



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Business Support Guide

West Midlands European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)
Programme 2007—2013

Version 2: December 2012



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in Your Future
European Regional
Development Fund 2007-13

Introduction to the Guide

West Midlands ERDF Programme Business Support Guide

From 2007 to 2013, the West Midlands European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme is providing €400 million of investment to a range of initiatives and projects that stimulate local growth and regeneration, create jobs and support local businesses.

The West Midlands ERDF Programme Business Support Guide captures the details of all the current business support initiatives being delivered in the region providing help and guidance on where individual businesses seeking assistance can go for more information.

The initiatives have been separated by the three main types of support available:

- **Expertise and Advice**
- **Grant**
- **Equity or Loan Fund**

For each initiative the guide provides a short summary of the project and the category of support businesses can receive, any specific eligibility criteria and contact details for further information. At the back of the guide you will also find a quick reference table detailing all the initiatives featured showing the different categories of business support offered. Please note that an initiative may appear more than once in the guide should it be providing more than one type of support. This is referenced at the bottom of each project table.

The guide will be updated regularly to ensure all the latest ERDF business support initiatives are included. An interactive searchable version of the guide is also available on the West Midlands ERDF section of the Department for Communities and Local Government website at:

www.gov.uk/erdf-regional-guidance-west-midlands#programme-documents

For enquires relating to the production of the guide or general information on the West Midlands Programme, contact the Programme Delivery Team: West Midlands on 0303 444 6587 or email: WM.ERDFenquiries@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Expertise and Advice

Project Name	Accelerating Innovation in Mass Market Housing and Green Homes (AIM HIGH)
Delivery Organisation	Birmingham City Council (lead), RESCO, Buy for Good, G.Purchase Construction
Description of Project	This low carbon project looks to help SMEs in the West Midlands learn about and take forward business opportunities using innovative technologies focussed on energy efficiency within the housing market. Businesses can access support and guidance explaining how to enter the environmental technologies market and form consortiums with like-minded businesses to successfully bid for contracts within this area.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: State Aid de-minimis requirement apply
End Date of Project	31 December 2015
More Information	Name: Roger Dunthorne Organisation: Birmingham City Council Telephone: 0121 464 4884 Email: Roger.Dunthorne@birmingham.gov.uk

Project Name	Advanced Materials Programme (1) Creating and Characterising Next Generation of Advanced Materials (2) Innovative Uses for Advanced Materials in the Modern World
Delivery Organisation	University of Birmingham (1) (lead) , University of Warwick University of Warwick (2) (lead), University of Birmingham
Description of Project	<p>The Advanced Materials programme has expertise to cover everything from materials synthesis, analysis and characterization through to processing and device fabrication.</p> <p>With an investment of £10 million the programme has unrivalled expertise in both nano and bulk functional materials and processing. The state-of-the-art equipment and expertise are available to business and are applicable to a vast range of problems in the materials area facing industry today.</p>
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
End Date of Project	July 2018 (1) September 2018 (2)
More Information	<p>Name: Richard Simpson (1) Organisation: University of Birmingham Telephone: 0121 414 9544 Email: r.simpson.1@bham.ac.uk</p> <p>Name: Karl West (2) Organisation: University of Warwick Telephone: 07824 541172 Email: k.s.west@warwick.ac.uk Website: www.birminghamsciencecity.co.uk/research-alliance/</p>

Project Name	Advantage Media Production Fund
Delivery Organisation	Creative England
Description of Project	<p>The Advantage Media Production Fund was set up in 2007 to support the development of the West Midlands as an economic hub for filmmaking in the UK and to provide access to finance for SMEs active in this sector.</p> <p>The fund exists to provide production finance to film production companies based in the West Midlands. Supported projects can be of any genre including documentaries, but must be feature length and intended for theatrical release.</p>
Category of Support Available	Developing a New Product or Service Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: This is a sector specific project designed specifically to benefit feature film production companies based in the West Midlands</p>
End Date of Project	December 2013
More Information	<p>Name: Creative England Talent Team Organisation: Creative England Telephone: 0844 824 6042 Email: talent@creativeengland.co.uk Website: www.creativeengland.co.uk/</p>

This project also provides equity or loan fund support.

Project Name	Assistive Technologies and Community Healthcare Project
Delivery Organisation	Health Design and Technology Institute at Coventry University
Description of Project	The project provides innovation support to the development of community healthcare products. This can either take the form of product design or the evaluation of products with end users from the target market through usability studies to support proof-of-concept and ongoing design and development.
Category of Support Available	Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: The project focuses specifically on supporting the development of non-medical healthcare products which have the potential to help older people, disabled people and people living with long-term conditions to manage their conditions better and improve their independence.</p>
End Date of Project	30 November 2013
More Information	<p>Name: Guy Smallman</p> <p>Organisation: Coventry University</p> <p>Telephone: 0247 615 8000</p> <p>Email: gsmallman@cad.coventry.ac.uk</p> <p>Website: www.coventry.ac.uk/hdti</p>

Project Name	Built Environment Climate Change Innovations (BECCI)
Delivery Organisation	University of Wolverhampton (lead), Coventry University
Description of Project	This project will provide support for SME's interested in developing low carbon products and services for the housing retrofit market. Support can be given at both universities covering product or service assessment, evaluation, testing etc.
Category of Support Available	Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
	Other: SMEs only
End Date of Project	30 June 2015
More Information	Name: Business Solutions Centre Organisation: University of Wolverhampton Telephone: 01902 321272 Email: BECCI@wlv.ac.uk

Project Name	CASiM²: Centre for Advanced Simulation and Modelling for Manufacturing
Delivery Organisation	University of Birmingham, The Manufacturing Technology Centre, Loughborough University, Rolls Royce, Airbus in the UK
Description of Project	Businesses will be able to learn about the benefits of computational engineering in manufacture particularly in the areas of high integrity fabrication, near net shape manufacture, intelligent automation, and intelligent tooling and fixturing. This will be achieved by the use of targeted demonstration activities which will show how these techniques have been applied to solve real manufacturing challenges.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
End Date of Project	June 2015
More Information	Name: Dr Jean-Christophe Gebelin Organisation: University of Birmingham Telephone: 0121 414 7881 Email: j.gebelin@bham.ac.uk

Project Name	Centre of Refurbishment Excellence
Delivery Organisation	Centre of Refurbishment Excellence
Description of Project	<p>A national independent centre of learning and skills development for building refurbishment adopting a 'fabric first, but not fabric only' approach. The project will offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accredited training and learning programmes. • Business support and development. • Vocational courses with College Partners. • Practical product training led by suppliers and manufacturers. • Real life demonstrations in purpose designed display spaces. • A unique conference venue of an international standard.
Category of Support Available	<p>Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Developing a New Product or Service</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: This project predominantly works with SMEs, however other sized businesses are also able to enquire regarding support.</p>
End Date of Project	30 June 2015
More Information	<p>Name: Deb Rudge Organisation: Centre of Refurbishment Excellence Telephone: 01782 603786 Email: info@core-skills.com Website: www.core-skills.com</p>

Project Name	Classic Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KEEN)
Delivery Organisation	University of Wolverhampton (lead), Aston University, Birmingham City University, University of Birmingham, University College Birmingham, Coventry University, Harper Adams University College, Keele University, Newman University College, Staffordshire University, University of Warwick, University of Worcester
Description of Project	KEEN offers a level of flexibility to companies who are yet to realise their full potential. This is made possible through the transfer of knowledge into the business via a recent graduate (Affiliate) who is recruited to work full-time on a growth project, developed in association with the university, for six to 24 months. The university supports the company from application stage, during recruitment and for the lifetime of the project.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: SMEs only If companies have previously received Knowledge Transfer via a KTP then the KEEN must be in an entirely different area/field in order to be eligible. More than 1 KEEN can be considered for a company but must be in a different specialisms in order to be eligible. Companies will be reimbursed towards the cost of the Affiliate salary; this will be dependent on sufficient evidence submitted via claim to the Partner University.
End Date of Project	31 July 2015
More Information	Name: Emma Pearson Organisation: University of Wolverhampton Telephone: 01902 321654 Email: emma.pearson@wlv.ac.uk Website: www.wlv.ac.uk/keen

