances and the Council reserves the right to change the timetable and applicants will be informed of any major changes.

Electronic copies may be emailed to ecdev@nottscc.gov.uk or provided on CD or memory stick to address below.

If you have submitted an electronic copy by email, you should receive an acknowledgement within 2 working days of submission. Please telephone 0115 977 2042 if you have not received acknowledgment within this time.

If you have submitted your electronic copy by CD or memory stick, you will receive an acknowledgement in writing. Please telephone 0115 977 2042 if you have not received an acknowledgement letter within one week of submitting your application.

Hard copies should be posted or hand-delivered to:

**The Economic Development Team, NEDCF Application, Nottinghamshire County Council,
County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG2 7QP.**

Applicants should obtain a receipt from the reception at County Hall upon hand-delivery of their hard copy application.

Annex 1

State Aid Information

All public assistance provided to organisations/businesses in the Nottinghamshire area involved in economic activity must comply with European State aid rules as it would in any other part of the UK. The NEDCF is public assistance by way of funding for capital expenditure. Those organisations who seek to apply need not be profit-making for State aid rules to apply, as long as the activity carried out is one which in principle has commercial competitors. Charities, universities, research institutions, voluntary entities, social enterprises and public sector bodies may all be deemed to be undertakings when they are engaged in economic activity.

This fund cannot offer support which may constitute unlawful State Aid. This is a complex area and applicants should satisfy themselves that the investment sought does not constitute unlawful state aid and where appropriate seek specialist advice. Before agreements are entered into, the Council may require further details from the applicant and as the Guidance notes, information will be sought and is expected to be provided to help reassure the parties. This section provides relevant information but you are urged to review published (and recently updated) Government guidance at <http://www.gov.uk/state-aid> as well as perhaps seeking specialist advice.

The Council is seeking to help promote job creation and economic wealth from its capital investments under the NEDCF. The purpose of the State aid regime is to prevent the Council as a public body from giving financial advantage to organisations in a way that could distort competition. As a general principle The European Treaty identifies that State aid is not compatible with the principles of a common market. However, not all State aid is viewed as having a negative effect and is therefore allowed in certain circumstances such as the NEDCF. The lawfulness of the NEDCF is based on the State aid regulations referred to as the “de minimis Regulation” and the General Block Exemption Regulations (“GBER”).

The “de minimis Regulation”

The De minimis Regulation covers small amounts of aid up to a prescribed threshold (currently €200,000 - (at the relevant latest exchange rate http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/infoeuro/index_en.cfm) over a 3 fiscal year period. It is important to understand that the threshold applies over a rolling 3 fiscal year period **per entity** (with due care employed as to what constitutes this entity if part of a group of companies) and not per project/grant fund application. Applicants who seek to apply for grant assistance under NEDCF under the de minimis Regulation must be sure that the amount received does not take them over the stated threshold. Applicants should also consider very carefully whether they think they are likely to apply for any other de minimis Regulation funding in the next two – three years as aid under this route is cumulative. If so, applicants should consider making their application under the GBER Regulations (see below). The Council can assist applicants in understanding this choice, but ultimately it is for applicants to choose which type of State aid they wish to apply for.

The Council has a legal duty to:

- inform applicants about the de minimis character of the aid and the level of aid, making express reference to the de minimis regulation;
- obtain from applicants a declaration about other de minimis aid received during the current and previous two fiscal years;
- only grant new de minimis aid after having checked that this will not raise the total amount of de minimis aid received during the relevant period of three fiscal years to a level that exceeds the €200,000 limit (€100,000 for undertakings in the road transport sector).

Under the NEDCF, we expect most grants to fall under the de minimis exemption. The de minimis amount which can be offered will be subject to an assessment of other public funds received by the applicant under this exemption over a rolling three fiscal year period. This is because the ceiling of €200,000 applies to all public sector funds received by a company under this regulation over three years.

The assessment process will require you to provide a list of the funding received in the relevant period to test the amount of grant that can be offered to you. Accepting the grant will also affect your future ability to accept other public sector funding offered under the de minimis regulation.

The GBER Regulations

The NEDCF also complies with Article 14 or Article 17 of the GBER. These are:

- regional investment aid (Article 14) - limited to Assisted Areas only
- Investment aid to SMEs (Article 17) – limited to SMEs only

A list of the Nottinghamshire Assisted Areas can be found at Annex 2 and an interactive map is available at www.ukassistedareamap.com

SME Definitions

An SME is defined by EU law. The main factors determining whether a company is an SME are:

- Number of employees, **and**
- Either turnover **or** balance sheet total

Company category	Employees	Turnover	or	Annual balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m		≤ € 43 m
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m		≤ € 10 m

These ceilings apply to individual firms. As referenced in Section 6 of the Guidance, a firm which is part of larger grouping will need to include employee / turnover / balance sheet / investment proportions data from that wider grouping too to review their "linked" or "partner" status and to thence satisfy the above definitions.

