

Getting Building Fund

Open Call for 'Getting Building Fund' Projects 29 January 2021

Introduction

The Prime Minister has previously set out the government's 'New Deal', delivering jobs, skills, and infrastructure for Britain. As part of that announcement in July 2020, the Prime Minister announced the government will be making £900 million available through the new 'Getting Building Fund' investing in local infrastructure projects to drive economic growth.

Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership is therefore inviting expressions of interest for well-developed projects that will drive the economic recovery and support continued delivery of Buckinghamshire's Local Industrial Strategy and growth within our four key sectors, Upstream Space, Creative and Digital, Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing and Medical Technology and Health.

Expressions of Interest

Expressions of Interest for individual bids of between £500k and £2m Getting Building Fund capital grant, will be considered for new and expansion of existing projects, with a minimum of 50% secured match funding, and which show strong strategic alignment, value for money and demonstrable delivery by March 2022.

Proposals should demonstrate how they support the Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy, and Economic Recovery Plan. Evaluation of Proposals will be undertaken by an independent consultant retained by Bucks LEP. Evaluation will include an analysis of.

- Strategic Fit – Alignment with Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Recovery Plan
- Deliverability – expected delivery by March 2022
- Economic Impact – clear measurable benefits and outputs
- Funding – financial commitment and certainty of match funding
- Value For Money – refer to HM Green Book
- Environmental sustainability

Applications should be submitted with a well-developed scheme business case, adopting the principles of the HM Government Green Book 5-case model. The applications will be shortlisted, independently assessed and evaluated by Bucks LEP retained specialist consultants, Hatch Associates, with final recommendations for successful applications submitted to Buckinghamshire LEP Board for approval. The Getting Building Fund grant is subject to completion of a grant Funding Agreement between Buckinghamshire LEP and the Project Sponsor. Legal and Financial checks may also be requested for assurance purposes.

Further information about the Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Recovery Plan is available on the Buckinghamshire LEP Website.

[Local Industrial Strategy | Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership \(buckstvllep.co.uk\)](http://buckstvllep.co.uk)
[Buckinghamshire Economic Recovery Plan | Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership \(buckstvllep.co.uk\)](http://buckstvllep.co.uk)

The Westcott space cluster: significant investment from government, Buckinghamshire LEP, and the private sector has nurtured local expertise in the space cluster. This is signified by the UK Space Agency's recent decision to invest £4.12m into Westcott Venture Park to develop the National Space Propulsion Test Facility. This Local Industrial Strategy sets out how partners will take the cluster to the next level, by working with businesses to address skills shortages for technicians and propulsion test specialists and developing a long-term investment plan for Westcott to develop new R&D infrastructure and an established base for manufacturing excellence in the fields of space propulsion and in-orbit maintenance, based on working across value chains.

Pinewood Studios: and the National Film and Television School at the heart of a creative industries cluster: home to Pinewood Studios, the National Film and Television School and the International eGames Committee, Buckinghamshire stands out in the creative media and entertainment sector. As this creative cluster evolves, Buckinghamshire aims to be at the forefront of future changes in the way in which creative content is developed and consumed. Working with the creative industries network, Buckinghamshire LEP will take action to work with government to consolidate a global industries capability furthering export capacity and inward investment in the sector, aiming to secure investment in and access to key research facilities and programmes.

Silverstone Park and technology cluster: Buckinghamshire's Silverstone Technology Cluster is a significant part of the Arc's high technology capability, and there exists major opportunity to stimulate potential high technology crossovers between, and across, sectors. To stimulate growth, Buckinghamshire LEP and the Silverstone Technology Cluster aim to focus business investment and financial incentives on SME innovation, and attract interest from the finance community, large corporates and overseas investors. Action will also be taken to support emerging technologies through improving links between firms and the

knowledge base, developing the ecosystem to improve connectivity between businesses and universities, and improving networking.

Digital health, med-tech and advanced artificial intelligence: Buckinghamshire benefits from significant assets in the digital health sector, including the Buckinghamshire Life Sciences Innovation Centre, Stoke Mandeville (the UK's national spinal centre) and global industry leaders such as GE Healthcare and Johnson and Johnson with well-established research bases within the area.

Getting Building Fund

Buckinghamshire LEP has identified potential scope for further investment through its existing Getting Building Fund capital programme. We are therefore inviting expressions of interest for business and skills projects that support our Local Industrial Strategy, Economic Recovery Plan and help develop our pipeline of investment priorities for future funding.

We are particularly interested in receiving partnership proposals from public, private, academic or community organisations that have well advanced schemes with a minimum of 50% match funding secured. All projects will need to demonstrate that they can be delivered and completed by March 2022.

As we have a limited amount of funding, we would particularly welcome applications that were looking for loan or equity finance or from projects that can enable our LGF capital funds to be recycled.

We recognise that we only have Capital Funding available, so will be expecting bidders to bring their own revenue funding to the table as part of the bid process.

If the bidder for this project has previously secured EU revenue funding, we would expect the accountable body for this capital funding to be able to demonstrate clear separation tests from the accountable body for any EU funding (to minimise any risk of cross subsidisation and potentially jeopardise the sustainability of the facility).

Applicants for this capital funding are advised to ensure their delivery model complies with current State Aid Legislation.

Submission of Proposals

Please complete and submit the attached Application Form to john.rippon@buckslep.co.uk by **6.00pm on Friday 5th March 2021**. If you would like to discuss your application, please call 01494 927160.