



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural  
Development: Europe investing in rural areas

# RDPE Growth Programme

## Food Processing Handbook



Deadline for expressions of interest: midnight 16 February 2020

Search 'RDPE Growth Programme' on GOV.UK

This scheme closed  
to new applications  
on 17 February 2020

With thanks to the following businesses for the images used in this document:

Lambswick Drinks Co., Worcestershire. Trewithen Dairy, Cornwall . Thorpe Latimer Farm, Lincolnshire. Simpsons Wine Estate, Kent and Lakes Free Range Eggs, Cumbria.

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# How Growth Programme grants work

## 1 Got an idea?

### Make a plan

Every successful application starts with a good idea and a clear plan for how to make that idea a reality.



## 2 Read this handbook

Read the rest of this handbook to make sure you're definitely eligible and that there is funding available in your local area.



## 3 Express an interest

Fill in an expression of interest (EOI) form and email it to RPA. Tell us about your project and how a grant will make it bigger and better.



## 4 Apply in full

If your EOI is accepted, you can make a full application. If this is successful, you'll get a funding agreement to sign.



## 5 Get to work

With your funding agreement signed, you can start work on your project.



## 6 Claim your money

After you've finished the work, you can claim your money.



Read the rest of this handbook to find out more, including our 'top tips for applicants' on page 30

# 1

## About the RDPE Growth Programme

Includes:

- How the government manages these grants
- Government guarantees about funding after the UK leaves the EU

# About the RDPE Growth Programme

The RDPE Growth Programme provides funding for projects in England which create jobs and growth in the rural economy.

Under the RDPE Growth Programme, there are grants for:

- food processing
- business development
- rural tourism infrastructure

The grants are funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), which is part of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

This handbook is about RDPE Growth Programme food processing grants. It explains what the grants are for, who is eligible and how to apply.

To find information about the other grants, search 'RDPE Growth Programme' on GOV.UK.



Planning a project that will grow your business, create jobs or bring more money into the rural economy?

You might be able to apply for a grant to help you fund it.

You can only apply for one RDPE grant for a project, and only in one LEP area.

RDPE includes RDPE Growth Programme, LEADER, Countryside Productivity, Farming Recovery Fund and Cumbria Countryside Access Fund.

## How the government manages these grants

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) delivers the grants, working with ESIF sub-committees in Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) areas.

RPA's role is to assess applications for grants, with advice from the ESIF sub-committees.

LEPs are partnerships between public bodies and businesses. Their role is to decide local priorities for the grants. Money should be directed to give the most benefit locally.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (CloS) are defined by the EU as a 'Less Developed Region'. Applications from the CloS LEP area will be considered separately, but at the same time as applications from other LEP areas.

The total funding for these grants is limited. Therefore, your grant application will be in competition with others for the available funding and your application may not be successful.

See pages 33 to 68 for the LEP areas that are offering these grants. Use the map on page 31 to find your LEP area.

## Government guarantees about funding after the UK leaves the EU

The UK Government has guaranteed that any Rural Development Programme projects where funding has been agreed before the end of 2020 will be funded for their full lifetime. This applies in both a negotiated and a no-deal scenario. It will make sure funding is continued for these projects until they finish. This means that we can continue to agree and sign new projects after the UK leaves the EU during 2019 and 2020.

Please read the priorities for funding on page 16.

**Deadlines:** The RPA will agree a target end date with all successful applicants. The final date by which all projects must be finished, paid for and complete grant claims submitted is 30 September 2021.

# 2

## About food processing grants

Includes:

- Who can apply
- What the grants are for
- How much money you can apply for
- Examples of projects

# About food processing grants

An overview of the food processing grants – who can apply, what the grants will fund and how much funding is available.

## Who can apply

Food and drink businesses that process agricultural and horticultural products. Check if your business is eligible on page 13.

## How much money you can apply for

The minimum grant is £20,000.

## What the grants are for

These grants are to help businesses grow and create more jobs.

Grant funding can help pay for:

- constructing or improving buildings
- buying new equipment and machinery

### You won't automatically get a grant.

All applications are assessed to see how well they fit the priorities for funding and which projects provide best value for taxpayers' money.

## Examples of projects

Here are some examples of the kinds of projects which may be eligible for a food processing grant.

### Meat processing



A slaughtering and processing business wants to expand its meat cutting and packing facilities.

This will allow it to meet new orders from both the domestic and export markets for products with local provenance.

The business will produce ready-to-cook consumer packs, including whole cuts, mince and sausage. No other products and no further processing will take place.

The business will form a group of local farmers to supply the new orders – some of these already supply the business, some are new suppliers.

These suppliers will be paid a premium per kg deadweight over the normal purchase price paid by the applicant business.

## Milk processing



A group of farmers are setting up a business to create a new milk processing facility.

The farmers are working with a regional retailer that is committed to developing local supply chains for the dairy products sold in their stores.

The new milk processing business has secured a rolling 5-year deal for supply based on the cost of production and has identified opportunities for production of yoghurt in future years.

## Soft fruit processing

An established soft fruit packing business is creating a facility to process lower-quality, lower-value soft fruit. The project will supply the growing market for fruit smoothies, purées and juices.

The project includes new processing and freezing techniques which allow year-round supply of products. The business has secured forward orders from a national restaurant chain.



The project will give the business a better profit margin on low-quality fruit, and the business has committed to paying 20% of the increased profit to suppliers through a bonus mechanism.

# 3

## Who can apply

### Includes:

- Check the size of your business
- What is a 'full-time equivalent' (FTE) employee
- Who can't apply

# Who can apply for the grants

Food and drink businesses that process agricultural and horticultural products in rural or urban areas can apply.

These grants are for food and drink businesses that process [Annex I agricultural and horticultural products](#) (see appendix on page 69). Examples include meat, milk, grain and root vegetables. Fisheries projects are not eligible.

## Check the size of your business

The size of the business depends on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) employees it has and its financial performance.

Any size business can apply, but we'll give priority to micro, small and medium-sized businesses.

## What is a 'full-time equivalent' (FTE) employee

Anyone who works 30 hours or more per week counts as 1 FTE employee. A person working 30 hours a week for 3 months of the year would be 0.25 FTE employee.

FTEs include business partners and directors. If a business partner or director works 30 hours or more per week they count as 1 FTE employee.

Business Size	Number of FTE employees		Annual turnover or balance sheet total
Micro	fewer than 10	and	€2m (about £1.7million) or less
Small	fewer than 50	and	€10m (about £8.5million) or less
Medium	fewer than 250	and	€50 million (about £42 million) or less annual turnover <b>OR</b> €43 million (about £36.5million) or less annual balance sheet total

## Is your business 'linked' to other businesses

If your business is linked to other businesses, this might mean you exceed the business size requirements and the funding limits.

The most common circumstances under which businesses are considered to be linked include:

- one business holds a majority of the shareholders' or members' voting rights in another business
- one business is entitled to appoint or remove a majority of the administrative, management or supervisory body of another
- a contract between the business, or a provision in the memorandum or articles of association of one of the businesses, enables one to exercise a dominant influence over the other
- one business is able, by agreement, to exercise sole control over a majority of shareholders' or members' voting rights in another

## New businesses can also apply.

If you have an idea, a business plan and potential private funding for your project, you can apply for a grant.

## Who can't apply

The following are not eligible for the grants:

- non-departmental public bodies
- crown bodies
- local authorities
- members of Producer Organisations under the [Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Aid Scheme](#) if they have a grant for the same project through their operational programme document
- projects that are carried out only to meet a legal requirement

## Not sure if you are eligible? Contact RPA.



03000 200 301



GPEnquiries@  
rpa.gov.uk

# 4

## Preparing an application

Includes:

- National priorities for funding
- Local priorities for funding
- How we assess applications
- EOI - what we look for
- Full application - what we look for

# Preparing an application

RPA will assess all applications. We're looking for evidence of a sound business case and for projects that meet the priorities for funding.

