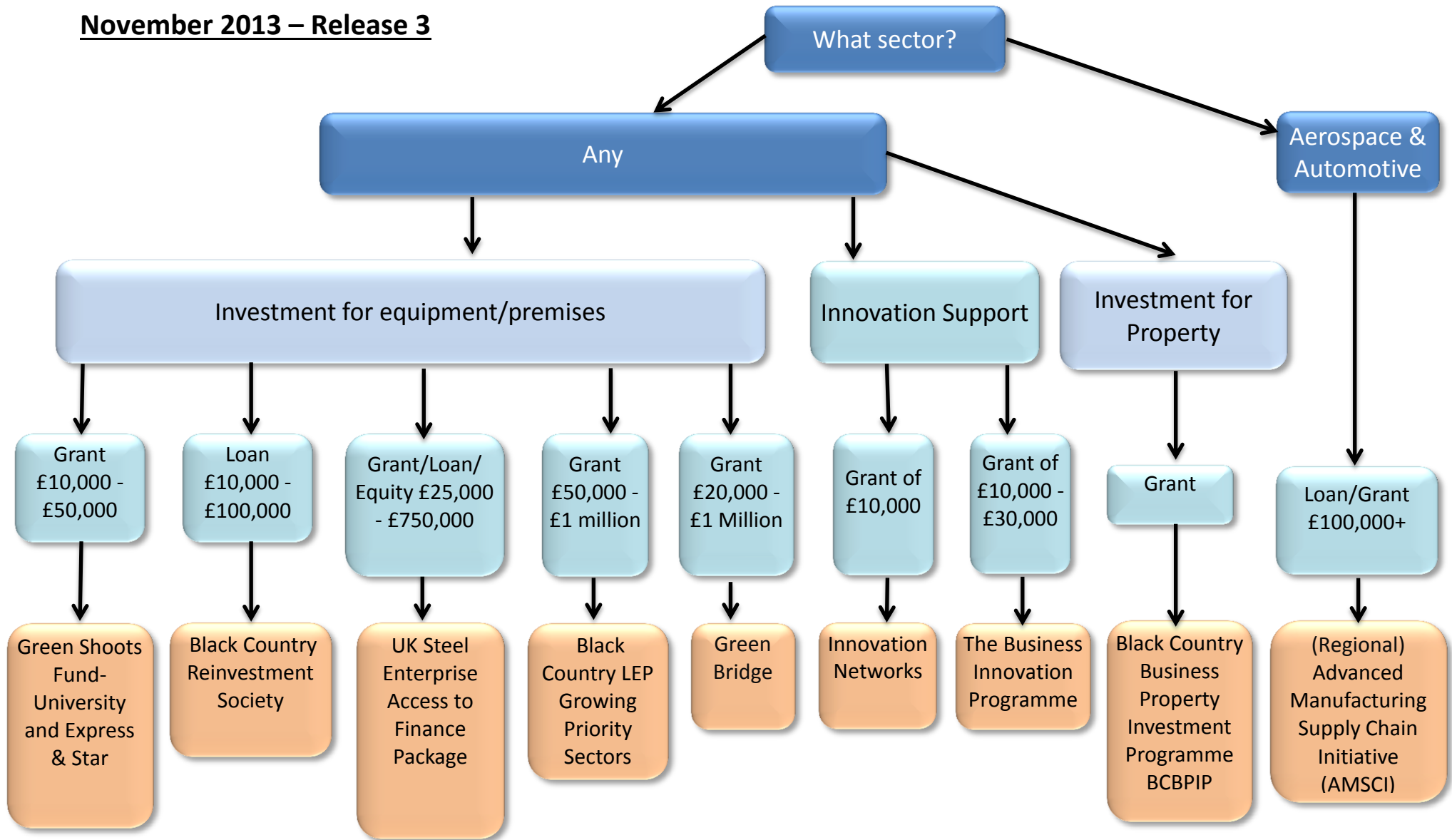


**Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership and Partners Key Funding Factsheet**

**November 2013 – Release 3**



This funding factsheet has been developed by the **Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Access to Finance Group (Chaired by Paul Brown)** in response to a number of requests from companies and intermediaries. This document provides a two page overview of government-backed funding streams and includes a brief overview, contact details and links for further information for each of the funding streams currently available, or due to be launched soon. This compliments the Finance Directory, which summarises and provides contact details for important sources of business finance, and investment incentives for businesses <http://www.the-blackcountry.com/images/LEP/BC%20Finance%20Directory.pdf>. This factsheet will be updated as new funding streams are announced/confirmed. If you would like more information about any of the schemes highlighted in this factsheet please contact your local council (the council you pay your business rates to), Manufacturing Advice Service (MAS) or the LEP (contact details below).

### **Regional Growth Fund- Overview**

**Objectives of the Fund** - Rapid creation of private sector jobs: stimulate enterprise by providing support for projects with significant potential for economic growth and creating additional sustainable private sector employment, rebalancing the economy away from public sector jobs. **Projects therefore must:**

- Create private sector jobs
- Not be able to proceed without RGF grant funding
- Not displace jobs from elsewhere in the UK- this is likely to happen if your competitors are based predominately in the UK

**What is the funding typically used for?** Purchase of equipment, building purchase, upgrade to premises.

RGF is run at the national level by the department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) which has run 4 rounds of applications so far. The minimum grant available in these is £1million, implying project costs of perhaps £5million. To ensure that funding is available for smaller firms the department has encouraged local organisations to apply for RGF money which can then be made available to firms with smaller projects. Several bids from organisations in the Black Country have been successful and details of these are below. Applicants to these programmes should be located in one of the four Black Country Authorities of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall or Wolverhampton.