Project Name	Competitiveness Through Collaboration
Delivery Organisation	metnet (Marches Environmental Technologies Network) metnet is a partnership between Herefordshire Council, Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin and Worcestershire County Council (administered by Shropshire Council)
Description of Project	metnet supports businesses providing environmental goods and services (including waste management) based in the Marches (Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin) and businesses looking to diversify into the sector. The network provides a range of free events including tailored businesses briefings and exhibiting opportunities ; promotes collaborative working through networking events; keeps members up to date on funding availability and sector news through its regular bulletins and provides a point of contact for finding the right person to talk to whether you have a new idea and need assistance from leading specialists or have a query for your local council
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: Herefordshire, Shropshire and Worcestershire only Other: SMEs only and must be an environmental company (including waste management) or a company looking to diversify into the environmental sector.
End Date of Project	March 2014
More Information	Name: Patricia Head / Dr Jane Yardley Organisation: Shropshire County Council Telephone: 01584 838249 / 838248 Email: metnet@shropshire.gov.uk Website: www.met-net.co.uk/

Project Name	Coventry and Warwickshire Enterprise and Business Growth Package: Enabling Innovation and Growth
Delivery Organisation	Coventry City Council
Description of Project	<p>This strand will focus on helping technology and digital businesses access and grow new markets. Businesses will be encouraged to join and/or develop collaborative supply chains to address such issues as funding, new product development, skills and training and tendering.</p> <p>Individual businesses and proposed supplier groups also have access to a portfolio of activities including access to finance, investments, marketing and people management. Grant support may also be available to businesses actively working with the package to grow, diversify, modernise and create new jobs in Coventry & Warwickshire.</p>
Category of Support Available	<p>Expanding Your Market</p> <p>Developing a New Product or Service</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: Coventry and Warwickshire only</p> <p>Other: SMEs only operating in the following sectors: Transport Technologies, Specialist Business and Professional Services, Information & Communication Technologies, Environmental Technologies.</p>
End Date of Project	December 2014
More Information	<p>Name: Rachael Price</p> <p>Organisation: Coventry City Council</p> <p>Telephone: 0247 683 1208</p> <p>Email: Rachael.price@coventry.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.coventry.gov.uk</p>

Project Name	Coventry and Warwickshire Enterprise and Business Growth Package: Resource Efficiency Business Support
Delivery Organisation	Coventry City Council
Description of Project	<p>Support is available to improve business performance in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource efficiency – identifying potential improvements and cost savings • Environmental management system (ISO 14001) implementation and support • Environmental training - raising general environmental awareness, waste duty of care and spill response training • Environmental audits • Audits of your environmental impacts and your legislative compliance. <p>Grant support may also be available to businesses actively working with the package to grow, diversify, modernise and create new jobs in Coventry & Warwickshire.</p>
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: Coventry and Warwickshire only</p> <p>Other: SMEs only operating in the following sectors: Transport Technologies, Building Technologies, Food & Drink, Tourism & Leisure, High Value Added Consumer, Specialist Business and Professional Services, Information & Communication Technologies, Environmental Technologies, Screen and New Media for Education and Entertainment , Medical Technologies.</p>
End Date of Project	December 2014
More Information	<p>Name: Monika Bzowy Organisation: Coventry City Council Telephone: 0247 683 2416 Email: monika.bzowy@coventry.gov.uk Website: www.business-sustain.com</p>

Project Name	Coventry and Warwickshire Enterprise and Business Growth Package: Accelerated Growth Business Support
Delivery Organisation	Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce
Description of Project	<p>This project offers face to face support for SMEs with the potential to achieve 'accelerated business growth'. Accelerated business growth is defined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New businesses with the potential to achieve £350k turnover or employ four or more staff in their first three years of trading. • Existing businesses with 1 – 9 employees with the potential to increase turnover by £350k over three years. • Existing businesses with 10 or more employees with the potential to increase annual turnover or employment by 5-10% over three years. <p>Grant support may be available to businesses actively working with the package to grow, diversify, modernise and create new jobs in Coventry & Warwickshire.</p>
Category of Support Available	<p>Expanding Your Market</p> <p>Developing a New Product or Service</p> <p>Securing Finance</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: Coventry and Warwickshire only</p> <p>Other: SMEs only operating in the following sectors: Transport Technologies, Building Technologies, Food & Drink, Tourism & Leisure, High Value Added Consumer, Specialist Business and Professional Services, Information & Communication Technologies, Environmental Technologies, Screen and New Media for Education and Entertainment , Medical Technologies.</p>
End Date of Project	December 2014
More Information	<p>Name: Howard Andersen</p> <p>Organisation: Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Telephone: 0247 665 4203</p> <p>Email: howarda@cw-chamber.co.uk</p> <p>Website: www.cw-chamber.co.uk</p>

This project also provides grant support.

Project Name	Coventry and Warwickshire Enterprise and Business Growth Package: Start Up Support
Delivery Organisation	Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce
Description of Project	This project offers a programme of workshops and face to face assistance for individuals wishing to start a business. This will cover advice and guidance on the range of issues encountered at the start up stage such as business planning, finance, legal issues, sales and marketing. The strand also offers assistance for new start businesses during their first year of trading.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: Coventry and Warwickshire only</p> <p>Other: Support is available to individuals that live in Coventry, Nuneaton or Bedworth and are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unemployed • At risk of redundancy • In low paid work • Planning to start a high growth business in the Coventry and Warwickshire priority sectors.
End Date of Project	December 2014
More Information	<p>Name: Howard Andersen</p> <p>Organisation: Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Telephone: 0247 665 4203</p> <p>Email: howarda@cw-chamber.co.uk</p> <p>Website: www.cw-chamber.co.uk</p>

Project Name	Creative Enterprise
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University
Description of Project	<p>If you are starting up or running a creative business based in the West Midlands, the Creative Enterprise project can offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentoring from specialists in your field • Business advice • Workshops and seminars • Academic expertise • Hot desking space • Networking events
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: SMEs only working in the creative sector (arts, design or media) with an annual turnover of 50 million or less and less than 25% controlled, either solely or jointly, by firms that are not SMEs.</p>
End Date of Project	28 February 2014
More Information	Name: Peter McLuskie Organisation: Coventry University Telephone: 0247 615 8303 Email: pmcluskie@cad.coventry.ac.uk Website: www.creativeenterprise.org

Project Name	Creative Industries Programme –Cre8
Delivery Organisation	Stoke-on-Trent City Council (lead), Staffordshire University, Keele University and Burslem School of Art
Description of Project	<p>Cre8 is a business development support initiative that will provide expertise and advice across three cross cutting areas including new markets, new products and new models of business targeted at SME companies within the creative sector.</p> <p>This project will provide a suite of direct business support initiatives including one to one advice and guidance programmes, creative surgeries, business diagnostic consultancy, workshops and various seminars aimed at improving business for all SME creative companies.</p> <p>In addition to the core business development programme the Cre8 project will deliver a national conference, a series of networking events & opportunities and provide access to a small business grants fund to support the purchasing of new equipment.</p>
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: North Staffordshire and Staffordshire only Other: SMEs only working within the Creative Industries sectors across Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire.
End Date of Project	June 2015
More Information	Name: Marc Wootton Organisation: Stoke-on-Trent City Council Telephone: 01782 234193 Email: cre8@stoke.gov.uk

This project also provides grant support.

