

# South Hams District Council Business e-Bulletin



**News and Events from the Economic Development Unit  
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## Project Funding for Growth Businesses



### Business Growth & Diversification Fund

The Business Growth & Diversification Fund (BGDF) is a small grant scheme that aims to assist businesses to grow and diversify by investing in both capital and revenue activities. The grant intervention rate is 50% of eligible project costs.

#### Eligibility:

Under the RDPE programme, projects that are funded must fit into one of three themes:

- Diversification into non-agricultural activities
- Creation and development of micro-businesses
- Encouragement of tourism activities

#### To apply for the scheme, you must have:

- a business trading address in the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group area
- fewer than 10 full-time employees
- an annual turnover of less than £1.7 million
- a robust business plan with latest available audited accounts
- planning approval (or evidence of submission) if that is required

## What can be funded?

- purchase of equipment (but not replacement or upgrading of existing equipment)
- installation of new technology
- product development and testing
- technical support to lead to business growth
- introduction of a new marketing technique
- improving energy efficiency / reducing environmental impact / waste minimisation
- adaptations / improvements to premises

## What cannot be funded?

- vehicles
- basic ICT equipment and software (eg: office computers, printers etc)
- actions to meet Health & Safety or other statutory requirements
- ongoing costs (such as overheads for utilities / staff)

## How do I apply – and who do I contact?

Marie Guppy, Business Growth & Diversification Project Officer, will advise you whether your proposal would be eligible for the grant. Telephone her on 01837 658643 or 07909 648425, or email [marie@ruraldevon.org](mailto:marie@ruraldevon.org)

The project is partly financed by the European Agricultural Fund for European Development 2007 – 2013. Europe investing in rural areas is delivered through the South West RDA with Defra as the Managing Authority.

## Strengthening Supply Chains & Distribution Networks



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LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Not a particularly 'snappy' title but ...

Funding is available for initiatives that encourage businesses to work together to improve economic performance. The fund aims to support businesses (including social enterprises) to work co-operatively, share skills and experience, reduce costs, and raise awareness about the products and services that businesses can access locally.

If you have any good ideas about how you might work with other businesses or social enterprises, you may qualify for up to 50% of eligible project costs from the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group. For example, you may want to do some work on joint marketing or shared procurement, develop local sourcing or coordinated distribution, or you may have other ideas about business cooperation for mutual advantage. However, the emphasis must be on improving economic performance and retaining local spending within the South Devon Coastal area.

John Yeoman, chairman of the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group, says, “This part of our fund assists businesses and social enterprises to work together and we hope that new ways of working that add value locally will be created and developed to retain as much business spend as possible within the community.”

For further information, please contact Cathy Heath on 01548 858805 or email [cathy@ruraldevon.org](mailto:cathy@ruraldevon.org).

## The Enablement Fund



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LOCAL ACTION GROUP

The Enablement Fund (EF) is aimed at projects in their infancy that need to carry out some research before a full application can be submitted to the LAG. The LAG wants to encourage applications from both community groups and local businesses to help bring ideas to fruition. The type of work that can be supported includes:

- feasibility studies
- research into opportunities that match the LAG’s priorities
- assistance with a full business plan (particularly for large-scale projects) that will be a pre-requisite for public funding applications
- assistance with the costs of fees (eg: architects, planning and costing)
- start-up costs for establishing a social enterprise (including setting up meetings to engage the local community and develop collaboration)

The maximum contribution is 50% for profit making organisations and 75% for not-for-profit organisations. The minimum amount offered will be £1,000 with a maximum of £10,000 per project. Applicants must be able to raise the remaining match funding from other sources.

For further information, please contact Matt Parkins on 01837 658643 or email: [enablement@ruraldevon.org](mailto:enablement@ruraldevon.org)

## **Employers' Guide to Local Skills & Training Programme**

There is a link to an excellent guide relevant to businesses in South Hams that helps business owners and managers to find various programmes and training opportunities that could be available to them – hopefully, very simply explained. The Employers' Guide to Skills has therefore been developed to help enquirers to get the right answers.

The guide covers a variety of the skills provision available across South Devon and provides relevant contact details to assist businesses to make a greater use of the services and programmes that are on offer.

Try the link at:

<http://www.torbay.gov.uk/employers-skills-guide.pdf>

## **Broadband in Rural Areas**

You may have read increasingly frequent press comment about Next Generation Broadband and the disadvantage faced by businesses and individuals in what has been termed 'the final third' of the country who are unlikely to enjoy the benefits as quickly as urban counterparts.

The term 'final third' springs from the previous government's Digital Britain report in June 2009 that proposed a universal service commitment that every household (for which read business as well) should have access to a minimum 2 Mbps connection by 2012.

The report and its findings (covering broadband amongst a host of media, communications, broadcasting, and creative industry issues) became parked during the period of the May 2010 general election. Yet, it appears, in large part to have survived with the appointment of a Broadband Minister (Ed Vaizey) and numerous vague announcements from several government departments. There remains significant uncertainty in all areas but it appears

that government policy still recognises the issue as important to business competitiveness and the delivery of both private and public services.

Without going deeper into the morass of technical and other detail, it would be interesting to learn from readers of this eBulletin (particularly from those in the more remote areas) about particular incidences where an unreliable, poor, or absent broadband connection hampers their business.

In anticipation that we may receive quite a number of responses, please keep them as short as possible and send them with your business name and location to: [michael.cozens@southhams.gov.uk](mailto:michael.cozens@southhams.gov.uk)

## Business Link – Events Calendar

Date	Title	Description	Location	Timing
05/08/2010	Starting a Business – Is it for Me?	What is involved in starting and running a business – the challenges and benefits	Plymouth	09:30 to 12:30
11/08/2010	Getting the Basics right	Create a business plan to secure lending + your responsibilities	Plymouth	09:30 to 16:30
19/08/2010	-ditto-	-ditto-	Exeter	-ditto-
18/08/2010	Finding & Keeping Customers	How to generate new customers, make a sale, and encourage repeat business	Plymouth	09:30 to 12:30

28/07/2010	Managing Money & Making Profits	Managing cashflow and credit control + profit & loss	Plymouth	09:30 to 12:30
03/08/2010	-ditto-	-ditto-	Exeter	-ditto-
04/08/2010	Running a Successful Business	Purpose, vision, values, leadership, management, delegation & motivation – skills that you and your business need	Exeter	09:30 to 12:30
10/08/2010	-ditto-	-ditto-	Plymouth	-ditto-
28/07/2010	Business Advice Clinics	Review key areas of your business	Newton Abbot	90 minute sessions between 09:30 and 16:30
03/08/2010			Ivybridge	
04/08/2010			Paignton	
05/08/2010			Exeter	
11/08/2010			Plymouth	
19/08/2010			Exeter	
25/08/2010			Newton Abbot	
19/08/2010	Power Hour	Business and skills needs	Totnes	60 minute sessions between 09:30 and 15:30

All the events above are FREE of charge. To book a slot, email: [enquiries@blpeninsula.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@blpeninsula.co.uk) or visit: [www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/southwest) or call 0845 600 9966.

## How to contact us

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