

# West Cornwall Local Action Group

## Small Grants for Business



- for micro businesses and social enterprises

The scheme aims to meet the objectives of the West Cornwall Local Action Group, including, the stimulation of rural innovation and enterprise, to support activities related to the land, development of cooperatives and social enterprises, and the development of links between rural tourism and products and services.

We welcome enquiries from social enterprises and smaller businesses (below the threshold for VAT). These businesses will be given priority for grant aid.

The grant scheme is open to new or developing businesses with less than ten employees, turnover of less than £1.7million, and to have the cash flow to finance the project.

This scheme is a streamlined process for grants which meet the following criteria – see table.

### The streamlined grant process is as follows: -

1. The enquiry about a grant will be made on the website or directly with the Local Action Manager to check eligibility. (Eligibility Check List)
2. If the project and the applicant are eligible then they are sent an application form to explain the project and costs.
3. The Grant Panel of will meet monthly to take the decisions on the grants for each application put before them. The decision will be sent to the applicant. This is a competitive process and there is a limited pot for this grant aid.
4. Where successful the applicant will be sent guidance on the project claiming system.

### Grant Criteria

Grant Amount	Minimum £1,000 and Maximum of £15,000
Project period	Projects must be spending their grant within 6 months of the grant approval or grant will be

	withdrawn.
% Grant rate	50% In exceptional cases grant may be up to 100% of costs. (This higher grant is allowable for projects which assist the economy out of recession until December 2010.)
Support is available for activities	Activity to start up a new business or to grow an existing business where it meets the objectives of the West Cornwall Local Action. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost of capital investment</li> <li>• Start-up revenue costs</li> <li>• Feasibility studies</li> <li>• Marketing support, product development, branding, design costs</li> <li>• Skills acquisition, bespoke training and mentoring support</li> <li>• Technical support for establishment of new businesses and existing businesses to consolidate/expand.</li> </ul>
Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social enterprises</li> <li>• Small businesses - below the VAT threshold</li> </ul>
Activities not included in this grant scheme	Continuation of existing activities, vehicles, standard office computers and office software and actions to meet Health and Safety or other statutory requirements. Grant is not available for projects or businesses that can get aid from elsewhere. Investment should not cause displacement of trade from another area or company.

The scheme will be reviewed in April 2010 and these criteria may be changed please check our website or call.

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