We're looking for projects that best meet the national and local priorities for funding, and that are good value for taxpayers' money. If you can show this clearly in your application, you're more likely to get a grant.



## National priorities for funding

Your project must achieve two of the priorities below, or your application will be rejected. The more priorities your project achieves, the more likely you are to get a grant.

<b>Create jobs</b>	Creates at least 1 FTE job for every £30,000 of grant funding
<b>Grow your business</b>	Increases the turnover and profitability of a business
<b>Benefit the supply chain</b>	Provides direct benefits to the farmers and growers who supply the raw materials, particularly local farmers and growers
<b>Access new markets</b>	Helps you sell more products locally, nationally or through exports
<b>Improve productivity through innovation</b>	Introduces new techniques, equipment or processes to a business to make it more productive
<b>Create joint ventures and partnerships</b>	Creates new and useful links between businesses – for example between growers and processors

## Local priorities for funding

Local priorities are set by the ESIF sub-committees. Check pages 33 to 68 to see the priorities for your LEP area.

There are Food Enterprise Zones (FEZ) in some LEP areas. The LEP directory will say if projects located in FEZs are a priority for support.

## How we assess applications

Application is in 2 stages. First, you must submit an 'expression of interest' (EOI) form. If we endorse your EOI, we will invite you to submit a full application.

We assess your application at both stages. Read 'How to apply' on page 26 for more information.

## EOI – what we look for

We use the information on the EOI form to check that both the applicant and project are eligible.

Then we assess how well your project meets the national and local priorities for grants. To do this, we look at question 30 of the EOI (the 'strategic fit') and score and rank it against other applications.

It will help your application if you explain your project clearly. Tell us exactly what you're doing, why it's good for your business, how and where you're doing it and who will benefit from it.



## Full application – what we look for

If you're invited to submit a full application, we'll ask for more information to further assess your project and your business. This table will give you an overview of what we assess.

<p>Strategic fit</p>	<p>How well the project meets the national and local priorities for funding.          How the project will impact the environment.          That the project does not disadvantage anybody in terms of characteristics such as ethnicity, disability, age and gender.</p>
<p>Value for money</p>	<p>How the project costs represent value for money.          The amount of grant required to deliver the outcomes and outputs, including jobs.          What difference grant funding will make, compared to what would happen without grant funding.</p>
<p>Need and demand</p>	<p>Why grant funding is required for the project.          There is a clearly identified market need for the project.          The impact the project has on other businesses, both positive and negative.</p>
<p>Financial viability</p>	<p>The current financial viability of your business.          How the project may impact on your existing business operations.          How you will fund the project until the grant is claimed.          How the business will benefit from the project financially.</p>
<p>Delivery and sustainability</p>	<p>Whether the project will be delivered in budget and on time.          That the right skills and resource are in place to deliver the project successfully.          How project outputs and other benefits will be monitored and recorded.          That risks to project delivery have been identified and how they will be mitigated.</p>

# 5

## Funding and costs

Includes:

- How much funding is available
- Paying for the project
- Eligible costs
- Costs which are not eligible

This scheme closed to new applications on 17 February 2020

# Funding and costs

You can use grant funding to cover a certain percentage of project costs – some costs are not eligible.

## How much funding is available

The minimum grant is £20,000.

The grants can only fund a certain percentage of eligible costs and there is a maximum percentage that applies. You can use other public money to pay for eligible costs – but only up to that maximum percentage.

Above the maximum percentage, all the money you use to pay for eligible costs must be from private sources (like savings or a bank loan).

## If you produce Annex I products

If both your raw materials and end products are on the Annex I list, ([see page 69](#)) you can apply for a grant of up to 40% of your eligible costs. In Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, this is 50%.

The maximum grant if you produce Annex I products is £750,000.

## If you don't produce Annex I products

If your raw materials are on the Annex I list, but your end products are not, use the tables on the next page to see how much grant funding you can apply for.

The grants will normally be awarded under industrial de minimis state aid. Larger projects in particular might be able to use alternative state aid. If you're invited to submit a full application, RPA will discuss this with you.

## Other food processing businesses

If neither your raw materials or your end products are on the Annex I list, you're only eligible to apply if you are a micro or small business in a rural area, or a farmer diversifying into non-agricultural activities. Grants of up to 40% of eligible costs are awarded under industrial de minimis state aid rules.

## Grant rates if you don't produce Annex I products

### Grant rates in England (except Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly)

Business size	Grants awarded under industrial de minimis - maximum grant amount €200,000	Grants awarded under other state aid - maximum grant amount £750,000
Micro and small sized business	Up to 40% of eligible costs	Up to 20% of eligible costs, but only if your project is on an agricultural holding
Medium sized business	Up to 40% of eligible costs	Up to 10% of eligible costs, but only if your project is on an agricultural holding
Large business	Up to 40% of eligible costs	N/A

### Grant rates in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Business size	Grants awarded under industrial de minimis - maximum grant amount €200,000	Grants awarded under other state aid - maximum grant amount £750,000
Micro and small sized business	N/A	Up to 45% of eligible costs
Medium sized business	Up to 40% of eligible costs	Up to 35% of eligible costs
Large business	Up to 40% of eligible costs	Up to 25% of eligible costs (must be for new economic activity for the business, and project can't be on an agricultural holding)

### **Has your business already had some public funding?**

When you apply, we'll ask you to tell us if you have had any funding from the EU or other public sources, and if it was awarded under 'industrial de minimis'.

If so, we might need to limit the amount of the funding you can get, to comply with the EU state aid industrial de minimis rules.

### **Hire-purchase or leased items must be paid off before you claim**

If you buy an item for the project using lease purchase or hire-purchase, you must own this outright before you can claim any grant money towards it.

That means that, before you claim the grant, you must:

- pay all of the instalments
- show that the title has passed to you

Otherwise you will not be able to include these costs in your claim.

### **Paying for the project**

Grants are paid in stages, in arrears. They can only be claimed after the work being claimed for is finished and has been paid for.

We expect you to make a maximum of 3 claims over the course of the project.

You must show that you have sufficient funds to pay for the project costs until you get the grant payments.

**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.

## Eligible costs

The grant can be used to pay for a percentage of the following costs:

- constructing or improving buildings
- buying new equipment and machinery

The following costs are also eligible, if they form part of a larger project being funded:

- architects, engineer or consultant fees for the project (as long as these don't add up to more than 15% of the project's total eligible costs)
- buying or developing a dedicated piece of computer software (but not an off-the-shelf piece of software like Microsoft Office)
- patents, licences, copyrights or trademarks
- energy-saving and resource efficiency equipment



## Costs which are not eligible

The following are not eligible for the grants (this list is not exhaustive).