Project Name	Design Space
Delivery Organisation	Birmingham City Council
Description of Project	<p>This project aims to promote the sustainability of businesses in the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham by supporting new and existing businesses as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides incubation support and business advice/mentoring and guidance for start up businesses over a 12 month placement • Provides existing businesses with advice/mentoring/product development support
Category of Support Available	<p>Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: SMEs only working within the jewellery businesses sector.</p>
End Date of Project	March 2013
More Information	<p>Name: Manjit Bassra Organisation: Birmingham City Council Telephone: 0121 303 4873 Email: manjit.bassra@birmingham.gov.uk Website: www.birmingham.gov.uk</p>

Project Name	Digital Heritage Demonstrator Project
Delivery Organisation	University of Birmingham, New Library Birmingham, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, The HIVE Worcester, Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust
Description of Project	<p>The project aims to demonstrate how collaborative projects exploring the use of digital technology with the Cultural and Heritage sector can develop new markets and increase profits for business.</p> <p>Alongside the newly appointed, dedicated on-site technical development team , the project will also enlist the skills and expertise of a wide range of additional academics from across the University of Birmingham including the School of Computer Science, the Human Computer Interaction Research Centre and the School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering.</p> <p>Based in the new purpose built Heritage and Cultural Learning Hub at the University of Birmingham, the project will offer tailored support from a wide range of experts in the field of digital technology and innovation and provide access to a suite of innovative multi-user, 3D multi-touch technologies, mobile devices and tablets, advanced user-testing facilities and augmented reality tools, all integrated into a unique digital prototyping lab.</p>
Category of Support Available	<p>Expanding Your Market</p> <p>Developing a New Product or Service</p> <p>Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: SMEs only and State Aid rules apply.</p>
End Date of Project	December 2014
More Information	<p>Name: Gino Bellavia</p> <p>Organisation: University of Birmingham</p> <p>Telephone: 0121 414 9154</p> <p>Email: contacts@dhd.bham.ac.uk</p> <p>Website: www.birmingham.ac.uk/hclh</p>

Project Name	Eco Business
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University Enterprises Ltd
Description of Project	The project will provide support for West Midlands SME's to improve their environmental policies and processes. This will be delivered through a mixture of awareness events, workshops & consultancy. For companies who wish to invest in environmental improvements as a result of the advice, a grant of £2400 is available to offset some of their capital costs. A smaller number of companies will be selected to receive additional support in return for examples of best practice.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Business Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: SME's only.
End Date of Project	31 November 2015
More Information	Name: Corinne Edwards Organisation: Coventry University Enterprises Ltd Telephone: 02476 158 206 Email: Corinne.edwards@coventry.ac.uk

This project also provides grant support.

Project Name	Enterprise 1830
Delivery Organisation	The Prince's Trust
Description of Project	Enterprise 1830 gives young people, aged 18 to 30 pre-start support, start-up support and post-start mentoring. Clients may apply for start-up finance, subject to eligibility.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: This project is designed to help young people aged 18 to 30 and are unemployed at the time of application.
End Date of Project	March 2015
More Information	Name: Gareth Smith Organisation: The Prince's Trust Telephone: 0121 772 9230 Email: gareth.smith@princes-trust.org.uk

This project also provides equity or loan fund support.

Project Name	Enterprise Catalyst (2) Business Support Initiative
Delivery Organisation	Enterprising Communities at Birmingham City Council (lead), Winning Moves Ltd, Business and Learning Centre, Business Insight, Digbeth Trust
Description of Project	<p>The project seeks to build an entrepreneurial culture amongst disadvantaged communities and support businesses to grow. It will achieve this by engaging with entrepreneurs and fledgling businesses and provide intensive and integrated business support packages, including access to micro-finance, to unemployed clients, individuals interested in starting a business, and existing businesses seeking to expand and diversify.</p> <p>Overall, the project will engage with 2,500 individuals and businesses, assist 476 individuals to start a business in the designated target area of the city, and provide ongoing tailored support to 265 businesses (49 of whom will be social enterprises) to reduce or remove the barriers to business growth, in particular the availability of seed-corn or small-scale finance so that they can achieve growth.</p>
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service Securing Finance Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: Birmingham only within the following wards: Aston, Bordesley Green Hodge Hill, Ladywood, Lozells and East Handsworth, Moseley and Kings Heath, Nechells, Soho, South ardley, Sparkbrook, Springfield, Washwood Heath</p> <p>Other: SMEs and new start ups only; including Social Enterprises.</p>
End Date of Project	20 June 2015
More Information	Name: Aftab Ahmed Organisation: Birmingham City Council Telephone: 0121 675 7584 Email: Aftab.ahmed@birmingham.gov.uk Website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/enterprisingcommunities

This project also provides grant support.

Project Name	Enterprise Coaches
Delivery Organisation	Stoke-on-Trent City Council (lead), Business Enterprise Support Ltd
Description of Project	<p>The Coaches cover the whole of the City of Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire Moorlands District and Newcastle under Lyme.</p> <p>The Enterprise Coach service is available to any resident in these areas who is looking to explore the idea of working for themselves. The Coaches are there to offer support and guidance from an initial idea through to setting up a business.</p> <p>They can help with marketing ideas, business planning, personal survival budgets, networking and confidence building. All there services are completely free of charge.</p>
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: North Staffordshire and Staffordshire only
End Date of Project	31 December 2014
More Information	<p>Name: Gaynor Parkinson Organisation: Business Enterprise Support Ltd Telephone: 0783 465 7828 Email: gaynorp@enterprisesupport.org Website: www.enterprisesupport.org</p>

Project Name	Entrepreneurs for the Future (e4f)
Delivery Organisation	Birmingham Science Park Aston
Description of Project	<p>This is a dedicated programme to help the next generation of tech start ups deliver commercial success. For 6 months, the programme provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk/office space • Office infrastructure (phones, internet) • Networking & Events (50 + a year) • Specialist support (Legal, Finance, HR etc.) • Mentoring • Access to finance (grants, loans, investment) • Access to people resources (interns, graduates, University support) • Free support from our Technology Sponsors
Category of Support Available	<p>Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises</p>
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: Birmingham only
	Other: SMEs only and working in the technology sector.
End Date of Project	31 December 2013
More Information	<p>Name: Katherine Preston Organisation: Birmingham Science Park Aston Telephone: 0121 250 3518 Email: katherinep@bsp-a.com Website: e4f.bsp-a.com/</p>

Project Name	European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI)
Delivery Organisation	Aston University
Description of Project	The project can briefly be described as the creation of a bioenergy demonstration facility combined with business engagement activities that will firmly establish the West Midlands as the European leader in bioenergy technology development, application and commercialisation.
Category of Support Available	Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
End Date of Project	30 June 2015
More Information	Name: Thomas Anderson Organisation: Aston University Telephone: 0121 204 3345 Email: t.anderson1@aston.ac.uk Website: www.bioenergy-midlands.org

Project Name	Exploiting Servitisation in West Midlands SMEs
Delivery Organisation	Aston Business School (lead), UK Councils for Electronic Business (UK CeB), Pera Consulting
Description of Project	<p>Manufacturers are increasingly choosing to link a portfolio of services to their products. These services strengthen relationships with customers, create new and resilient revenue streams and set high barriers for competition. This services-led competitive strategy is achieved through a process known as servitisation.</p> <p>The project will work with West Midlands manufacturing SMEs to help them understand, and implement, creative servitisation strategies. In terms of the support available, there will be a team, from Aston Business School and industry, helping them to understand, and appreciate, the benefits of implementing a service-led competitive strategy in their manufacturing environment.</p> <p>This support will include: awareness events; workshops; one-to-one mentoring; support to help with the implementation of servitisation; and regular networking events. The project will support in excess of 400 SMEs.</p>
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: SMEs only who manufacture products and have between 10 to 250 staff. Ideally suited to SMEs with a turnover in excess of £1 million and willing to consider implementing a service-led competitive strategy.</p>
End Date of Project	April 2015
More Information	<p>Name: Eleanor Musson Organisation: Aston University Telephone: 0121 204 3580 Email: e.musson@aston.ac.uk Website: www1.aston.ac.uk/abs/</p>

