

Devon Elevation Fund

Aim of the programme / fund

The Devon Elevation Fund (DEF) is a rapid response pilot scheme being delivered as part of the UK government's Community Renewal Fund programme. The scheme will run during a limited window between January and May 2022.

Please do not start work, incur costs, or place an order before your grant agreement has been signed. This will potentially make your whole project ineligible. All projects must be able to be completed, paid, and claimed for in full by 31st May 2022.

This pilot will contribute towards the government's wider UK Shared Prosperity Fund plans. The four priorities for funding are illustrated in figure 1 below (further details of these can be found in the "What can I apply for funding for?" section).

Fig 1 – Funding Priority Themes



The UK Community Renewal Fund is a UK Government programme for 2021/22. This aims to support people and communities most in need across the UK to pilot programmes and new approaches to prepare for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It invests in skills, community and place, local business, and supporting people into employment. For more information, [click here](#)

Who can apply?

This is a 'small' revenue grants scheme, and it is designed to assist sole traders, micro, small and medium sized businesses (up to 250 employees) or organisations across Devon. These can include start-ups, social enterprises and constituted community organisations (i.e., business/community groups, parish, town, district/borough councils).

Please note: To apply for a grant, you must hold a bank account in the name of the business / organisation applying.

The scheme will focus on the 'Priority Places' of Torridge and West Devon (52% of funding) and extend to the wider Devon area including East Devon, Exeter, Mid Devon, North Devon, South Hams and Teignbridge.

How much can I apply for?

Grants ranging from £2,500 - £25,000 will be available across four priority themes (see Fig. 1 and list below).

Please note: All approved project funding will be paid in arrears therefore applicants must have the ability to cash flow the projects up front.

In recognition of the effects of the pandemic upon key sectors of Retail, Hospitality and Tourism, a preferential rate for grants is available for one off grant applications as per the table below.

The key sectors are defined as follows:

Retail - a business that is open to the public and is used mainly or wholly for the purposes of retail sale or hire of goods or services.

Hospitality - a business whose main function is to provide a venue for the consumption and sale of food and drink

Tourism - a business that provides accommodation and/or opportunities, experiences, and facilities for culture, recreation, and entertainment for both residents of the local area and those visiting the area for leisure purposes.

Grant Rates

Amount	% funded	Match funding required
Non key sectors		
Total project costs of up to £5,000	100%	None - voluntary match only, it may help your application if you can offer some form of match funding.
Total project costs over £5,000 for non-priority sectors	*First £5k of any project costs funded at 100% Subsequent amount over £5k at 80%	A minimum of 20% of costs over £5k - it may help your application if you can offer above the compulsory match requirements
Key Sectors only		
For Retail, Hospitality and Tourism sectors only (see above definitions). Total project costs of up to £10,000 (preferential rate for one off grant applications).	100%	None - voluntary match only, it may help your application if you can offer some form of match funding.
Total project costs over £10,000 for key sectors	*First £10k of any project costs funded at 100% Subsequent amount over £10k at 80%	A minimum of 20% of costs over £10k - it may help your application if you can offer above the compulsory match requirements

Example

Joe Bloggs Engineering wants to apply for a grant to put in a stock tracking system and for the supplier to train its staff on how to use this. The total cost of the project is £8,500.

The business can apply for a grant to cover:

100% of the costs for first £5,000

The remaining £3,500 in costs can be funded at 80% (80% of £3,500 = £2,800)

Total Grant Amount eligible = £7,800 (£5,000 + £2,800)

Compulsory match funding from the businesses = £700 (20% of £3,500)

What can I apply for funding for?

All projects must link to at least one of the following 4 priority themes:

- Adaptation and Reorientation
- Innovation and Growth
- Encouraging Diversity
- Community Innovation

Priority Themes

Adaptation and Reorientation

Projects which focus on changes to your business or organisation, which allow you to respond to the challenges and opportunities, resulting from a greatly changed external environment, including the impacts of the pandemic and EU transition.

Some examples of projects / eligible spend under this theme could include (but are not limited or restricted to):

- Developing a new / existing website
- Professional review of existing systems and processes e.g., review of operational processes, website review.
- Developing quality standards and assistance towards accreditation.
- Setting up digital trading and marketing platforms
- Developing Ecommerce systems

- Developing backend systems e.g., stock control, inventory management, delivery tracking, Customer Relationship Management systems
- Commissioning designs and plans for future capital investment
- Obtaining specialist advice - for example advice on Brexit related opportunities regarding importing / exporting

Innovation and Growth

Projects which focus on supporting opportunities for innovation and growth where even small investments can help introduce new products, services and systems which are new to the organisation.