### General costs:

- any costs incurred before the project start date shown in the grant funding agreement
- contingency costs
- the cost of getting any permissions or consents, such as planning permission
- any items which you have already had EU or national funding for (or intend to get EU or national funding for)
- relocation costs – if the business needs to relocate in order to expand, it can only apply for funding for the cost of the expansion
- costs associated with the provision of housing
- marketing and promotion

### Buildings, land and equipment costs:

- purchase of land, whether or not this land is built on
- repairs and maintenance of existing buildings, equipment and machinery
- like-for-like replacement of existing items (such as buildings, equipment and machinery)
- purchase of machinery or equipment that will not be on the asset register of the business 5 years after completion of the project
- the cost of moveable fittings – like soft furnishings, beds, tables, chairs, cutlery and crockery, curtains, televisions and audio equipment
- renewable heat and energy systems covered by the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) or Feed-In Tariffs (FITs)

**Business running costs:**

- salaries and running costs of the business
- in-kind contributions (this means the value of donated work or services) such as the cost of using your own labour, vehicle and office space
- recurring licence fees, subscriptions and service charges
- computers, software and printers used in the general running of the business, like processing orders or accounts
- mobile phones
- standard, non-specialised domestic vehicles, such as cars (including 4 X 4) and motorbikes
- road freight transport vehicles for hire or reward

**Agricultural business costs:**

- buildings, machinery and equipment used for growing and harvesting agricultural and horticultural products
- standard agricultural equipment and inputs like animals and crops
- the cost of agricultural production rights and payment entitlements
- developing or setting up agricultural businesses

**Financial costs:**

- bad debts
- advance payments
- insurance policy costs
- working capital
- financial charges, such as bank charges, fines and interest
- costs connected with a leasing contract, such as a lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges
- reclaimable VAT
- pension provision

To check if a cost is eligible call the Rural Payments Agency helpline on 03000 200 301 or email [GPEnquiries@rpa.gov.uk](mailto:GPEnquiries@rpa.gov.uk)

# 6

## How to apply

Includes:

- The EOI form
- What happens after you submit an EOI form
- Full application
- If you are offered a grant
- Top tips for applicants

This scheme closed to new applications on 17 February 2020

# How to apply

What you need to do to begin your application, and an overview of the information you must provide.

Application is in 2 stages. First, you must submit an 'expression of interest' (EOI) form. If we endorse your EOI, we will invite you to submit a full application.

RPA will assess your application at both stages. At EOI stage, applications will be assessed as they are received. At full application stage, projects will be assessed in batches. Only the highest scoring applications will be successful.

## The expression of interest (EOI) form

You can find the EOI form on GOV.UK – search 'RDPE Growth Programme EOI'.

### Deadline

We must receive your EOI before **midnight on 16 February 2020** – if we get it after this deadline, we will reject it.

On the EOI, you'll need to give us some information about your business, including:

- whether it's linked to any other businesses
- turnover and balance sheet total from the most recent financial accounts
- details of any previous public funding your business has had

You'll also need to tell us about your project:

- what the objectives are and what the outputs will be
- an overview of the costs
- important dates for the project
- how it fits with the local and national priorities for funding
- the market demand for your project and its impact on similar businesses

## How to submit your form

Email your form to:

[growthapps@rpa.gov.uk](mailto:growthapps@rpa.gov.uk)

We can only accept forms that are:

- sent by email
- Microsoft Excel documents saved in the 1997-2003 XLS format

We cannot accept any other format – including PDF documents, scanned documents, hard copy printed applications or hand-written applications.

Email your EOI from the email address you specify in section 5 of the EOI form. If an agent sends the form on your behalf, that address must be copied into the email.



**Provide an email address that you check regularly.**

We will use the email address you put in section 5 of the form as our main way of contacting you.

## What happens after you submit your EOI

After you submit the form, you'll get an automatic email to say we have received it. We will then assess your EOI and let you know whether or not you will be invited to submit a full application.

We aim to give you a decision on your EOI within 30 working days.

### If your EOI is unsuccessful

If your EOI is unsuccessful, RPA will send you a letter with the reasons.

To find out how to complain against the decision, read the 'How to complain' section of the RPA complaints procedure page on GOV.UK.

### Full application

If you're invited to submit a full application, we'll send you the relevant form and advice about how to fill this in.

The form asks for full details about you, your business and your project, including:

- final project costs
- supplier details
- key dates
- proposed project outputs

You'll need to send us:

- supporting documents appropriate to the project (such as market research, customer surveys, or industry reports)
- business accounts for last 3 financial years (unless you are a new business)
- relevant permissions and consents
- 3 quotes for all items to be purchased
- evidence that you can cover the project costs before claiming the grant in stages

There is potentially a lot of information, evidence and paperwork to collect.

It can take 2-3 months for you to prepare your full application, possibly longer if you need planning permission.

You'll be given a named contact at RPA to support you and answer questions.

You'll also be invited to attend a workshop, where RPA will explain the application process in more detail and answer any initial questions you have.

Before you send us your full application, you'll need to be registered on RPA's [Rural](#)

[Payments service](#) and have a Single Business Identifier (SBI) number.

We will assess Full Applications in three batches. Decisions on applications in each batch will be made at the same time. You will need to tell us on the EOI form which batch you want your full application to be part of. We aim to give you a decision on your full application within 60 working days of receipt.

### If you are offered a grant

If you're offered a grant, we'll send you a grant funding agreement for you to sign. This will set out the legal terms and conditions of the grant, including:

- the amount of the grant
- the outputs we've agreed for your project
- which suppliers you're using

If you need to change anything in the grant funding agreement over the course of the project, such as changing a supplier, you need to get written agreement from RPA first. If not, we could terminate your agreement and reclaim any grant we've already paid.

You'll get more information and help with this if you're offered a grant.

# Top tips for applicants



Before you start your application, here are some important reminders...

## **Jobs + growth + rural**

The main aim of the RDPE Growth Programme is to create jobs and growth in the rural economy. Tell us how your project will help do this.

## **Sell us your idea**

Explain really clearly what your project does and how it will benefit the economy. It's hard for us to justify giving you a grant if we don't understand your project.

## **Show us what the funding will mean to the success of your project**

We must invest public money carefully. We're looking for viable, growing businesses. If you can show us that your project is good value for money, and that you're planning to use the grant money to improve your project, you're more likely to get the grant.