**Green Shoots** - The University of Wolverhampton and the Express and Star Newspaper successfully bid for £1.4 million of RGF from Government, subject to due diligence.

<http://www.wolverhamptonbsc.com/greenshoots>

**Applications Open:** To be confirmed

**Contact:** Martin Nicholas at the University of Wolverhampton on (01902) 824019 or 07837 389439 or email [Martin.Nicholas@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:Martin.Nicholas@wlv.ac.uk)

**Deadline for spending funding:** March 2015

**Grant Range:** £10,000- £50,000

**Black Country Reinvestment Society** - successfully bid for £12.2 million of RGF from Government. Loans available to companies who are unable to access finance from traditional sources, such as banks <http://www.bcrs.org.uk/>

**Applications:** Open

**Contact:** [enquiries@bcrs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bcrs.org.uk) 0845 313 8410

**Deadline for spending funding:** September 2015

**Grant Range:** £10,000-£100,000

**UK Steel Enterprise's Access to Finance** - scheme is funded by the Regional Growth Fund. The scheme will provide grant support alongside loan and equity finance from UK Steel Enterprise. The grant element must support capital investment projects which create or safeguard jobs. <http://www.uksteelenterprise.co.uk>

**Applications:** Open

**Deadline for spending funding:** March 2015

**Contact:** Allan Wood/Keith Williams on 0800 915 1188

**Package of Support Range:** £25,000- £750,000

**Green Bridge - Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme** is a £20m Regional Growth Fund providing grant support for existing SMEs within the West Midlands region to help grow and diversify into the green sector. Eligible sectors in the green economy are: Advanced engineering, Aerospace, Low carbon and renewable energy, Electronics, Other Manufacturing, Building technologies, Transport and logistic. Applicants must seek to deliver economic growth and safeguard or create jobs. For further information please go to [www.birmingham.gov.uk/greenbridge](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/greenbridge)

**Applications Open:** Open until March 2015. Will be run a competition basis, the next round will be open 6th January 2014 and will close 31st January 2014.

**Deadline for spending funding:** March 2015

**Contact:** Manjit Bassra, Birmingham City Council, [greenbridge@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:greenbridge@birmingham.gov.uk)

**Package of Support Range:** £20,000-£1 Million

**Growing Priority Sectors** - The Black Country LEP, Local Authorities, MAS and Black Country Chamber successfully bid for £11 million of RGF from Government, subject to due diligence.

