

Good Growth Fund – Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who is administering the Good Growth Fund?

A. The fund is administered by the Greater London Authority (GLA) Regeneration Team, but works in collaboration with partners to deliver individual projects.

Q. Can I apply for funding if I haven't previously worked with the GLA?

A. Yes.

Q. How much funding is available?

A. There is £20 million available for this current round of the programme.

Q. Are further funding rounds planned beyond this and if so when would you expect them to open?

A. Yes, we will run a third round next year and although the timescales are yet to be confirmed they will be similar to this round.

Q. What is the deadline to apply for Round 2?

A. For your application to be considered for Round 2 you will need to have submitted it by 4pm on Friday 13 July.

Q. I only need a small amount of funding, do I have to go through this process?

A. We would like to see a varied mix of large and small projects that respond to the themes of our prospectus. However, for projects requesting up to £50,000 of funding should refer to our related funding programme for community projects, the latest round of [Crowdfund London](#), will be more appropriate.

Q. I'm an individual with a great idea, can I apply?

A. An application needs to be from a constituted local organisation- we can't fund individuals. If you are an individual, you would need to partner with an appropriate local organisation and develop your idea together to be able to enter legal contracts with the Greater London Authority. We would also ask you to demonstrate clear and representative governance arrangements (your mission statement, who you represent, how you conduct yourselves and your membership, key roles and responsibilities etc.) and provide details of an organisation bank account.

Q. Can I use funding for a time-limited project, which will be removed soon after it is complete?

A. We'd like to see long term lasting change achieved with this funding, although we recognise that there is a value in 'piloting' change, that sits within a wider strategy that unlocks greater future impact.

Q. Can I apply for a project that is already underway or does the project have to be completely new?

A. An application can be for a project that is already in delivery, or part of a larger project, but we would need to be able to identify a distinct element that we can apply our funding to. We recommend referring to the wider project in the stage one application form, but making a clear distinction between it and the aspect you are proposing to us.

Q. What are the match funding requirements?

A. We can fund up to 50% of the total project value. For example, on a project of £400,000, we will contribute £200,000 and match funding will account for the other £200,000. As a guide, we prefer that match funding component to be mostly made up of previously unallocated money (s106, council core funding, other private sector contributions etc.), rather than from existing funds (NHB,

TfL LIP, Housing Zones etc.) but we will review this on a project by project basis, and are willing to accept many different types of match funding. Due to the fund being almost entirely capital we would expect applicants to fund revenue elements of their projects from their match wherever possible. Match funding needs to be genuinely associated with the project and be used towards securing the same outcome as that which you are seeking funding towards.

Q. If I need to borrow money to carry out the project, can this be counted as match funding?

A. Yes. Although this may be considered unsecured match, and may present a delivery risk to the project. If you can demonstrate that you have an existing facility from a bank/lender, this risk will be reduced in our assessment.

Q. What are the timescales for spending the money?

A. Any projects we award funding to this year should ideally enter grant and begin delivery this financial year, but we have designed the Good Growth Fund as a rolling programme to enable projects to move to their own timescales and not ours, so we will try to be as flexible as possible. Any project will need to have fully claimed our funding by 31 March 2021.

Q. We are a charity / small organisation. Am I eligible to apply for this fund?

A. Yes, as a charity or small organisation you are able to apply. Ideally projects should deliver more than one of the nine actions (as outlined in the prospectus), or provide other bespoke solutions which also address cross-cutting priorities of inclusion, sustainability and innovation.

Q. The application form template pdf is not working for me. Is there another way I can fill in it?

A. The application form can be completed by using Adobe Reader, which is a free Adobe software, or by using DocHub on Google Drive or other software dedicated to editing PDFs. Please note that using software other than Adobe Reader may result in disabling copy function in section 3.2.

Q. I would like to write a longer answer for some of the questions on the application form – is that possible?

A. No, please make sure your answer fits into the box in its entirety/you can see your full answer in a box. Please do not edit the size of the text fields in application form or we will disregard your application.

Q. My company was successful in receiving funding in Round 1. Are we able to apply for Round 2 or will it count against us?

A. Yes, you are able to apply for Round 2 even if you were successful in Round 1. If an application meets the criteria, we will definitely consider it regardless of the applicant or the location of the project.

Q. Will pipeline projects be given any priority in the second round?

A. No, all projects will be reviewed and assessed on their individual merits.

Q. If we're not in a marked area of deprivation, are we still likely to receive funding if we put an application in?

A. We may proactively use development funding to establish relationships and to grow the range of places and communities we receive good quality applications from, but our main criteria is that we're looking for a creative response to the Mayor's vision to create a more affordable, healthier and resilient city, and we welcome applications from all parts of London.