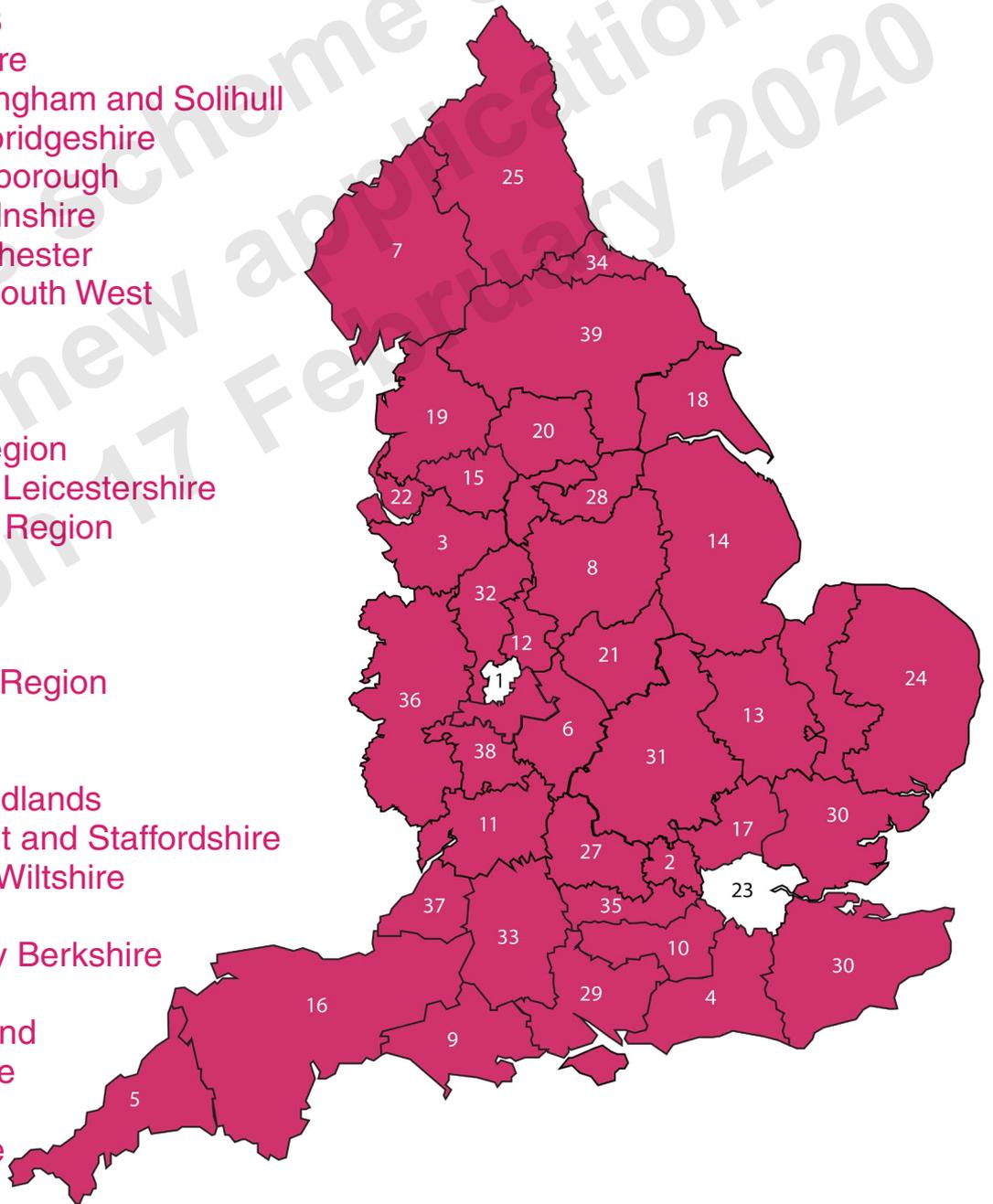
## **Do the market research**

You have to show that there is real demand for what you want to do, or you're unlikely to get a grant.

# LEP directory: grants in your area

## LEPs offering food processing grants:

- 2 Buckinghamshire Thames Valley
- 3 Cheshire and Warrington
- 4 Coast to Capital
- 5 Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
- 6 Coventry and Warwickshire
- 7 Cumbria
- 8 D2N2
- 9 Dorset
- 10 Enterprise M3
- 11 Gloucestershire
- 12 Greater Birmingham and Solihull
- 13 Greater Cambridgeshire  
Greater Peterborough
- 14 Greater Lincolnshire
- 15 Greater Manchester
- 16 Heart of the South West
- 17 Hertfordshire
- 18 Humber
- 19 Lancashire
- 20 Leeds City Region
- 21 Leicester and Leicestershire
- 22 Liverpool City Region
- 24 New Anglia
- 25 North East
- 27 Oxfordshire
- 28 Sheffield City Region
- 29 Solent
- 30 South East
- 31 South East Midlands
- 32 Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire
- 33 Swindon and Wiltshire
- 34 Tees Valley
- 35 Thames Valley Berkshire
- 36 The Marches
- 37 West of England
- 38 Worcestershire
- 39 York  
North Yorkshire  
East Riding



# Grants in your area

Use this directory to find out about the priorities for funding and what funding is available in your LEP area.

## How to use this directory

- Check the map on the previous page to see if your LEP area is offering a food processing grant
- Find the entry for your LEP area (these are listed alphabetically)
- Each entry has a link to the LEP area rural map. Use this to check if your project is in a rural area
- There is also a link to the LEP area Growth hub website. Growth hubs help businesses access local and national advice. This makes it easier for them to find the help they need to grow their businesses
- Read the whole entry carefully to find out:
  - minimum and maximum grants available
  - types of eligible projects and businesses
  - local priorities
- Read the documents at the links shown in the 'Further reading' section

### Deadlines

The RPA will agree a target end date with all successful applicants.

The final date by which all projects must be finished, paid for and complete grant claims submitted is 30 September 2021.

## Buckinghamshire Thames Valley

LEP area	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley	Call reference number	02RD19BS0008
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.bbf.uk.com">www.bbf.uk.com</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Buckinghamshire Thames Valley area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bring new food and drink products to the market</li> <li>• enable farmers and growers to start or expand processing products they grow</li> <li>• implement automation by micro and small food processing businesses</li> <li>• increase the productivity of the applicant business, for example by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- producing new products</li> <li>- adopting new techniques, technologies and processes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• open new product markets to the applicant business, for example by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- starting or expanding the export of products</li> <li>- selling products which reduce the need for imports</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p>Projects will need to be in line with <a href="#">Buckinghamshire Thames Valley's ESIF Strategy</a></p>			

## Cheshire and Warrington

LEP area	Cheshire and Warrington	Call reference number	03RD19BS0007
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.candwgrowthhub.co.uk">www.candwgrowthhub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Cheshire and Warrington area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000

### Local priorities

This call invites applications for capital investments that support growth in food and drink processing businesses.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- improve the economic performance of the applicant business
- process meat, milk, eggs and cereals, to add value, as identified by the Cheshire and Warrington Enterprise Partnership area Agri-tech West study
- introduce new equipment to increase production and improve productivity for the applicant business
- create new higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level of jobs in the applicant business

### Further reading

[The Cheshire and Warrington ESIF Strategy](#)  
[The Strategic Economic Plan and supporting documents](#)

## Coast to Capital

LEP area	Coast to Capital	Call reference number	04RD19BS0006
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.c2cbusiness.org.uk">www.c2cbusiness.org.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Coast to coast area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>Coast to Capital has a vibrant, growing and often high-tech food processing sector. The aim of these grants is to grow this sector and the supply chain.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create innovative products and / or use innovative technologies</li> <li>• create new products</li> <li>• access new markets</li> <li>• create economic and employment growth boosting productivity and profitability</li> <li>• invest in processing particularly to increase the productivity of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- horticultural businesses</li> <li>- vineyards and wine producers</li> <li>- micro and small breweries</li> <li>- distilleries</li> </ul> </li> <li>• strengthen supply chains, joint-ventures and partnership-working</li> <li>• include sustainable practices and the move to the low carbon economy as part of a larger project</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">ESIF Strategy</a></p> <p><a href="#">Coast to Capital's Rural Statement</a></p> <p><a href="#">Coast to Capital's strategies</a></p> <p><a href="#">Coast to Capital Strategic Economic Plan (Gatwick 360)</a></p>			

## Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

LEP area	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly	Call reference number	05RD19BS0006
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.ciosgrowthhub.com">www.ciosgrowthhub.com</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The purpose of this call is to add value to primary agricultural and horticultural products that will result in growth, improve productivity and/or create new, high-value knowledge-based jobs. All projects must be located in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly LEP area and demonstrate how the farmers and growers who supply the raw materials will benefit from the project.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• generate growth through an increase in turnover and jobs in the applicant business</li> <li>• improve productivity in the applicant business</li> <li>• create jobs that are paid above the average annual salary for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (£19,247)</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p>Applicants should also contact <a href="#">David Rodda</a> for support and advice with their application.</p> <p>Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly are the only Less Developed Region in the England ESIF programme. This call responds to the aims set out in the <a href="#">Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Territorial Development Strategy</a> (ESIF Strategy) to target investment that will accelerate productivity and competitiveness of businesses in the LEP area.</p> <p><a href="#">Strategic Economic Plan for Cornwall</a></p> <p><a href="#">Strategic Economic Plan for the Isles of Scilly</a></p>			

## Coventry and Warwickshire

LEP area	Coventry and Warwickshire	Call reference number	06RD19BS0007
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.cwgrowthhub.co.uk/">www.cwgrowthhub.co.uk/</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Coventry and Warwickshire area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>These grants are to help food and drink businesses in Coventry and Warwickshire that process agricultural and horticultural products to grow and create more jobs.</p> <p>There has been around 25% growth in the number of businesses manufacturing of food products and beverages CWLEP area with similar growth in the number of people employed in the sector. By 2036, the number of people employed in the food and drink processing industry is expected to have grown by a further 16.3%.</p> <p>All types of eligible food processing projects can be supported.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the productivity of the applicant business</li> <li>• adopt new techniques, processes or innovations to grow the applicant business</li> <li>• create new joint-ventures and partnership-working within the supply chain</li> <li>• create new higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level of jobs in the applicant business</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">Coventry and Warwickshire ESIF Strategy</a> (updated February 2016)</p> <p><a href="#">Coventry and Warwickshire Strategic Economic Plan</a> (updated August 2016)</p> <p><a href="#">West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy</a> (May 2019)</p>			