Project Name	Fibre Optics and Laser Sensing Technologies Phase 2
Delivery Organisation	Aston University
Description of Project	<p>Photonics is the science and technology platform based on the use of photons (particles of light). Photonics-based applications include; telecommunications, data storage, optical imaging, medical diagnostics and many others. Photonics is a crucial enabling technology that can be used to raise the productivity of manufacturing companies in the West Midlands by increasing the value of the end product or service.</p> <p>SMEs new to photonics can learn about the advantages of photonics technologies. Technical expertise and equipment is also made available to SMEs to develop new photonics applications from research to demonstration to commercial prototyping relevant to their businesses.</p>
Category of Support Available	Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: SMEs only</p>
End Date of Project	30 June 2015
More Information	<p>Name: Caroline Smeeton Organisation: Aston University Telephone: 0121 204 3933 Email: c.smeeton@aston.ac.uk Website: http://www1.aston.ac.uk/</p>

Project Name	Generating Employment Opportunities
Delivery Organisation	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Description of Project	Supports SMEs with the recruitment of local people.
Category of Support Available	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: Solihull only
	Other: SMEs only and adhere to State Aid
End Date of Project	March 2013
More Information	Name: Sarah Bowers Organisation: Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Telephone: 0121 704 8568 Email: sarahbowers@solihull.gov.uk Website: www.solihullforsuccess.com/geo

Project Name	Graduate Placement Service
Delivery Organisation	Graduate Advantage (lead), Birmingham City University, Worcester University, Wolverhampton University, Keele University, Coventry University.
Description of Project	Businesses can benefit from graduate internships for short term projects up to 12 months in duration. Subject to eligibility businesses can benefit from our payroll and hr service covering the cost of employers NI during the first 12 weeks of the internship. We also offer voluntary internships for smaller businesses subject to a rationale and we offer paid internships to all SME organisations.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: SMEs only
End Date of Project	January 2014
More Information	Name: Julie Stonall Organisation: Aston University Telephone: 0121 204 4832 Email: j.stonall@aston.ac.uk Website: www.graduateadvantage.co.uk

Project Name	Growing the Social Enterprise Sector in the West Midlands Phase 2
Delivery Organisation	Coventry and Warwickshire CDA (lead), ISE, SWEDA, Community Council of Shropshire, Community First (Herefordshire and Worcestershire), VAST
Description of Project	<p>Groups seeking to set up social enterprises and existing social enterprises in the West Midlands can receive comprehensive advisory support including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice on business planning • Marketing • Financial controls and raising finance • Company formation and legal structures • Managing employees • Sales and promotion • Setting up trading arms • Entering new markets • Income generation
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Business Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry, Warwickshire, South Black Country, North Black Country, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Staffordshire
End Date of Project	31 May 2015
More Information	Name: Verina Garner Organisation: CWCDA Telephone: 0247 663 3911 Email: info@cwcd.co.uk Website: www.cwcd.co.uk

Project Name	HEART of ENGLAND fine foods—Improving and Growing Food and Drink Businesses within the Supply Chain
Delivery Organisation	HEART of ENGLAND fine foods Ltd
Description of Project	This project will provide support, advice and mentoring to existing and start up food and drink businesses to assist them improve business and profitability through development of new and existing markets both in the UK and overseas.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
End Date of Project	March 2015
More Information	Name: Ann Murphy Organisation: HEART of ENGLAND fine foods Ltd Telephone: 01743 452818 Email: ann.murphy@heff.co.uk Website: www.heff.co.uk

Project Name	Human Interface Technologies Applied Research Centre
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University Enterprises Ltd (lead), Aston University
Description of Project	<p>Human interface technologies (HIT) refer to the natural and humanistic ways that humans interface with digital devices as well as with other people remotely over large distances using the full range of human senses and gestures.</p> <p>The HIT-ARC project will establish a Research Centre in Coventry as well as satellite locations across the West Midlands focussed on providing collaborative R&D support to SMEs and entrepreneurs wishing to develop a HIT-related product. The Centres will enable each client to develop their innovative “HIT” product idea through access to a maximum of 10 days support including research time and facilities, IP and commercialisation support and additional business focussed training.</p>
Category of Support Available	Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: SMEs only</p>
End Date of Project	30 June 2015
More Information	<p>Name: Louise Fidler</p> <p>Organisation: Coventry University Enterprise Ltd</p> <p>Telephone: 0247 615 8201</p> <p>Email: l.fidler@coventry.ac.uk</p>

Project Name	Innovation 1st
Delivery Organisation	University of Wolverhampton, Business Solutions
Description of Project	<p>Innovation 1st aims to ensure that businesses are given the knowledge and support to help them grow on. The project provides two days of fully funded support with a technical focus, aimed at assisting companies. This can be to develop new products, processes or services by raising the current technology level in their business; or by adopting an existing technology. The project provides the necessary information on the 'how' and the contacts for the 'who'. The support will look at the company's current position, its current and future plans then provide a bespoke Implementation Plan.</p> <p>The Visualisation Centres showcase and advise companies on how they can utilise cutting edge technology such as touch-sensitive LED screens, interactive whiteboards and presentation recording facilities to conceptualise business problems and formulate innovative solutions. Equipped with single or multi-point video conferencing, desktop sharing capability, touch-table and combined with a presentation recording facility, the Centres hold the key to a wealth of knowledge, helping companies work more innovatively, smartly and effectively.</p>
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
End Date of Project	30 June 2015
More Information	Name: Paul Burrow Organisation: University of Wolverhampton Telephone: 01902 518954 Email: P.M.Burrow@wlv.ac.uk Website: www.wlv.ac.uk/innovation1st

Project Name	Innovation University Enterprise Network (iUEN)
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University Enterprises Ltd (lead), Wolverhampton University
Description of Project	<p>The iUEN project will support growth businesses based within the West Midlands in creating, developing and implementing new business opportunities through open innovation (OI). The project will support SMEs look at trends in OI, the benefits of OI, how to set up OI procedures and develop in-house skills as well as support collaborations with large organisations.</p> <p>It is specifically designed so that SMEs and large organisations can increase the effectiveness of their innovation processes.</p>
Category of Support Available	<p>Expanding Your Market</p> <p>Developing a New Product or Service</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: Businesses need to be working within the sectors of niche vehicles, digital media or assistive technologies.</p>
End Date of Project	31 May 2014
More Information	<p>Name: Louise Marjoram</p> <p>Organisation: Coventry University Enterprises Ltd</p> <p>Telephone: 0797 498 4283</p> <p>Email: lmajoram@cad.coventry.ac.uk</p> <p>Website: www.coventry.ac.uk/enterprise</p>

Project Name	Innovative Product Support Services (IPSS)
Delivery Organisation	University of Wolverhampton (lead), Keel University, Staffordshire University, Birmingham City University, Coventry University
Description of Project	<p>The purpose of the IPSS programme is to support SME's in the development of new products and processes. The programme is specifically designed to support SME businesses developing new propositions in one of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental technologies • Low carbon engineering and products • Digital technologies • Transport technologies • Electronics • Medical Technologies <p>Businesses will initially receive a 2-day review of their proposed product / technology. The results of the review are used to promote businesses with the most viable propositions through to a second phase of the programme that offers 5-days of funded support through the University consortium.</p> <p>Support is available in the areas of: Product design; Market research; Intellectual property advice; App development; New product development planning; Electronics development.</p>
Category of Support Available	Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: SMEs only.</p>
End Date of Project	30 June 2015
More Information	<p>Name: Andrew Pollard Organisation: University of Wolverhampton Telephone: 01902 321763 Email: cic@wlv.ac.uk</p>