Q. In the first round you provided capital grants of up to £5m to deliver projects. Will this be the same for Round 2?

A. In the [updated prospectus](#) we mention a maximum award of £2 million capital funding for projects. However, we would be willing to exceed that in exceptional cases where a strong public benefit is demonstrated.

Q. What's the minimum amount of ESF funding that you will award?

A. Due to the administrative burden of meeting the ESF procurement, reporting and audit requirements and the associated CFO management and administration costs, we have set a minimum lifetime project value of £500k (i.e. minimum £250k ESF + £250k match). We anticipate that projects will be delivered over a period of 2-3 years, so the minimum annual project value per year would be between £167,000 and £250,000. We are happy to consider proposals submitted by partnerships or consortiums, including where delivery is anticipated across more than one location.

Q. My organisation would like to apply for ESF, but another organisation is the delivery agent, so we can't procure ourselves. Is there no way around this?

A. The ESF element embedded within the Good Growth Fund comes from the GLA's Co-Financing Memorandum of Understanding with the Managing Authority, and as such all funded provision must be competitively tendered.

We anticipate that a GGF bid will be submitted, and then the 'sponsor' will co-commission and competitively procure the ESF project with us. If the construction centre/bidding team were not party to the development stages of any specification (and we would need to put protocols in place), they could bid to deliver the co-commissioned ESF project, but if they do manage the centre directly –which by the look of the website, it appears they do - this approach probably wouldn't work. If there is an interest in this approach we would need to verify what protocols could be put in place and then verify with the GLA's European Programme Management Unit (EPMU) and DWP that this is acceptable.

However, there may be other parties that could bid to GGF and co-commission with us instead of the council - for example the developers who have a financial stake in the redevelopment.

Regardless, in either scenario, the centre would need to bid alongside other applicants and there would be no guarantee that they would ultimately be successful and be selected as preferred supplier.

Q. I am a workspace provider looking to create a new workspace. Can I apply if I have not yet secured a site?

A. Yes, though the inability to secure a site within the project timeframe would present a risk to the delivery of the project, and will be assessed accordingly in the deliverability of the project. So, you should present a convincing strategy of what you are already doing, and what you plan to do to secure a site, and your track record of having done so in the past. Outline the stage and nature of discussions about any sites, as well as any fall-back options that could be progressed.

Q: What is 'State Aid'?

A: State aid can occur whenever state resources are used to provide assistance that gives organisations an advantage over others. It can distort competition, which is harmful to consumers and companies in the EU. Where there is a genuine market failure, State aid might be necessary and justified. For more information please see the Basics Guide.

Q. Can I use funding as a deposit to secure a workspace?

A. Yes. Grant funding can be used as a deposit to borrow a mortgage secured against property; however, there may be particular conditions imposed on the grant to ensure the property is not sold off or used for other purposes than intended, without approval.

Using grant funding as security to borrow against puts the ability of public funding to deliver the outputs it was intended for at risk, and this will be considered in assessment.

Q. Who determines the winning bids?

A. The process includes appraisal and moderation by a panel of GLA officers, scrutiny by the [London Economic Action Partnership](#) (LEAP), and then a final decision taken by the Mayor.

Q. What do the grant conditions look like?

A. Each grant award is composed of a series of standard grant conditions and sets out the objectives, milestones and funding schedule alongside a detailed description of the proposal to be agreed as part of project tailoring. Proposals from non-borough organisations may have specific conditions to ensure the funding achieves long term public benefits.

As part of grant, all successful applicants will be required to monitor progress on a regular basis and evaluate their project at the end of the programme to assess its impact and offer learning for future activity. You will receive further information and support for monitoring and evaluation as your project progresses.

Q. I am a workspace provider and I will be receiving a rental income from the completed project. Is this a problem?

A. You will have to demonstrate through, for example an outline business plan, how the grant funding will create public benefits or outcomes which would not be possible otherwise. For example, by providing evidence of existing rents and the difference the funding will make that is passed onto users, or by guaranteeing the provision of business support or wider social engagement which would not have happened with the grant funding. The use of public funding which directly benefits a single organisation and distorts the market may be considered "State Aid", and would not be provided.

Q. What outputs and outcomes do you expect projects to deliver against?

A. There are a number of preferred outputs and outcomes in the prospectus and application form. Detailed guidance on outputs and outcomes is available in the [Evaluation and Impact](#) handbook which is available online.

Q. We are a group of organisations working together on our project, how do we apply?

A. We encourage applications from organisations who have already identified partners and support from other groups that will make the project stronger. A lead organisation should always be identified in your application, as we would need to enter into formal agreement with one party.