## Cumbria

LEP area	Cumbria	Call reference number	07RD19BS0007
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk">www.cumbriagrowthhub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Cumbria area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000

### Local priorities

Priority will be given to projects that:

- process and sell food locally, making use of the local provenance and expanding markets for local foods
- improve the economic performance of the applicant business
- support innovation in the applicant business including:
  - adopt new processes and techniques
  - increase business productivity
  - create new products
- start or increase exporting by the applicant business

### Further reading

[Cumbria LEP](#)

[Cumbria Industrial Strategy](#)

[Cumbria Rural and Visitor Economy Growth Plan](#)

## D2N2

LEP area	Derby Derbyshire Nottingham Nottinghamshire	Call reference number	08RD19BS0007
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk">www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">D2N2 area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>Manufacturing of food and drink is an important sector for the D2N2 economy employing over 16,000 people. D2N2 has a strong agricultural and manufacturing pedigree with manufactured food products being driven by the landscape and historical agricultural output.</p> <p>The aim of these grants is to support the creation and growth of food and drink processing businesses. Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• start or expand exporting by the applicant business accessing international markets</li> <li>• introduce new techniques and/or processes within the applicant business to increase production and boost productivity</li> <li>• create new higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level of jobs in the applicant business</li> <li>• develop strong supply chains within the D2N2 area</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">D2N2 LEP's ESIF Strategy</a>  <a href="#">The D2N2 Food &amp; Drink Manufacturing Sector Plan</a>  Applications must consider the relevant <a href="#">Core Delivery Principles</a></p>			

## Dorset

LEP area	Dorset	Call reference number	09RD19BS0007
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.dorsetgrowthhub.co.uk">www.dorsetgrowthhub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Dorset area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000

### Local priorities

The Dorset Strategic Economic Plan and ESIF Strategy prioritises increasing manufacturing productivity to create new higher skilled jobs and take advantage of new national and international markets.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- adopt new techniques and processes to
  - increase productivity
  - create new high skilled jobs
- increase the range of high-quality manufactured food products that use local produce
- create new products for sale into new national and international markets

Applicants can read more about the local context in the plans for the appropriate industrial sector at the links shown below. This may help in making an application.

### Further reading

[The Dorset Strategic Economic Plan to 2033](#)

[ESIF Strategy version 2 \(February 2016\)](#)

[Dorset Destination Management Plan via the LEADER](#)

## Enterprise M3

LEP area	Enterprise M3	Call reference number	10RD19BS0008
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.enterprisem3.org.uk">www.enterprisem3.org.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Enterprise M3 area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The Enterprise M3 area hosts large-scale food manufacturers and over 600 food and drink SMEs. The area also benefits from a strong science and academic community. Projects are sought which link food innovation to the processing of added-value products.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introduce and implement innovation and innovative technologies</li> <li>• create new products</li> <li>• access new markets</li> <li>• create economic and/or employment growth to boost productivity and/or profitability</li> <li>• create small-scale abattoir facilities</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<a href="#">Enterprise M3 Rural Briefing Paper</a>			

## Gloucestershire / GFirst

LEP area	Gloucestershire / GFirst	Call reference number	11RD19BS0005
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.thegrowthhub.biz/">www.thegrowthhub.biz/</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">GFirst area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The GFirst LEP ESIF strategy identifies agriculture and food production as being important to the local economy.</p> <p>The aim of these grants is to grow the food and drink processing sector within the GFirst LEP area creating new jobs within the sector and adding value to the supply chain.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase productivity of the applicant business</li> <li>• adopt new techniques, processes or innovations to grow the applicant business</li> <li>• create efficiencies in the processing of food products which will add value</li> <li>• create new joint-ventures and partnership-working within the supply chain</li> <li>• create new higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level of jobs in the applicant business</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">Gloucestershire LEP area</a></p> <p><a href="#">Agri-Food and Rural Economy report for Gloucestershire</a></p>			

## Greater Birmingham and Solihull

LEP area	Greater Birmingham and Solihull	Call reference number	12RD19BS0006
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.gbslepgrowthhub.co.uk">www.gbslepgrowthhub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Greater Birmingham and Solihull area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the processing of locally sourced food and drink</li> <li>• introduce new food processing technologies to the applicant business</li> <li>• help the applicant business access new markets</li> <li>• increase the productivity of the applicant business</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<a href="#">GBSLEP ESIF Strategy</a>			

## Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough

LEP area	Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough	Call reference number	13RD19BS0005
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.signpost2grow.co.uk">www.signpost2grow.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough (GCGP) area has some of the most productive agriculture land in the UK with a focus on arable crops and intensive horticulture. The area has a strong and growing food processing sector attracting inward investment from across Europe.</p> <p>The sector has a good record of adopting innovations in food technology and GCGP's ESIF strategy identifies food and drink processing as an important sector for growth and the creation of new jobs.</p> <p>These grants are focused on developing added value food production and the adoption of innovation to increase the long term competitiveness in the sector.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that address one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introduce new or improved processes and techniques, leading to an increase in productivity and job creation</li> <li>• create new higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level of jobs in the applicant business</li> <li>• open new product markets to the business – for example <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- targeting export markets</li> <li>- reducing the need for imports</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">GCGP ESIF Strategy</a></p> <p><a href="#">Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough Local Industrial Strategy</a></p>			

## Greater Lincolnshire

LEP area	Greater Lincolnshire	Call reference number	14RD19BS0007
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.businesslincolnshire.com">www.businesslincolnshire.com</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Greater Lincolnshire area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The agri-food sector, and in particular food processing, is important to the economy of Greater Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• significantly improve growth and productivity</li> <li>• adopt new technologies bringing new products to the market, leading to improved skills</li> <li>• access new markets</li> <li>• develop the agri-food sector</li> <li>• create new higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level within the applicant business</li> </ul> <p>You can read more about the local context in the sector plans at the links shown below. This may help when making an application.</p>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">Greater Lincolnshire ESIF Strategy</a></p> <p><a href="#">Greater Lincolnshire Strategic Economic Plan April 2016 Refresh</a></p> <p>The GLLEP has commissioned a specialist <a href="#">Greater Lincolnshire Agri Food Sector Plan</a> to help identify priority schemes including capital investment for medium agri-food businesses.</p>			

## Greater Manchester

LEP area	Greater Manchester	Call reference number	15RD19BS0003
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.businessgrowthhub.com/">www.businessgrowthhub.com/</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Greater Manchester area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>These grants are to support the creation and growth of food and drink processing businesses.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• start or expand exporting by the applicant business accessing international markets</li> <li>• introduce new techniques and/or processes within the applicant business to increase production and boost productivity</li> <li>• support producers specialising in high quality produce, particularly those that exploit the local supply chain</li> <li>• bring new products to market</li> <li>• create new higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level of jobs in the applicant business</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy</a></p> <p><a href="#">Greater Manchester Independent Prosperity Review</a></p> <p><a href="#">Greater Manchester Strategy</a></p> <p><a href="#">Greater Manchester ESIF Plan</a> – Rural priorities on page 39</p>			