Some examples of projects / eligible spend under this theme could include (but are not limited or restricted to):

- Developing new digital products and services - in house or externally
- Bringing in expertise to develop new products and services
- Investing in technical training for employees (external delivery)
- Investing in business diversification – planning and implementing
- Designing and commissioning feasibility studies to test new initiatives, products, processes and services.
- Obtaining specialist advice - for example advice on patents and copyrights

Encouraging Diversity

Projects which focus on supporting economic diversity, including supporting start-ups, particularly from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups.

Some examples of projects / eligible spend under this theme could include (but are not limited or restricted to):

- Assisting business start-ups (e.g., developing a website, market research, specialist finance / legal advice) especially those within disadvantaged communities (e.g., rurally isolated, people with disabilities and young people)
- Social enterprise business planning
- Making your businesses more accessible e.g., making adaptations to your premises and or website (except any statutory requirements).
- Obtaining specialist advice - for example advice on accessibility

Community Innovation

To apply for the community innovation grant you must be a:

- registered charity
- charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)
- community interest company (registered)
- company limited by guarantee
- constituted community group
- constituted but unincorporated club or association
- community benefit society
- social enterprise (registered)
- parish, town, district / borough councils

Projects which focus on innovative ways to address community needs and support local places by exploring new ways of doing things.

Some examples of projects / eligible spend under this theme could include (but are not limited or restricted to):

- Funding specialist / feasibility studies to assess the viability of local projects
- Obtaining professional plans for future capital investments
- Funding to set up local purchasing schemes
- Projects which focus on community led regeneration and community development
- Improving local spaces and preserving local assets
- Obtaining specialist advice – e.g., legal advice on constitutions, entering into contracts etc.

Eligibility Criteria

This funding cannot cover any projects that have already commenced, and applicants should not start any work before receiving a grant offer.

Eligible Costs / Items

Funding available through the Devon Elevation Fund (DEF) is predominantly revenue funding. Funding is limited to projects that can complete activities and pay for and claim back costs for them by 31st May 2022.

This is primarily a revenue funding scheme*, examples of revenue items are listed below.

If your business requires a capital item to support this, then up to £4,999 including VAT or 50% of the total project costs whichever is the lower can be considered.

Example - eligible capital treatment

Jennifer Bloggs Adventure Park wants to include in their grant request a new till for their reception area at £1,500 including VAT (which links to their stock tracking system – previous example).

In addition, they also wish to apply for an information kiosk at £6,000 including VAT. The till system would be eligible as this is a capital item below £4,999 including VAT and links to the main purpose of their project (revenue).

The information kiosk would not be eligible as this exceeds the maximum value of £4,999 including VAT for capital items and does not link directly to their wider project.

***Definition of Revenue Items** - are those items having short term effects on business, (normally less than one year).

Definition of Capital Items - are those items which have long term effects on business, (normally more than one year). For example, fixed assets; tangible or intangible assets; (machinery, legal rights, etc.) are capital items. Within this fund only small items of equipment are likely to be eligible capital costs.

What we don't fund - Costs and Activities that are not covered by the fund:

1. Grants that seek to cover operational costs such as employees' wages, rent, bills, insurances, utility costs, will not be considered.
2. Internal staff costs are not eligible nor are the costs of any self-employed staff to cover operational activities.
3. Repeat funding for the same project (i.e., a project which has already been funded from other sources or where an application that you have already applied for funding from elsewhere / Community Renewal Fund (CRF).
4. VAT reclaimable from HMRC; VAT that cannot be recovered from HMRC is an eligible cost under the UK Community Renewal Fund.
5. Any items purchased on a credit card where the credit card balance has not been paid off in full.
6. Ongoing financial support once the project has ended.
7. Payments for the project or purchases that have already happened / prior to a Grant Funding Agreement.
8. Fundraising activities.
9. Grants that seek to cover statutory requirements.
10. Interest payments or service charge payments for finance leases.
11. Gifts or payments for gifts or donations.
12. Statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties.
13. Payments for works or activities which the project deliverer, end beneficiary, or any member of their partnership has a statutory duty to undertake, or that are fully funded by other sources.
14. Bad debts to related parties.
15. Payments for unfair dismissal or other compensation.
16. Depreciation or amortisation costs.
17. Contingencies and contingent liabilities.
18. Dividends.
19. Costs resulting from the deferral of payments to creditors.
20. Costs involved in winding up a company.
21. Legal expenses in respect of litigation.
22. Costs incurred by individuals in setting up and contributing towards private pension schemes.
23. Payments that breach or are contrary to the funding agreement or UK legislation.
24. Projects promoting political or faith activities.
25. Payments for activities of a party political or exclusively religious nature.