Project Name	Investing in the City Region
Delivery Organisation	Marketing Birmingham (lead), Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Airport, Black Country Consortium Association, Centro, Dance X Change, Sandwell Council, Solihull Council, Southside BID, Walsall Council
Description of Project	A project to join up the Birmingham, Black Country and Solihull City Region activity to increase investment, business events and visitor expenditure. The project includes the provision of business support to 500 SMEs.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: Birmingham, Solihull, South Black Country and North Black Country only
	Other: SMEs only operating in the Priority 3 areas of Birmingham, Black Country and Solihull. Retail and construction businesses are exempt from applying.
End Date of Project	September 2014
More Information	Name: Ivor Marsh Organisation: Marketing Birmingham Telephone: 0121 202 5155 Email: ivor.marsh@marketingbirmingham.com Website: www.businessbirmingham.com/services/erdf-opportunities

Project Name	Journey for Success: Enterprise
Delivery Organisation	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Description of Project	The project provides potential entrepreneurs with advice and support to help them set up a business through both one to session and workshops on key business issues including finance and marketing. It also offers the same support to young businesses in the area during their first 12 months of trading.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: Solihull only
End Date of Project	September 2014
More Information	Name: Enterprise for Success Team Organisation: Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Telephone: 0121 704 6363 Email: enterprise@solihull.gov.uk Website: www.solihullforsuccess.com/business/setting-up-a-business/enterprise-for-success

Project Name	Let's Do—Boosting Business Performance
Delivery Organisation	North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Description of Project	This project offers businesses support through mentoring, targeted workshops and events and an annual business-to-business exhibition, the largest in Staffordshire.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: North Staffordshire and Staffordshire only
	Other: SMEs only and no retail.
End Date of Project	31 May 2013
More Information	Name: Adele Cope Organisation: North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce & Industry Telephone: 01782 213929 Email: adelec@nscci.co.uk Website: www.nscciprojectteam.co.uk

Project Name	Make It—Your Business
Delivery Organisation	Stoke-on-Trent City Council (lead), North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce
Description of Project	<p>The project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver an inclusive Supply Chain Readiness Network, covering Contract Letting, dissemination of information on Policy and Initiatives with signposting to contracts relating to those initiatives. • Support Businesses to engage and improve in the key sectors of Construction, Ceramics, Creative and Health & Med Tech. • Provide a web based solution for supply chain activity • Provide network support through a series of face to face events which have proven to be the most effective channel for building supply chain relationships and linking business support opportunities to key sector initiatives. • Utilise network data and networking events to identify key organisations with specific support and development requirements. • Link directly to the NSCCI Mentor Programme as an identifiable business support solution.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: North Staffordshire and Staffordshire only.
	Other: SMEs only working in the sectors of Construction, Creative, Ceramics, Health and Medical Technologies.
End Date of Project	31 March 2015
More Information	<p>Name: Steve Lovatt Organisation: Stoke-on-Trent City Council Telephone: 01782 236632 Email: miyourbusiness@stoke.gov.uk</p>

Project Name	Marches Business Support Project
Delivery Organisation	Telford and Wrekin Council (lead), Shropshire Council, Herefordshire Council
Description of Project	The project will provide business advice, training and mentoring to new and existing businesses and social enterprises across the Marches LEP area including those businesses identified as being in high growth sectors. The project will also engage with those who are unemployed to offer the skills to start up a new business as an alternative route to employment. The support has been broken down into three specific schemes that will each target different beneficiary groups.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin Other: Eligibility is for individuals starting up business in the Marches regional areas or for existing businesses who are SMEs either moving to the Marches or in the Marches area already.
End Date of Project	31 December 2015
More Information	Name: Joy McGeown Organisation: Telford and Wrekin Council Telephone: 01952 383 784 Email: joy.mcgeown@telford.gov.uk Website: www.telford.gov.uk

Project Name	Mercia Fund 1
Delivery Organisation	Mercia Fund Management
Description of Project	Mercia Fund 1 specifically supports University spin outs in the West Midlands via equity investments of up to £0.5m (typically £0.25m) from any one of the 8 universities: University of Warwick, University of Birmingham, Keele University, Coventry University, University of Wolverhampton, Birmingham City University, Aston University and Staffordshire University.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: Mercia Fund 1 'exclusively' supports University spin outs in the West Midlands via equity investments. Universities covered are limited to: University of Warwick, University of Birmingham, Keele University, Coventry University, University of Wolverhampton, Birmingham City University, Aston University and Staffordshire University.
End Date of Project	Evergreen Fund (ERDF support ends December 2015)
More Information	Name: Mary Payton Organisation: Mercia Fund Management Telephone: 0121 250 3815 Email: markp@merciafund.co.uk Website: www.merciafund.co.uk

This project also provides equity or loan fund support.

Project Name	Metrology for Industry West Midlands
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University Enterprises Ltd
Description of Project	Metrology for Industry West Midlands offers specialist expertise to companies looking to reduce their production costs and improve their product quality.
Category of Support Available	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
	Other: SMEs only.
End Date of Project	30 April 2015
More Information	Name: Pete Stojic Organisation: Coventry University Enterprises Ltd Telephone: 02476 887 688 Email: pstojic@cad.coventry.ac.uk

Project Name	New Technologies and Applications for Identification, Location and Sensing (NTAILS)
Delivery Organisation	University of Wolverhampton, IT Futures
Description of Project	<p>The project's main objective is to facilitate collaboration between the University and West Midlands businesses such as tourism and manufacturing looking to adopt new technologies. This can include free business assistance in the adoption of these technologies, equipment loan, graduate placements, free to attend seminars and inclusion on an ICT network and suppliers database. The NTAILS Demonstrator Centre showcases technologies such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), • Automatic Identification and Data Capture (AIDC), • Barcodes and Quick Response (QR) Codes, Sensors and Global Positioning System (GPS). <p>Visitors to the Centre will have the opportunity to use the technology and be guided on its application to their business.</p>
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: SMEs only, although there is an opportunity to work with a limited number of larger companies.
End Date of Project	31 December 2013
More Information	Name: Richard Przeplata Organisation: University of Wolverhampton Telephone: 01902 518506 Email: Richard.przeplata@wlv.ac.uk Website: www.it-futures.com

Project Name	North Arran Way—Access Co-ordination & Enterprise
Delivery Organisation	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Description of Project	<p>The project is being delivered in three sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access - Integrated access and public realm scheme within North Arran Way Village Centre and the surrounding neighbourhood. • Co-ordination – Create a local stakeholders forum to work collaboratively to deliver more co-ordinated services and linking economic benefits to physical, community and environmental interventions in order to maximise opportunities for the local community. • Enterprise - Development and 'fitting out' of business support and incubation space with intensive business planning support for third sector organisations, helping to improve sustainability and creating an environment to encourage more community management in the extended Package Plan area.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: Solihull only include the following wards: Bickenhill, Castle Bromwich, Chelmsley Wood, Elmdon, Kingshurst & Fordbridge, Lyndon, Olton, Shirley East, Shirley South, Shirley West, Silhill and Smith's Wood.
End Date of Project	June 2015
More Information	<p>Name: Rachel Westwood Organisation: Solihull MBC Telephone: 0121 704 6047 Email: rwestwood@solihull.gov.uk Website: www.solihullforsuccess.com/business/business-support/</p>

Project Name	North Staffordshire Employment and Skills Service
Delivery Organisation	Stoke-on-Trent City Council, JET Service
Description of Project	<p>Through this project Jet Business provides a free professional and comprehensive recruitment service which understands your business needs, market position, values and future objectives.</p> <p>The company work throughout the local area to provide unemployed people with the confidence and skills they need to get back to work. All of the training provided is work related, nationally recognised, up-to-date and relevant to today's workplace. All candidates are fully trained and the company provide free skills training to businesses and organisations throughout North Staffordshire.</p>
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: North Staffordshire only
End Date of Project	June 2013
More Information	<p>Name: Lindsay Mitchell (Employment Broker)</p> <p>Organisation: Stoke-on-Trent City Council</p> <p>Telephone: 01782 231215</p> <p>Email: Lindsay.mitchell@stoke.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.jet2work.org.uk</p>