## Heart of the South West

LEP area	Heart of the South West	Call reference number	16RD19BS0006
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk">www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Heart of the South West area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The aim of these grants is to create or expand food and drink processing businesses leading to growth and productivity gains in the Heart of the South West economy.</p> <p>Priority will be given to capital investment projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase business productivity</li> <li>• create jobs that are             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- higher skilled – Level 4 or above</li> <li>- higher paid – above £24,700 per annum for a full time equivalent</li> </ul> </li> <li>• create new or improved products</li> <li>• adopt new (to the applicant business) techniques and processes</li> <li>• access new markets, including export markets</li> <li>• align with the Food Enterprise Zone at the Bath and West Showground in Shepton Mallet and/or other recognised local food clusters / assets (such as Holsworthy), as outlined in the ‘Agricultural Sciences’ chapter of the Heart of the South West Smart Specialisation Approach and the Dartmoor and Exmoor Economic Prospectus as shown in the documents at the links below</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">Heart of the South West European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Strategy – Version 2, April 2016</a></p> <p><a href="#">Heart of the South West Productivity Strategy</a></p> <p><a href="#">Agricultural Sciences chapter of the Heart of the South West Smart Specialisation Approach</a></p> <p><a href="#">Dartmoor and Exmoor Economic Prospectus</a></p> <p><a href="#">South West Rural Productivity Commission Report and supporting evidence</a></p>			

## Hertfordshire

LEP area	Hertfordshire	Call reference number	17RD19BS0004
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.hertsgrowthhub.com">www.hertsgrowthhub.com</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Hertfordshire area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The aim of these grants is to support the creation and growth of food and drink processing businesses.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the productivity and competitiveness of the applicant business</li> <li>• develop new products or processes</li> <li>• adopt new technology</li> <li>• create high skilled, highly paid employment</li> <li>• create opportunities for apprenticeships</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">Hertfordshire ESIF Strategy</a></p> <p><a href="#">Rural Hertfordshire Profile</a></p> <p><a href="#">Hertfordshire Strategic Economic Plan</a></p>			

# Humber

LEP area	Humber	Call reference number	18RD19BS0005
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.hub.humberlep.org">www.hub.humberlep.org</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Humber area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
Local priorities			
<p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create new products</li> <li>• allow the applicant business to start exporting products, or increase the volume of products exported</li> <li>• create or support 'local food' initiatives by processing local produce</li> </ul>			
Further reading			
<a href="#">Humber ESIF Strategy</a> <a href="#">Humber Strategic Economic Plan</a>			

## Lancashire

LEP area	Lancashire	Call reference number	19RD19BS0006
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk">www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Lancashire area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The Lancashire LEP ESIF strategy shows processing of primary agricultural and horticultural produces is a priority sector. The aim of these grants is to create new jobs and increase productivity in the food processing sector.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• process milk or meat</li> <li>• support producers specialising in high quality produce, particularly local produce</li> <li>• reduce food miles</li> <li>• sell into new markets including exports</li> <li>• increase productivity, particularly through capital investments in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new technology and techniques</li> <li>- innovation</li> <li>- more efficient production processes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• bring new products to the market</li> <li>• create new higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level of jobs in the applicant business</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<a href="#">Lancashire LEP area ESIF Strategy</a>			

## Leeds City Region

LEP area	Leeds City Region	Call reference number	20RD19BS0005
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.the-lep.com/for-business">www.the-lep.com/for-business</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Leeds City Region area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The food and drink sector is a priority for support in the LCR LEP area employing 43,000 people, which accounts for 3% of the city region's workforce. The aim of these grants is to provide capital investment to improve productivity and create new high-value jobs in food processing businesses.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the activity of the applicant business by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- bringing new products to the market</li> <li>- opening new markets, including export markets, or</li> <li>- expanding existing markets, including export markets</li> </ul> </li> <li>• increase the productivity of the applicant business, for example by introducing new equipment or adopting new techniques, technologies or processes</li> <li>• create new higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level of jobs in the applicant business</li> <li>• implement automation by micro and small food processing businesses</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">Leeds City Region ESIF Strategy</a></p> <p><a href="#">Leeds City Region Strategic Economic Plan</a></p>			

## Leicester and Leicestershire

LEP area	Leicester and Leicestershire	Call reference number	21RD19BS0006
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.llepbizgateway.co.uk">www.llepbizgateway.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Leicester and Leicestershire area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>These grants are for investments that support growth in food and drink processing businesses.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create higher skilled and sustainable jobs in the food and drink sector</li> <li>• adopt new techniques and more efficient and/or low carbon processes as part of a larger project</li> <li>• show at least one of the following             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- expand existing or create local brands</li> <li>- process local produce</li> <li>- utilise local supply chains</li> </ul> </li> <li>• demonstrate wider benefits to the local economy</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p>Prior to starting your application the LLEP recommend applicants to read / refer to the following documents where applicable:</p> <p><a href="#">LLEP European Structural Investment Funds Strategy (Jan 2016)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Rural Evidence Base (2018)</a></p> <p><a href="#">LLEP Local Industrial Strategy Economic Review (June 2019)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Leicester &amp; Leicestershire Business Survey 2017</a></p> <p><a href="#">Leicestershire Market Towns Research</a></p>			

## Liverpool City Region

LEP area	Liverpool City Region	Call reference number	22RD19BS0004
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.localgrowthhub.com">www.localgrowthhub.com</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Liverpool City Region area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bring new products to the market</li> <li>• process locally sourced raw materials</li> <li>• support producers specialising in high quality produce, particularly local and dairy</li> <li>• sell into new markets including exports</li> <li>• increase productivity, particularly through capital investments in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new technology and techniques</li> <li>- innovation</li> <li>- more efficient production processes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• create high quality local jobs</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">Liverpool City Region LEP ESIF Strategy</a>  <a href="#">Liverpool City Region LEP Growth Strategy</a>  <a href="#">Liverpool City Region LEP Funding</a></p>			

## New Anglia

LEP area	New Anglia	Call reference number	24RD19BS0007
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk">www.newangliagrowthhub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">New Anglia area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000

### Local priorities

The food processing sector in Norfolk and Suffolk, employs nearly 120,000 people. The area produces large proportions of the UK's total cereal, vegetables, sugar beet, pigs and poultry.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy and EU Investment Strategy have identified investment in new technology and processes as an important priority for the sector to help create higher-skilled jobs and increase productivity.

These grants are for investments that contribute to the development of measurable and sustainable growth in New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership area's food and drink sector.

Priority will be given to projects that address one or more of the following:

- introduce new or improved processes and techniques (including lower carbon), leading to increase in productivity
- create new higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level of jobs in the applicant business
- create or process locally distinctive foods, which would contribute to the unique food & drink offer of the New Anglia LEP area
- open new product markets to the business – including export markets and reducing the need for imports
- are located in, or within close proximity to, one of the Food Enterprise Zones in the LEP area - the Orwell and Gipping Valley Food Clusters in Suffolk and the Greater Norwich Food Cluster in Norfolk

### Further reading

[Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy](#)

[EU Investment Strategy](#)

## North East

LEP area	North East	Call reference number	25RD19BS0005
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.northeastgrowthhub.co.uk">www.northeastgrowthhub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">North East area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• process locally sourced produce</li> <li>• process high value bioactive and functional foods</li> <li>• process speciality foods especially those produced from local sources within our areas of protected landscapes and which contribute to the unique heritage offer of North East local food and drink</li> <li>• invest in equipment, technologies or processes to develop new or higher quality products</li> <li>• enable the applicant business to start exporting products, or increase the volume and/or value of products exported</li> <li>• improve the resilience and/or sustainability of the applicant business, for example, through new or more effective processing technologies including equipment or processes to reduce waste or obtain added value from waste (waste valorisation) as part of a larger project</li> <li>• improve the digitalisation of the applicant business, for example through ICT adoption or wider use of ICT in the processing and business or logistics operations as part of a larger project</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">NLEP ESIF Strategy</a>  <a href="#">North East Economic Plan</a>  <a href="#">North East Rural Growth Network Background Report 2012</a>  <a href="#">Final Evaluation of the Rural Growth Network Pilot Initiative 2016</a></p> <p><b>Northumberland</b>  <a href="#">Northumberland Economic Strategy 2015-2020</a></p>			

## Oxfordshire

LEP area	Oxfordshire	Call reference number	27RD19BS0005
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.oxfordshirelep.com/business/growth-hub">www.oxfordshirelep.com/business/growth-hub</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Oxfordshire area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000

### Local priorities

Food processing is a priority sector in the Oxfordshire LEP area. Innovation and developing new products can increase profits and open new markets including exports.