**Applications Open:** Dec/Jan 2013

**Deadline for spending funding:** March 2015

**Contact:** Local Authority, MAS and LEP- full contact details below.

**Grant Range:** £50,000- £1 Million

#### **Black Country Business Property Investment Programme**

The Black Country Property Business Property Investment Programme is European Regional Development Fund Programme.

Grant funding is available to support **small to medium sized (SME)** companies by providing gap funding for infrastructure provision – whether this is through new or refurbished business premises ( **comprising B1, B2 and B8 uses, but not retail or residential development.**) Projects must have a viability gap. For further information please go to [www.BCBPIP.co.uk](http://www.BCBPIP.co.uk)

**Applications Open:** Currently Open

**Deadline for spending funding:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014

**Contact:** Kausar Agha, Walsall Council [BCBPIP@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:BCBPIP@walsall.gov.uk)

**Advanced Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative- Regional Stream 3 (Loan and/or Grant)** - £19m Funding is available to companies in the aerospace and automotive sectors across four LEP areas Black Country, Coventry & Warwickshire, Greater Birmingham & Solihull and Liverpool City Region. The fund will adopt a flexible approach to funding (loans and grants). It is designed to promote closer collaboration within the supply chain and to address market failures. In practical terms, funding will be available to support the projects in the following areas; the purchase of capital equipment including the provision of working capital, R&D activity which improves manufacturing equipment, systems or processes; and specific training and skills development to support the project.

[www.financebirmingham.com/amsci](http://www.financebirmingham.com/amsci)

**Applications Open** 7<sup>th</sup> March applications will remain open until the funding has been committed

**Deadline for spending funding** March 2015

**Contact:** Black Country LEP- details below

**Grant Range-** minimum of £100,000, there's (theoretically) no upper limit

**Innovation Networks** - Grants of £10,000 are available for capital or revenue expenditure on the development of a new product, service or process. This includes such costs as new machinery, tooling, prototyping, market testing, patent applications and design input. The grants are awarded as a contribution towards innovative projects with a minimum planned expenditure of £22,500 and you will need to be working in a network with 2 other West Midlands based SMEs. . A company will only be eligible for one grant. All the projects are evaluated independently by someone suitably qualified in the field. Your project must be truly innovative and provide tangible benefits for the West Midlands economy. For further details on the grant and the application process, please contact us on 024 7623 6391 or [innovation@cad.coventry.ac.uk](mailto:innovation@cad.coventry.ac.uk)

**Applications:** Open

**Deadline for spending funding** March 2015

**Grant Range-** £10,000

**Contact:** Sarah Bowers, Innovation Networks

**Business Innovation Programme** - BIP will focus on supporting existing SMEs which have been trading for 6 months or more and are ready to undertake investment in innovative production processes. This must lead to new products, which are "close to market". The programme is open to SMEs across the Midlands which are looking to invest, create new jobs and safeguard existing jobs.

A grant award of between £10,000 and £30,000 is available to support eligible SME's. The grant will be equivalent to 49.25% of eligible project costs. For example, the minimum grant of £10,000 will require a total project cost of £20,100.

**Applications:** Open

**Deadline for spending funding** To be confirmed

**Contact:** [www.birmingham.gov.uk/bip](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/bip)

**Grant Range-** £10,000 to £30,000

### STATE AID

**State Aid relates to the payment of public funding to private companies.** If you are not familiar with State Aid rules you might find it helpful to look at the "handbook" produced by the European Commission for a summary of the Regulations. Please note that this is only a simplified version of legal text the regulations give more detail about geographic coverage, sectoral restrictions, funding limits and eligibility in terms of type and size of organisation as well as costs. **It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that any bid submitted is compliant with State Aid Legislation.** <http://www.gov.uk/state-aid>

### Contact Details

#### **Dudley Council**

Wayne George

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#### **Walsall Council**

Dan Carins

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E: [carinsd@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:carinsd@walsall.gov.uk)

#### **Manufacturing Advisory Service**

Rachel Eade

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#### **Sandwell Council**

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#### **Wolverhampton City Council**

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#### **Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership**

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