

Business Growth Grant

Key Points

- The grant will support Redcar and Cleveland based businesses to improve their trading position.
- This grant will support businesses trading at least 3 months with a trading address in Redcar and Cleveland eligible areas. ([see boundary location map](#))
- The grant application window will open from **13 December 2023** until **9 am 4 January 2024**
- Grants of up to £2000 will be made to eligible businesses, subject to the criteria set out in this policy.
- The minimum grant payment will be **£100**.
- This grant is match-funded at 50% and requires the applicant to pay for **100%** of the approved items upfront before being reimbursed with **50%** of their cost.
- A detailed list of expenses to be funded by the grant must be submitted and approved prior to purchase – the scheme will not contribute to expenses already incurred at the point of application.
- The applicant will be required to provide clear proof of purchase for items approved.
- All payments from this fund will be at the Council's discretion.
- This fund is limited and likely to be oversubscribed - potential applicants should not delay in expressing interest or making applications.

Introduction

This grant is funded by Anglo American and is designed to support businesses which have been trading at least 3 months and have a trading address in the Redcar and Cleveland highlighted eligible areas ([see boundary location map](#)) improve their trading position.

The grant application window will open from **13 December 2023** until **9 am 4 January 2024**. Applications after this date will not be considered. Applicants must provide all required documents and information by **no later than Friday 1 February 2024** to receive payment. No payments will be made after **20 March 2024**

Eligibility

This grant will support businesses based in Redcar and Cleveland which have been trading for longer than three months at the date of application.

A business trading address must be evidenced within the grant boundary location ([see boundary location map](#)).

One application will be accepted per business.

Businesses in any sector will be eligible for this grant.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate a commitment to an operational address in Redcar and Cleveland. This will usually be either a property in their ownership or with a rental agreement or lease for at least twelve months (with at least three months remaining at the point of application). This could include:

- A residential address in the borough
- A self-contained commercial property

- Designated space within a business centre or other managed space

Businesses will be advised on other suitable sources of funding and support as part of the application process and will be expected to access these together with or instead of this fund if appropriate.

Businesses excluded from receiving this grant include:

- Those that have a trading address outside the eligible grant boundary.
- Those unable to demonstrate an operational address in Redcar and Cleveland.
- Businesses the Council does not consider to have potential to contribute to Redcar and Cleveland's economy through business activity. In this context 'Business Activity' should be interpreted as carrying on a trade or profession or buying and selling goods or services in order to generate turnover.
- Businesses that are insolvent, in administration or in receipt of a striking off notice.
- Businesses who have exceeded the £315k public subsidy threshold.

Eligible Spend

This grant is designed to support sustainable micro, small and medium sized businesses based in Redcar and Cleveland trading longer than 3 months.

Eligible spend could include (but is not limited to):

- creating a digital presence
- marketing resources
- tools and equipment
- training and development

Payments are unlikely to be made in relation to:

- Decorative furnishings and other removable fixtures not required for business operation.
- The purchase of land, property and non-specialised vehicles, and related costs
- Hardware not directly related to an identified business need.
- Refreshing or rebranding of a business, where this is not directly linked to a newly identified business need.

Additional Information

Each case will be determined in its own right, according to each business' circumstances and an assessment of value for money. Applications which show a wider impact will be prioritised and supported first.

Examples of wider impact could include but is not limited to :

- Additional job creation
- Securing a commercial premise

- Product or service development to support the business in accessing new markets

Required documents and information.