Project Name	North Staffordshire Inward Investment
Delivery Organisation	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Description of Project	<p>A new dedicated inward investment service to cover Stoke-on-Trent and the North Staffordshire area. The Make It Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Inward Investment Service can help specifically with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information for businesses to choose the optimum location • Identification of suitable sites and premises • Help with logistics such as site visits and area tours • Advice on available funding and incentives • Support in relation to skills, training, salaries and recruitment costs • Assistance with industry and market research
Category of Support Available	<p>Business Start Up</p> <p>Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: North Staffordshire only</p> <p>Other: Retail businesses are not eligible.</p>
End Date of Project	June 2015
More Information	<p>Name: John Willis</p> <p>Organisation: Stoke-on-Trent City Council</p> <p>Telephone: 0300 111 8005</p> <p>Email: john.willis@stoke.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.makeitstokestaffs.co.uk</p>

Project Name	Promoting Biomarker Development in West Midlands SMEs
Delivery Organisation	Aston University
Description of Project	<p>The project aims to assist West Midland SMEs to develop sophisticated and innovative biomarker technologies for their given field (for example identification of disease onset/progression or detection of contaminants such as bacteria and viruses).</p> <p>The use of biomarkers will allow for quicker analysis with increased sensitivity whilst reducing overall costs, thereby increasing SME competitiveness.</p>
Category of Support Available	Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: SMEs only. State Aid received by companies during the last 36 months must not exceed €200,000</p>
End Date of Project	30 April 2015
More Information	<p>Name: Dr Rachel Willetts</p> <p>Organisation: Aston University</p> <p>Telephone: 0121 204 5163</p> <p>Email: r.willetts@aston.ac.uk</p>

Project Name	Science City Energy Efficiency
Delivery Organisation	University of Warwick (lead), University of Birmingham
Description of Project	<p>The project is focused on developing technologies for low carbon buildings and vehicles. It has research facilities and expertise in areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar/thermal technologies, • Power electronics, smart grids and control • New fuels and engine testing facilities (road and rail) including electric, hybrid, diesel and bio-fuels <p>The project works with businesses who are interested developing their energy technologies or testing and analysing products and equipment.</p>
Category of Support Available	Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
End Date of Project	December 2019
More Information	<p>Name: Andrew Todd Organisation: University of Warwick Telephone: 0247 657 5483 Email: Andrew.todd@warwick.ac.uk Website: www.birminghamsciencecity.co.uk/research-alliance</p>

Project Name	Smarter Working West Midlands
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University Enterprises Ltd
Description of Project	The Project will be working with businesses in the West Midlands to increase productivity, increase turnover, reduce carbon emissions and support job creation by accelerating the adoption of more sustainable working practices (Smarter Working).
Category of Support Available	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
End Date of Project	31 October 2014
More Information	Name: Corinne Edwards Organisation: Coventry University Enterprises Ltd Telephone: 0797 498 4350 Email: c.edwards@coventry.ac.uk

Project Name	SPEED Plus
Delivery Organisation	University of Wolverhampton (lead), Keel University, Staffordshire University, Birmingham City University, Coventry University
Description of Project	This project provides business start-up assistance for students and graduates and associates of the partner institutions.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
	Other: Beneficiaries will generally already be linked to the partner universities.
End Date of Project	July 2015
More Information	Name: Steve Moore Organisation: University of Wolverhampton Telephone: 01902 518960 Email: speed@wlv.ac.uk

Project Name	Staffordshire Business Incubation Support
Delivery Organisation	Staffordshire and Black Country Business Innovation Centre Limited
Description of Project	<p>Provision of intensive advice and assistance to businesses with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with finance, marketing, communications, electro/mechanical, innovation, medical technology and creative industries areas. • Grant/funding for specialist advice/assistance • Workshops and Seminars, focusing on New product development; marketing; leadership; protecting your innovation; funding; • Accommodation (fully furnished with ICT) on flexible weekly terms
Category of Support Available	<p>Business Start Up Expanding Your Business Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Developing a New Product or Service Securing Finance</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: North Staffordshire and Staffordshire only</p> <p>Other: SMEs only in the following sectors: ICT, Creative, High Value Added, Medical Tech, Business & Professional Services and Building Technologies.</p>
End Date of Project	31 March 2013
More Information	<p>Name: Jackie Millward / Sandra Butterworth Organisation: Staffordshire and Black Country Business Innovation Centre Limited Telephone: 01782 333798 Email: Jackie.millward@thebic.co.uk Website: www.thebic.co.uk</p>

This project also provides grant support.

Project Name	Staffordshire Visitor Economy Development
Delivery Organisation	Staffordshire Destination Management Partnership
Description of Project	<p>Through this project small and medium sized enterprises in Stoke and Staffordshire can receive the following support:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusion in marketing campaigns 2. Business advice tailored to the leisure tourism sector 3. Advice tailored to the business tourism sector 4. Support for product awareness and visitor support
Category of Support Available	<p>Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Developing a New Product or Service</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: North Staffordshire and Staffordshire only</p> <p>Other: SME's only.</p>
End Date of Project	March 2015
More Information	<p>Name: Graeme Whitehead Organisation: Staffordshire County Council Telephone: 01785 277335 Email: Graeme.whitehead@staffordshire.gov.uk Website: www.enjoystaffordshire.com</p>

Project Name	Supporting Employment and Enterprise Development (SEED)
Delivery Organisation	Access to Business Wolverhampton (lead), SWEDA West Bromwich
Description of Project	This project provides support into self employment for disadvantaged groups offering access to business advice, enterprise workshops, networking, enterprise awareness events and ongoing business support.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: South Black Country and North Black Country only Other: To gain support from this project you must be unemployed, a Black Country resident and fall under one of the categories: disability/ women/BME
End Date of Project	January 2014
More Information	Name: Susan Hughes Organisation: Access 2 Business Telephone: 01902 572397 Email: susan@access2business.co.uk Website: www.access2business.co.uk

Project Name	Sustainable Building Futures
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University
Description of Project	The project allows West Midlands SMEs to engage in the collaborative development, testing, assessment, and implementation of innovative environmental technology products and services for use in sustainable construction. The project is fully funded by Coventry University and ERDF and offers an exceptional opportunity for eligible businesses to benefit from knowledge transfer in this sector.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Developing on New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
	Other: SMEs only
End Date of Project	30 June 2015
More Information	Name: Andrew Tonks Organisation: Coventry University Telephone: 0797 498 4683 Email: ATonks@cad.coventry.ac.uk Website: www.coventry.ac.uk/sbf

Project Name	Technology and Innovation Futures West Midlands
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University Enterprises Ltd in partnership with the Manufacturing Technology Centre
Description of Project	The Technology and Innovation Futures in partnership with Manufacturing Technology Centre will support West Midlands SMEs, linking foresight and strategic planning directly to technology identification development, adoption and commercialisation. As a result the project will drive the uptake of baseline technologies and subsequent adoption of new-to-market and future and emerging technologies (outlined through the UK foresight programme) that will see prominence and be mainstreamed in the 2020's .
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
End Date of Project	31 May 2015
More Information	Name: Corinne Edwards Organisation: Coventry University Enterprises Ltd Telephone: 0797 498 4350 Email: c.edwards@coventry.ac.uk

Project Name	The Black Country “An Entrepreneurial Spirit”
Delivery Organisation	Black Country Chamber of Commerce
Description of Project	The project offers pre start and post start advice, information and workshops to any individual considering or having started a young business of up to 12 months of age.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: South Black Country and North Black Country Other: SMEs only.
End Date of Project	September 2014
More Information	Organisation: Black Country Chamber of Commerce Telephone: 01922 728292 Email: info@blackcountrychamber.co.uk Website: www.blackcountrychamberofcommerce.co.uk

Project Name	The Early Advantage Fund
Delivery Organisation	Midven Limited
Description of Project	The Fund makes predominantly equity investments alongside private individuals and/or institutions into early stage businesses in most sectors.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: SMEs only. There are some sectoral restrictions and the Fund cannot invest in a “company in difficulty” as defined in European Commission guidance.
End Date of Project	31 December 2015
More Information	Name: Duncan Kerr Organisation: Midven Telephone: 0121 710 1990 Email: enquiries@midven.com Website: www.midven.co.uk

This project also provides equity or loan fund support.