Processing their own produce helps farmers move away from commodity markets improving the long term economic sustainability of farming communities. It can also create higher quality jobs leading to the upskilling of agricultural workers.

The priorities in the OxLEP Strategic documents are summarised below.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- introduce new products to the markets
- enable farm producers to add value to their primary produce and increase their profit margins
- adopt new techniques and processes
- start or increase exporting of products by the applicant business
- create and develop local food processing initiatives using locally sourced produce in particular:
  - strengthening the local supply chain
  - enhancing the food and drink tourism of rural Oxfordshire
  - delivering environmental benefits through reducing the carbon footprint of the food chain as part of larger project
- create new and develop existing food processing joint-ventures

### Further reading

Key strategic documents on Oxfordshire's economy can be found on the [OxLEP website](#).

Particular focus should be given to the following plans and strategies which are listed:

- Oxfordshire Local Industrial Strategy
- Oxfordshire Strategic Economic Plan
- Oxfordshire European Structural Investment Funds Strategy
- Oxfordshire Creative, Cultural, Heritage and Tourism Investment Plan

In addition to this, please also see the [Rural Tourism and Local Food and Drink - Final Report](#) to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

## Sheffield City Region

LEP area	Sheffield City Region	Call reference number	28RD19BS0006
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.scrgrowthhub.co.uk">www.scrgrowthhub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Sheffield City Region area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• allow the applicant business to start exporting products or increase the volume of products exported</li> <li>• adopt new techniques and processes</li> <li>• increase productivity of the applicant business</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p>Sheffield City Region EU Investment Strategy 2014-20  <a href="#">Sheffield City Region ESIF Strategy</a></p>			

## Solent

LEP area	Solent	Call reference number	29RD19BS0006
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.solentgrowthhub.co.uk">www.solentgrowthhub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Solent area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create new higher skilled jobs above the current skill level of jobs in the applicant business</li> <li>• create new products in the applicant business</li> <li>• increase productivity by adopting new techniques and processes</li> <li>• access export markets</li> <li>• create or support 'local food' initiatives by processing local produce</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<a href="#">ESIF Strategy</a>			

## South East

LEP area	South East	Call reference number	30RD19BS0006
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.southeastbusiness.org.uk">www.southeastbusiness.org.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">South East area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adopt new techniques and processes</li> <li>• create new 'local food' products and/or involve the processing of local food</li> <li>• open new product markets to the business including new products in new market categories</li> <li>• increase the productivity of the emerging wine industry</li> </ul> <p>Priority will also be given to projects from micro and small breweries based in rural areas increasing their productivity.</p>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">ESIF Strategy</a></p> <p><a href="#">SELEP Rural Strategy</a></p>			

## South East Midlands

LEP area	South East Midlands	Call reference number	31RD19BS0007
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.semlepgrowthhub.com/">www.semlepgrowthhub.com/</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">South East Midlands area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>Food and drink processing is an important growth sector across the SEMLEP area. Almost half of the food and drink processing businesses are classed as small and micro businesses.</p> <p>The aim of these grants is to contribute to the development of measurable and sustainable growth in SEMLEP area's food and drink sector.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that address one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• introduce new technologies, techniques or processes, increasing the productivity of the business</li> <li>• create new higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level of jobs in the applicant business</li> <li>• create at least 1 full-time equivalent job for each £20,000 of grant investment</li> <li>• bring locally distinctive foods to the market, that contribute to the unique food and drink offer of the SEMLEP area</li> <li>• open new product markets to the business, potentially reducing the need for imports</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p>In 2017 South East Midlands LEP (SEMLEP) published a reprised <a href="#">Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)</a> which focuses on 3 core pillars: Growing Business; Growing People; Growing Places. This Plan sets the ambition and strategic economic direction for the South East Midlands to 2050, in particular on the next 10 years. SEMLEP published their <a href="#">Local Industrial Strategy (LIS)</a> on 19 July 2019, which sets out a more detailed description of the interventions required to boost productivity in SEMLEP.</p>			

## Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire

LEP area	Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire	Call reference number	32RD19BS0007
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.stokestaffsgrowthhub.co.uk">www.stokestaffsgrowthhub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support investment in Agri-Tech methods and equipment for processing of food and drink</li> <li>• investments for the processing of locally sourced food and drink</li> <li>• invest in new food technologies to access new markets</li> <li>• support capital investment in buildings and/or equipment to increase the productivity of food and drink businesses in the following important sectors: meat, dairy, soft fruit and wine</li> </ul> <p>Priority will also be given to projects from micro and small breweries and distilleries based in rural areas increasing their productivity</p> <p>Applicants seeking EAFRD funding should seek support from the <a href="#">Stoke on Trent &amp; Staffordshire Growth Hub</a></p>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">SSLEP ESIF Strategy</a>  <a href="#">SSLEP Strategic Economic Plan</a>  <a href="#">Review of the Agri-Food Economy of Staffordshire</a></p>			

## Swindon and Wiltshire

LEP area	Swindon and Wiltshire	Call reference number	33RD19BS0005
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://growthhub.swlep.co.uk/">growthhub.swlep.co.uk/</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Swindon and Wiltshire area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The aim of these grants is to support the creation and growth of food and drink processing businesses.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• bring new products to the market</li> <li>• show innovation, including joint-ventures and partnership-working</li> <li>• allow businesses to start exporting or increase the volume of products exported</li> <li>• increase productivity of the business, for example by             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- adopting new processes</li> <li>- introducing new technologies</li> <li>- rationalising supply chains</li> </ul> </li> <li>• create new jobs in the applicant business</li> <li>• use natural resources efficiently and/or sustainably, as part of a larger project</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">The Swindon and Wiltshire ESIF Strategy</a> provides the full information on local priorities for European funding.</p> <p>Advice and support for SME manufacturing businesses is available from <a href="#">the Local Manufacturing Advisory Programme</a> as part of the Swindon and Wiltshire Growth Hub.</p>			

## Tees Valley

LEP area	Tees Valley	Call reference number	34RD19BS0004
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.teesbusinesscompass.co.uk">www.teesbusinesscompass.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Tees Valley area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The aim of these grants is to support the growth of food and drink businesses that process agricultural and horticultural products within Tees Valley, leading to job creation and improving processes and efficiencies to maximise capability for global competition.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase export potential of the applicant business, through greater access to international markets</li> <li>• diversify the supply chain of the applicant business</li> <li>• develop / introduce new techniques and/or processes within the applicant business, to increase production and boost productivity</li> <li>• create new joint-ventures and partnership-working within the supply chain</li> <li>• enable job creation in food and drink processing, particularly activity that supports the creation of trainee posts (excluding government-funded apprenticeships) and higher level jobs, and jobs that provide progression route ways to higher level skilled roles</li> <li>• enable an increase in productivity</li> <li>• create efficiencies in the processing of food products which will add value</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">Tees Valley ESIF Strategy</a>  <a href="#">Tees Valley Strategic Economic Plan</a></p>			

## Thames Valley Berkshire

LEP area	Thames Valley Berkshire	Call reference number	35RD19BS0004
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.berkshirebusinesshub.co.uk">www.berkshirebusinesshub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Thames Valley Berkshire area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The aim of these grants is to support the creation and growth of food and drink processing businesses in the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP area.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• create new products</li> <li>• adopt new techniques and processes</li> <li>• increase productivity of the business</li> <li>• create or support 'local food' initiatives by processing local produce</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<a href="#">Thames Valley Berkshire ESIF Strategy</a>			

## The Marches

LEP area	The Marches	Call reference number	36RD19BS0007
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk">www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">The Marches area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>The Marches LEP ESIF strategy identifies agriculture and food production as being important to the local economy.</p> <p>The aim of these grants is to grow the food and drink processing sector within The Marches LEP area. This will be done through supporting micro, small and medium-sized food and drink processors to expand and create jobs within the sector. This will also add value to the supply chain.</p> <p>The priorities outlined below are common across the Marches LEP area.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase productivity of the applicant business</li> <li>• adopt new techniques, processes or innovations to grow the applicant business</li> <li>• create efficiencies in the processing of food products which will add value</li> <li>• create new joint-ventures and partnership-working within the supply chain</li> <li>• create new jobs in the applicant business</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<a href="#">The Marches ESIF Strategy</a>			

## West of England

LEP area	West of England	Call reference number	37RD19BS0005
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.wearegrowth.co.uk">www.wearegrowth.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">West of England area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000

### Local priorities

These grants are to support projects of scale and impact to support food and drink production within the West of England LEP area.

