



Kirklees innovation voucher

Summary



Kirklees innovation voucher

Are you a small business with an innovative idea?

Do you need early-stage research or development to progress your idea and access further support, investment and funding?

Start-ups (1 year+), sole traders, micro and small (up to 50 employees) businesses in Kirklees can apply for grant funding of between £1,500 and £5,000 towards accessing specialist knowledge, technology and facilities to support early phase innovation activity.

The Kirklees Innovation Voucher will support 50% of your total project cost. The total cost of your project must be between £3,000 and £10,000.

kirklees.gov.uk/business-innovation

Eligibility criteria



In order to receive funding

Your project must:

- Be innovative (i.e. focussed on commercialising an idea or doing something different)
- Aim to introduce a new product or new/enhanced process
- Access specialist expertise that does not currently exist within the business
- Demonstrate commercial justification which could include:
 - Growth for the SME
 - Increased market share or a new market
 - Improve productivity

Your business must:

- Be based or have a trading address in the Kirklees local authority district area
- Be a micro or SME with up to 50 employees (including start-ups of 1 year+ and sole traders), have a turnover of up to £25million and not be part of a larger group of companies that takes it over these thresholds.
- Meet Subsidy Allowance rules
- Not be in debt to Kirklees Council
- Be solvent

Applications will be accepted from all sectors, regardless of whether your business primarily trades with other businesses (B2B) or directly with consumers (B2C). Charitable organisations are not eligible for support.

What does the grant support?

The innovation project must have clear potential for commercial impact, but is not expected to produce a finished, commercial product or a fully embedded new process as an output of this grant.

The grant supports:

- Proof of market: market research/scoping projects/competitor analysis to test and identify gaps in the market
- New product conceptualisation and development, including prototyping and testing
- Process improvements, including exploring, adapting or adopting new (specialist) technology

Examples of the type of project outputs expected are:

- Reports
- Technical design drawings
- Technical specifications
- Technology roadmaps
- Rough product or process prototypes
- Results of specific analysis, including market research
- Specialist soft/hardware adaptations

How does it work?

Once you have registered your interest, a Growth Manager will make contact to understand your proposal in more detail, work with you in advance of your application, and will provide a link to the application form.

*You must obtain quotations from your chosen specialist supplier for the proposed work **before** you make an application.*

Applications are assessed on a rolling basis by the Kirklees Business, Economy & Growth Service. Successful applicants will be notified within 4 weeks and must sign a Grant Funding Agreement.

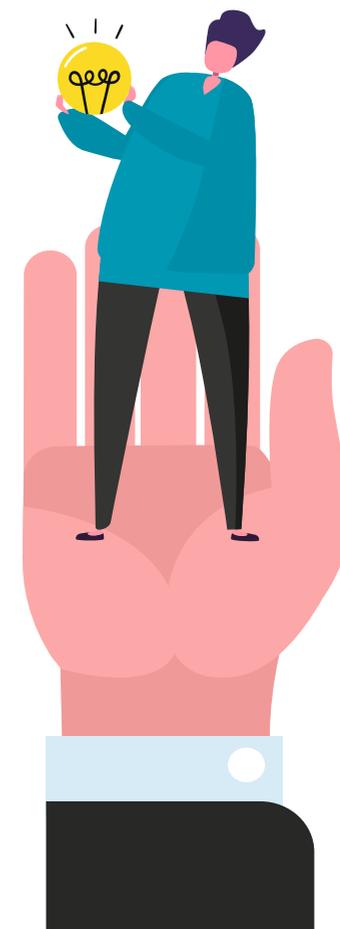
You have 6 months to complete and pay for the project in full, and claim back 50% of the project costs from the council.

No work for which a grant is sought should have started before you have received a fully signed Grant Funding Agreement and have contracted with Kirklees Council.

You'll find full terms and conditions in the Kirklees Innovation Voucher Policy at: kirklees.gov.uk/business-innovation

Interested?

Register your interest at: business.enquiries@kirklees.gov.uk





Kirklees Innovation Voucher

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