Sectoral Restrictions

The following is a summary of the lines of business activity cannot be assisted under NEDCF and GBER (a full list is available via the above referenced State aid website and should be consulted if clarification is required):

- Those engaged in the primary production of agricultural products
- Fisheries and aquaculture
- Coal industry
- Steel sector*
- Shipbuilding*
- Synthetic fibres*
- Processing and marketing of agricultural products when (1) the amount of aid is fixed on the basis of the price or quantity of such products purchased from primary producers or put on the market by the enterprise concerned or (2) the aid is conditional on being partly or entirely passed on to primary producers.
- For those businesses active in the road freight/transport sector, the de minimis maximum is €100,000. In view of the overcapacity in the road freight transport sector and the objectives of transport policy as regards road congestion and freight transport, aid for the acquisition of road freight transport vehicles by undertakings performing road freight transport for hire or reward are not eligible for support

* These sectors are excluded from receiving regional investment aid but not Investment Aid for SMEs under Article 17 GBER.

Support can be provided for SME's in Assisted Areas for initial investment projects relating to the:

- setting up of a new establishment;
- extension of an existing establishment;
- diversification into new additional products;
- fundamental change in the overall production process
- the acquisition of the capital assets directly linked to an establishment that has closed (or would have closed had it not been purchased)

Eligible Costs

For the purposes of NEDCF eligible capital costs are:

- tangible assets (relating to land, buildings and plant, machinery and equipment); and/or
- intangible assets (entailed by the transfer of technology, through the acquisition of patent rights, or licences, know-how or unpatented technical knowledge). Because these items must be categorised as capital for the purposes of NEDCF, they must be procured intangible assets that can be controlled by legal title.

Please note that explicitly under GBER but for the purpose of the NEDCF generally, the asset to be purchased via any grant is to be in the applicant business name.

Aid Ceilings Under GBER

The GBER apply ceilings (limits) to the amount of State aid that can be awarded. These apply to the NEDCF also under its reliance on GBER Articles 14 and 17. The Council will be able to provide specific information where requested as the maximum grant will depend on the size of the organisation (i.e. whether it is a large, medium or small enterprise) and its location up to the NEDCF ceiling of £250,000 in grant. The summary table below sets out this information in simple form.

Nottinghamshire Economic Development Capital Fund: Aid Intensity Levels For Awards Under GBER		
Size of Business	Maximum Grant Rate (% of project cost)	
	Regional investment aid (Art. 14)	Investment aid for SMEs (Art.17)
	Project located in Assisted Area (specific wards in Nottinghamshire)	Project located in Non-Assisted area – rest of Nottinghamshire
Small businesses (up to 50 group employees)	Up to 30%	Up to 20%
Medium sized businesses (up to 250 employees)	Up to 20%	Up to 10%
Large businesses (over 250 employees)	Up to 10% *	0

** Large companies in Assisted Areas can only be given Regional aid for investment in a new establishment or diversification of an existing establishment into a new economic activity. A new establishment should be fully functional, autonomous and self-standing.*

It can be carrying out the same activity as the company's other establishments in the area, providing it is self-standing. However, expansion or modification of the product range of an existing establishment is only eligible if the company is not carrying out the new activity (formally defined) either at the establishment or at any others owned by that company in the Assisted Area zone (ie the contiguous Assisted Area).

However, awards must be notified either (a) if the company has plans to close down similar establishments elsewhere in the EU or (b) if the total regional aid given to a company's group for projects in a single local authority area in the previous 3 years is more than £6million in other Assisted Areas. This is a complex area and it is recommended that potential large business applicants contact us prior to commencement of an application via the email address referenced at Section 12 of this document.

Annex 2

List of Assisted Areas

Ashfield District

Hucknall West Ward
Kirkby in Ashfield Central Ward
Kirkby in Ashfield East Ward
Kirkby in Ashfield West Ward
Sutton in Ashfield East Ward
Sutton in Ashfield West Ward
Woodhouse Ward

Bassetlaw District

Blyth Ward
Harworth Ward
Langold Ward
Welbeck Ward
Worksop North West Ward
Worksop South Ward
Worksop South East Ward

Broxtowe Borough

Beeston Rylands Ward

Gedling Borough

Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph Ward
Gedling Ward
Netherfield and Colwick Ward

Mansfield District

Abbott Ward
Berry Hill Ward
Kingsway Ward
Lindhurst Ward
Ling Forest Ward
Maun Valley Ward
Netherfield Ward
Newlands Ward
Oakham Ward
Oak Tree Ward
Penniment Ward
Ransom Ward
Sherwood Ward
Woodhouse Ward
Yeoman Hill Ward

Newark and Sherwood District

Boughton Ward
Clipstone Ward
Edwinstowe Ward
Ollerton Ward

If you are not sure in which ward your business / project is located, please review the map at <http://www.ukassistedareasmay.com> or contact ecdev@nottsc.gov.uk