Priority will be given to capital investment projects that:

- adopt innovative techniques production processes by the applicant business
- enable the applicant business to start exporting products, or increase the volume of products exported
- create higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level of jobs in the applicant business
- show sustainable practices and the move to the low-carbon economy, as part of a larger project
- strengthen supply chains, invest in local food, joint-working and collaboration such as shared distribution facilities
- process speciality foods especially those produced from within the LEP area and which contribute to the unique heritage offer of the area's local food and drink
- demonstrate alignment with the Food Works SW programme – see the documents at the link below

### Further reading

[West of England Local Industrial Strategy](#)

[Food Works SW Food Enterprise Zone](#)

Applicants may also find it useful to refer to the findings of the [West of England LEADER Local Development Strategy](#) for issues that affect the rural economy.

# Worcestershire

LEP area	Worcestershire	Call reference number	38RD19BS0007
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.business-central.co.uk">www.business-central.co.uk</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">Worcestershire area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>WLEP has a strong base of horticulture and food sector businesses. WLEP ESIF strategy identifies agriculture and food production as being important to the local economy.</p> <p>With regards to the agri-tech sector, there are three locations that offer significant growth opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vale of Evesham is important for Horticulture, with increasing opportunities for growth, including food processing and packing facilities</li> <li>2. Wyre Forest and the surrounding area provides an opportunity for the processing of value added grain and small scale food production</li> <li>3. Teme Valley and the South provide an opportunity for food processing associated with commercial fruit production linked to larger scale orchards.</li> </ol> <p>The aim of these grants is to grow the food and drink processing sector within WLEP area. This will be done through supporting micro, small and medium-sized food and drink processors to expand and create jobs within the sector. This will add value to agricultural and horticultural products throughout the supply chain.</p> <p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support the processing of products from the horticultural sector</li> <li>• adopt new processing / adding value techniques or innovations to improve the competitiveness of the applicant business</li> <li>• create efficiencies in the processing of food products which will add value</li> <li>• create new joint-ventures and partnership-working within the supply chain</li> <li>• create new higher skilled jobs above the current average skill level of jobs in the applicant business</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<a href="#">Worcestershire ESIF Strategy</a>			

## York North Yorkshire East Riding

LEP area	York North Yorkshire East Riding	Call reference number	39RD19BS0006
LEP area Growth hub website	<a href="http://www.howsbusiness.org">www.howsbusiness.org</a>		
LEP area rural map	<a href="#">York, North Yorkshire, East Riding area rural map</a>		
Minimum grant	£20,000	Maximum grant	£750,000
<b>Local priorities</b>			
<p>Priority will be given to projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expand commercially successful food processing businesses</li> <li>• provide local processing facilities that reduce risk for local growers</li> <li>• invest in clusters of food processing businesses and related supply chains</li> <li>• scale up new, but commercially proven, manufacturing processes that generate new income streams for processors and growers</li> <li>• complement and add value to horticultural and agricultural products by establishing processing facilities that help access new markets for crops and by-products, such as crops grown currently for their environmental value</li> </ul>			
<b>Further reading</b>			
<p><a href="#">The ESIF strategy</a></p> <p>The 2016 update of the <a href="#">LEP Strategic Economic Plan</a></p>			



Number in the Combined Nomenclature	Description of products
CHAPTER 1	Live animals
CHAPTER 2	Meat and edible meat offal
CHAPTER 3	Fish, crustaceans and molluscs
CHAPTER 4	Dairy produce; birds' eggs; natural honey
CHAPTER 5	0504 Guts, bladders and stomachs of animals (other than fish), whole and pieces thereof
	0515 Animal products not elsewhere specified or included; dead animals of Chapter 1 or Chapter 3, unfit for human consumption
CHAPTER 6	Live trees and other plants; bulbs, roots and the like; cut flowers and ornamental foliage
CHAPTER 7	Edible vegetables and certain roots and tubers
CHAPTER 8	Edible fruit and nuts; peel of melons or citrus fruit
CHAPTER 9	Coffee, tea and spices, excluding maté (heading 0903)
CHAPTER 10	Cereals
CHAPTER 11	Products of the milling industry; malt and starches; gluten; inulin
CHAPTER 12	Oil seeds and oleaginous fruit; miscellaneous grains, seeds and fruit; industrial and medical plants; straw and fodder
CHAPTER 13	ex 1303 Pectin
CHAPTER 15	1501 Lard and other rendered pig fat; rendered poultry fat
	1502 Unrendered fats of bovine cattle, sheep or goats; tallow (including 'premier jus') produced from those fats
	1503 Lard stearin, oleostearin and tallow stearin; lard oil, oleo-oil and tallow oil, not emulsified or mixed or prepared in any way
	1504 Fats and oil, of fish and marine mammals, whether or not refined
	1507 Fixed vegetable oils, fluid or solid, crude, refined or purified
	1512 Animal or vegetable fats and oils, hydrogenated, whether or not refined, but not further prepared
	1513 Margarine, imitation lard and other prepared edible fats
	1517 Residues resulting from the treatment of fatty substances or animal or vegetable waxes

Number in the Combined Nomenclature	Description of products
CHAPTER 16	Preparations of meat, of fish, of crustaceans or molluscs
CHAPTER 17	1701 Beet sugar and cane sugar, solid
	1702 Other sugars; sugar syrups; artificial honey (whether or not mixed with natural honey); caramel
	1703 Molasses, whether or not decolorised
	1705 (*) Flavoured or coloured sugars, syrups and molasses, but not including fruit juices containing added sugar in any proportion
CHAPTER 18	1801 Cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted
	1802 Cocoa shells, husks, skins and waste
CHAPTER 20	Preparations of vegetables, fruit or other parts of plants
CHAPTER 22	2204 Grape must, in fermentation or with fermentation arrested otherwise than by the addition of alcohol
	2205 Wine of fresh grapes; grape must with fermentation arrested by the addition of alcohol
	2207 Other fermented beverages (for example, cider, perry and mead)
	ex 2208 (*) ex 2209 (*) Ethyl alcohol or neutral spirits, whether or not denatured, of any strength, obtained from agricultural products listed in this Annex, excluding liqueurs and other spirituous beverages and compound alcoholic preparations (known as 'concentrated extracts') for the manufacture of beverages
	ex 2210 (*) Vinegar and substitutes for vinegar
CHAPTER 23	Residues and waste from the food industries; prepared animal fodder
CHAPTER 24	2401 Unmanufactured tobacco, tobacco refuse
CHAPTER 45	4501 Natural cork, unworked, crushed, granulated or ground; waste cork
CHAPTER 54	5401 Flax, raw or processed but not spun; flax tow and waste (including pulled or garnetted rags)
CHAPTER 57	5701 True hemp ( <i>Cannabis sativa</i> ), raw or processed but not spun; tow and waste of true hemp (including pulled or garnetted rags or ropes)

(\*) Heading added by Article 1 of Regulation No 7a of the Council of the European Economic Community of 18 December 1959 (OJ 7, 30.1.1961, p. 71)



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