To receive this grant, applicants will be required to engage constructively with the Council's Business Engagement Team and all grant awards will be entirely at the Council's discretion. Over the course of the application process and before grant payments are made, applicants will be required to provide:

- Evidence of commitment to an operational address in Redcar and Cleveland
- HMRC Unique Tax Reference or Companies House Registration Number
- A statement setting out expenses proposed to be met using the grant, evidence as required, and how these meet an identified business need
- Evidence of the relevant goods or services being received and paid for by the applicant
- Evidence of trading (active bank statement - in exceptional circumstances this may be a personal bank account, but statements must show evidence of relevant business transactions at the point of grant award)

Grant Awards and Payments

The minimum grant award is £100. Grants will be paid in arrears on receipt of evidence of spend being made, such as a paid invoice. Spend should be agreed with the Business Engagement Team prior to purchase or entering into contracts and will not be approved in retrospect. The grant requires the applicant to pay in full (100%) of the approved items before being reimbursed for 50% of their cost.

Grant payments will be made into the bank account specified during the application process after making appropriate checks. In exceptional circumstances this may be a personal bank account, but statements must show evidence of relevant business transactions at the point of grant award.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Recipients of the Business Growth Grant will be required to complete a short evaluation of the progress and outcomes of their project 6 and 12 months after the funding award.

Appeals

There is no appeals procedure. All decisions will be at the Council's discretion.

Manipulation and Fraud

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council will not accept deliberate manipulation and fraud - any business caught falsifying their records to gain additional grant money will face prosecution and any funding issued will be subject to claw back. All applications will be subject to checks and verification.

Minimal Financial Assistance

Recipients are being offered financial assistance under the Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) exemption specified in section 36 (1) of the Subsidy Control Act 2022. This allows a company or business to receive up to £315,000 of public funding over a rolling three-year period. The following

requested information is a mandatory requirement to enable you to receive the financial support offered.

To verify that you are able to receive this assistance you must declare the full amount of public subsidies you have already received over the last 3 years (beginning with the date on which the MFA was given) under the Minimal Financial Assistance rules. The following is not a comprehensive list of the possible forms of subsidy. However, it should give an indication of the most common forms of subsidy, which you may have received over the past three years. Potentially any assistance from a public body might be a subsidy. Should you have any doubts on this matter, please contact the body from which the assistance was received.

- Grants from public bodies
- Loans from public bodies at favourable rates
- Loan guarantees from public bodies
- Differential tax benefits
- Grants from an investment trust (including charities) which may themselves have received the funds from a public body.
- Grants from a part publicly funded venture capital fund
- Publicly administered funds, even if the funds were originally not public such as the national lottery.
- Waiving or deferral of fees or interest normally due to a public body such as the waiving or deferral of rent or waiver of interest normally due on late payment of taxation or other costs to a public body
- Monopoly licences or guarantees of market share.
- Advertising via a public channel such as a tourist board or state-owned television ▪ Consultancy advice provided either free or at a reduced rate.
- Training provided either free or at a reduced rate.
- Aid for investment in environmental projects
- Provision of a free or reduced rate feasibility study for research and development or other assistance with research and development
- Purchase of public land or property at a less than market rate
- Benefiting from the provision of infrastructure where your organisation was pre-identified as a beneficiary.

Businesses who exceed the £315k public subsidies threshold (over a rolling 3 year period) will not be eligible for support.

You will be required to complete a signed declaration as part of your grant application.

Data Protection

Data provided within your application will be kept in accordance with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council's Business Engagement Team privacy notice, which works in conjunction with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council's Corporate privacy notice. Both privacy notices can be accessed below:

- [Business Engagement Team Privacy Notice](#)
- [Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council Corporate Privacy Notice](#)

Data Sharing

Information provided as part of your application and in any supporting evidence may be used by the Council in order to update its records and consider any grant award. The Council shall comply with any requirements under the Data Protection Legislation.

The Council may verify information provided against other records it holds. It may also obtain information from third parties and, where the law allows, share its information with other bodies responsible for auditing or administering public funds including the Cabinet Office, Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs, the Police and other local authorities. You may also be contacted by the Government to complete evaluation surveys in relation to your grant application.

Tax implications

Grant income received by a business is taxable. The grant will need to be included as income in the tax return of the business.

Revisions

This policy is subject to review and may be updated.