Project Name	The Exceed Fund
Delivery Organisation	Midven Limited
Description of Project	<p>The project provides risk capital and advice to businesses in the West Midlands. The fund can make an initial investment of up to £500,000.</p> <p>Our focus is on dynamic businesses with the potential to create a strong competitive position in a large growing market, helping them to achieve their goals and build profitable businesses with attractive exit options. We actively support the businesses we invest in, building close relationships and providing advice, guidance and opportunities.</p>
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: SMEs only however companies can vary in size from complete start-ups to those employing up to 250 people.</p>
End Date of Project	31 December 2015
More Information	Name: Surjit Kooner Organisation: Midven Limited Telephone: 0121 710 1990 Email: enquiries@midven.com Website: www.midven.co.uk

This project also provides equity or loan fund support.

Project Name	The International Institute for Product and Service Innovation
Delivery Organisation	Warwick Manufacturing Group at the University of Warwick
Description of Project	<p>The International Institute for Product and Service Innovation is a centre of expertise with a business support programme for SMEs in the West Midlands to get access to new technology and ideas to develop new products and services. Services offered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customised Company Projects • Workshops • Product Innovation Clinics • Technology Demonstrations • Access to Student and Graduate Projects • Research and Development Collaboration • Assistance in Developing Funding Bids and Grant Applications
Category of Support Available	<p>Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: SMEs only. The project is particularly interested in working with high growth potential technology enabled businesses.</p>
End Date of Project	June 2015
More Information	<p>Name: Eleanor Precious Organisation: University of Warwick Telephone: 0247 657 5594 Email: e.r.precious@warwick.ac.uk Website: www.warwick.ac.uk/iipsi</p>

Project Name	Ultra Efficient Lighting Product Development Centre (UELPDC)
Delivery Organisation	Birmingham Science Park Aston
Description of Project	The Ultra Efficient Lighting Product Development Centre is a programme that is providing selected West Midlands SMEs with advice and guidance for Ultra Efficient Lighting, Product Development and adoption. We are brokering, through the supply chain, the Implementation of 20 novel technologies into innovative products and processes before the end of March 2014
Category of Support Available	Developing a New Product or Service
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: Businesses must comply with EU State Aid, be within the West Midlands and a supplier to or a customer of the lighting industry.
End Date of Project	March 2014
More Information	Name: Paul Williams Organisation: LUX-TSI Telephone: 0121 260 6150 Email: pwilliams@lux-tsi.com Website: www.optical-pc.co.uk/programmes

Project Name	West Midlands Industrial Symbiosis NET (WM_ISNET)
Delivery Organisation	International Synergies Ltd
Description of Project	<p>The core objective of this project is to impart regional resource knowledge, specific innovative concepts, and practical techniques to businesses across the West Midlands, thereby extending industrial symbiosis thinking and embedding the approach within a greatly expanded range of industries, sectors and clusters within the region.</p> <p>The support provided by this project should increase the capacity of companies and their workforces to take advantage of the business opportunities identified by Industrial Symbiosis, enabling them to improve business performance through identification of opportunities for collaborative networking, sharing of under-utilised resources and access to technical information and support.</p> <p>The project will also enable participants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the capability of their workforce and build a strong skills and knowledge base • Understand and manage their resources in all its forms and implement strategies to become more efficient and competitive • Identify and overcome technological barriers to resource efficiency • Identify new market opportunity within the West Midlands region • Overcome regulatory barriers by greater engagement of the Environmental Agency to influence and change the regulatory approach.
Category of Support Available	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
End Date of Project	31 March 2013
More Information	<p>Name: Dr Adrian Murphy Organisation: International Synergies Ltd Telephone: 0121 433 2680 Email: Adrian.murphy@international-synergies.com Website: www.international-synergies.com</p>

Project Name	West Midlands SME Internationalisation Project
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University Enterprises Ltd (lead), West Midlands Chamber of Commerce LLP, UK Trade and Investment.
Description of Project	The project offers direct support to eligible West Midlands SMEs to assist them in developing their international business aspirations and potential. The support covers both direct grant assistance and also advice and information on overseas priority opportunity markets and international innovation considerations.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
	Other: SMEs only
End Date of Project	March 2015
More Information	Name: Julie Coles Organisation: Coventry University Enterprises Ltd Telephone: 0247 623 6406 Email: wmint@cad.coventry.ac.uk Website: www.chamberinternationaltrade.co.uk Website: www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk

This project also provides grant support.

Project Name	Worcestershire Resource and Efficiency Programme
Delivery Organisation	Worcestershire County Council (lead), Hereford & Worcester Chamber of Commerce
Description of Project	The project provides advice and grant support to SMEs to enable them to improve energy and water efficiency, reduce waste and increase profitability. Support available includes grants for installation of equipment, behaviour change programmes and research into process analysis, improved packaging and ecodesign.
Category of Support Available	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: Worcestershire only Other: SMEs only employing fewer than 250 staff and with turnover of less than 50 million Euros per annum. To receive support businesses need to be working in the eligible sectors of manufacturing and construction. This project cannot support businesses within retail or primary agriculture sectors.
End Date of Project	March 2015
More Information	Name: Chris Atkinson Organisation: Worcestershire County Council Telephone: 01905 822816 Email: sustainability@worcestershire.gov.uk Website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/business

This project also provides grant support.

Grants

Project Name	Black Country Business Property Investment Programme
Delivery Organisation	Walsall Council (lead), Dudley Council, Sandwell MBC, Wolverhampton City Council
Description of Project	Grant funding is available to assist SMEs by improving the stock of business premises. A maximum of 35% funding is available to assist companies with filling viability gaps which are hampering development. The main aim of the Programme is to increase BREEAM accredited new or refurbished floorspace which will assist with creating new jobs and prompting growth in the economy.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: South Black Country and North Black Country only
End Date of Project	1 December 2014
More Information	Name: Kauser Agha Organisation: Walsall Council Telephone: 01922 654756 Email: aghak@walsall.gov.uk

Project Name	Burslem Building Improvement Scheme
Delivery Organisation	Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Description of Project	The Burslem Building Improvement Scheme aims to restore the integrity of the historically important street scene within Burslem Town Centre area and to act as an economic driver for the Town by restoring the urban fabric, bringing buildings back into economic use and acting as an enabler by attracting/creating new business and employment.
Category of Support Available	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: North Staffordshire only
End Date of Project	30 June 2015
More Information	Name: Julian Read Organisation: Stoke-on-Trent City Council Telephone: 01782 232305 Email: julian.read@stoke.gov.uk

Project Name	Coventry and Warwickshire Enterprise and Business Growth Package: Accelerated Growth Business Support
Delivery Organisation	Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce
Description of Project	<p>This project offers face to face support for SMEs with the potential to achieve 'accelerated business growth'. Accelerated business growth is defined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New businesses with the potential to achieve £350k turnover or employ four or more staff in their first three years of trading. • Existing businesses with 1 – 9 employees with the potential to increase turnover by £350k over three years. • Existing businesses with 10 or more employees with the potential to increase annual turnover or employment by 5-10% over three years. <p>Grant support may be available to businesses actively working with the package to grow, diversify, modernise and create new jobs in Coventry & Warwickshire.</p>
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: Coventry and Warwickshire only</p> <p>Other: SMEs only operating in the following sectors: Transport Technologies, Building Technologies, Food & Drink, Tourism & Leisure, High Value Added Consumer, Specialist Business and Professional Services, Information & Communication Technologies, Environmental Technologies, Screen and New Media for Education and Entertainment , Medical Technologies.</p>
End Date of Project	December 2014
More Information	Name: Howard Andersen Organisation: Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber of Commerce Telephone: 0247 665 4203 Email: howarda@cw-chamber.co.uk Website: www.cw-chamber.co.uk

This project also provides expertise and advice support.