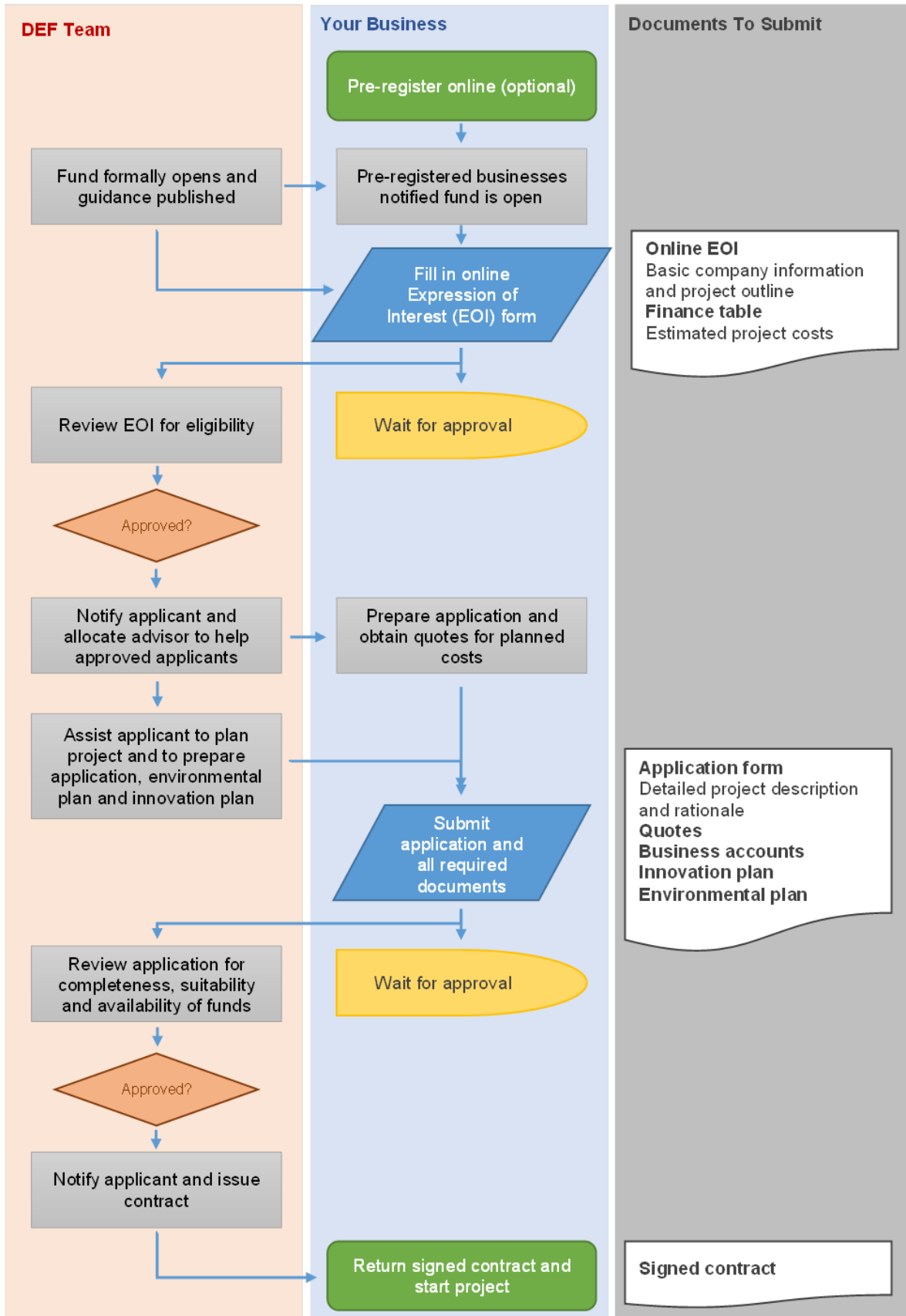
26. Any business that has already received funding / support totalling £335,000 (subject to exchange rates) from public funds over any period of 3 years over a rolling three-year period at the time of application. (This includes any business support grants received as a result of the COVID19 pandemic – please see the Small Amounts of Financial Assistance Allowance (SAFAA) declaration question within the EOI application form).

How to apply for a grant

- Check the “What we fund?” and “Who can apply?” sections
- Ensure that you have read and understood the eligibility criteria and grant funding rates and compulsory match funding requirements.
- Complete the **Expression of Interest Form** and **Finance Table** to ensure that you can provide the evidence required for the application and you are able to complete your project within the strict timeframes.
- Contact your local grant team for any help and support (see contact list at the end of the document).

Please see below flowchart of application process

Grant Application Process



Help and Support

Please ensure that you have read the basics about the grant and if you have further questions, please contact the local grant support team in your area.

Geographic Area	Local support organisation	Contact details
Torrige and North Devon	North Devon+	def@northdevonplus.co.uk
West Devon, South Hams and Teignbridge.	The Diverse Regeneration Company (The DR Company)	def@drcompany.co.uk
East Devon, Mid Devon and Exeter,	Business Information Point	team@businessinfopoint.co.uk

The Devon Elevation Fund is funded by the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund, which is managed within Devon by Devon County Council.



The project is being delivered locally by Devon County Council, North Devon +, Business Information Point and The Diverse Regeneration Company CIC.