Project Name	Creative Industries Programme –Cre8
Delivery Organisation	Stoke-on-Trent City Council (lead), Staffordshire University, Keele University and Burslem School of Art
Description of Project	<p>Cre8 is a business development support initiative that will provide expertise and advice across three cross cutting areas including new markets, new products and new models of business targeted at SME companies within the creative sector.</p> <p>This project will provide a suite of direct business support initiatives including one to one advice and guidance programmes, creative surgeries, business diagnostic consultancy, workshops and various seminars aimed at improving business for all SME creative companies.</p> <p>In addition to the core business development programme the Cre8 project will deliver a national conference, a series of networking events & opportunities and provide access to a small business grants fund to support the purchasing of new equipment.</p>
Category of Support Available	<p>Business Start Up</p> <p>Expanding Your Market</p> <p>Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems:</p> <p>Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises</p> <p>Securing Finance</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: North Staffordshire and Staffordshire</p> <p>Other: SMEs only working within the Creative Industries sectors across Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire.</p>
End Date of Project	June 2015
More Information	<p>Name: Marc Wootton</p> <p>Organisation: Stoke-on-Trent City Council</p> <p>Telephone: 01782 234193</p> <p>Email: cre8@stoke.gov.uk</p>

This project also provides expertise and advice support.

Project Name	Dudley Townscape Heritage Initiative
Delivery Organisation	Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Description of Project	This project provides grant towards improvements to historical shop fronts and/or refurbishment of heritage buildings.
Category of Support Available	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: South Black Country only
End Date of Project	July 2015
More Information	Name: Emma Pardoe Organisation: Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council Telephone: 0796 412 9874 Email: Emma.Pardoe@dudley.gov.uk

Project Name	East and North Birmingham Industrial Corridors
Delivery Organisation	Birmingham City Council
Description of Project	<p>The East and North Birmingham Industrial Corridors area focuses on the core employment activities located around the A41, A34, A45, A38 and A47. These are important arterial routes into and out of the city, where a variety of businesses and industries have located over the years. The programme supports SMEs and organisations within the Corridor areas who wish to improve and develop their land and property. There are two levels of funding available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Assistance: Grants will be payable as a contribution of up to 50% of eligible property development costs, up to a maximum of £100,000. Applications on a first come first served basis. • Key Opportunities: Grants can be awarded at contribution rate of up to 35% of the eligible project development costs from a minimum grant value of £100,000.
Category of Support Available	<p>Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Securing Finance</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: Birmingham only</p> <p>Other: SMEs only or organisations equivalent in size and governance as per the EU SME definition. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must be private sector and ERDF eligible businesses • No retail or other marketable business-to-public activity • Specific outputs on improved business floor space, jobs created / safeguarded • Support subject to planning permission and match funding in place
End Date of Project	<p>June 2015 (grant funded projects) Programme likely to close to new applicants by June 2014.</p>
More Information	<p>Name: Planning and Regeneration Team Organisation: Birmingham City Council Telephone: 0121 303 1115 Email: planningandregenerationenquiries@birmingham.gov.uk Website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/erdf</p>

Project Name	Eco Business
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University Enterprises Ltd
Description of Project	The project will provide support for West Midlands SME's to improve their environmental policies and processes. This will be delivered through a mixture of awareness events, workshops & consultancy. For companies who wish to invest in environmental improvements as a result of the advice, a grant of £2400 is available to offset some of their capital costs. A smaller number of companies will be selected to receive additional support in return for examples of best practice.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
	Other: SME's only.
End Date of Project	31 November 2015
More Information	Name: Corinne Edwards Organisation: Coventry University Enterprises Ltd Telephone: 02476 158 206 Email: Corinne.edwards@coventry.ac.uk

This project also provides expertise and advice support.

Project Name	Electric and Intelligent Vehicles Project
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University Enterprises Ltd
Description of Project	<p>The project offers grant support for West Midlands SMEs looking to access expertise relating to electric and intelligent vehicle technologies.</p> <p>This support aims to help businesses to diversify into new and emerging markets; build their knowledge, expertise and capability; and help to attract major new business to the West Midlands. Grants will cover 40% of the total SME spend which can be between £20,000 - £50,000. The grant can be used towards project related costs such as consultancy, I.P.R, market research or the use of facilities for testing and certification.</p>
Category of Support Available	<p>Business Start Up</p> <p>Expanding Your Market</p> <p>Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises</p> <p>Developing a New Product or Service</p> <p>Securing Finance</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: SMEs only working within the Automotive sector.</p>
End Date of Project	December 2013
More Information	<p>Name: Khezir Akhtar</p> <p>Organisation: Coventry University Enterprises Ltd</p> <p>Telephone: 0247 623 6245</p> <p>Email: kakhtar@cad.coventry.ac.uk</p>

Project Name	Enterprise Catalyst (2) Business Support Initiative
Delivery Organisation	Enterprising Communities at Birmingham City Council (lead), Winning Moves Ltd, Business and Learning Centre, Business Insight, Digbeth Trust
Description of Project	<p>The project seeks to build an entrepreneurial culture amongst disadvantaged communities and support businesses to grow. It will achieve this by engaging with entrepreneurs and fledgling businesses and provide intensive and integrated business support packages, including access to micro-finance, to unemployed clients, individuals interested in starting a business, and existing businesses seeking to expand and diversify.</p> <p>Overall, the project will engage with 2,500 individuals and businesses, assist 476 individuals to start a business in the designated target area of the city, and provide ongoing tailored support to 265 businesses (49 of whom will be social enterprises) to reduce or remove the barriers to business growth, in particular the availability of seed-corn or small-scale finance so that they can achieve growth.</p>
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service Securing Finance Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: Birmingham only within the following wards: Aston, Bordesley Green Hodge Hill, Ladywood, Lozells and East Handsworth, Moseley and Kings Heath, Nechells, Soho, South ardley, Sparkbrook, Springfield, Washwood Heath</p> <p>Other: SMEs and new start ups only; including Social Enterprises.</p>
End Date of Project	20 June 2015
More Information	Name: Aftab Ahmed Organisation: Birmingham City Council Telephone: 0121 675 7584 Email: Aftab.ahmed@birmingham.gov.uk Website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/enterprisingcommunities

This project also provides expertise and advice support.

Project Name	Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Business Development Programme (GBS LEP BDP)
Delivery Organisation	Birmingham City Council (lead), Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, Cannock Chase District Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Lichfield District Council, North Worcestershire (Bromsgrove District Council, Redditch Borough Council and Wyre Forest District Council), Tamworth District Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.
Description of Project	<p>A package of support is on offer through the programme for existing SME businesses that are ready to implement plans to grow, leading to the creation of new jobs and the safeguarding of existing jobs. Support includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial assistance - for existing businesses that meet the criteria of £10k - £15k maximum representing 45% of eligible revenue project costs for business expansion. A coaching and mentoring element. Through this it is anticipated that SME businesses will be able to apply to participate in a programme of intensive tailored support over a 12 month period commencing early in 2013.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: Birmingham, Solihull, Staffordshire and Worcestershire</p> <p>Other: SMEs only have been trading for at least 6 months. In addition 1) be based in or locating to the GBS LEP area and therefore pay business rates to one of the local authorities within the partnership 2) businesses should not have received more than 200,000 euros of State Aid assistance in the last 36 months 3) an administration fee of 1.5% of the project costs will be required on successful applications, deducted from the first payment 4) businesses must have a current business plan.</p>
End Date of Project	30 June 2015
More Information	<p>Businesses interested in the programme should contact their nearest LEP delivery partner; all contact details are on the website.</p> <p>Website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/bdp</p>

Project Name	Innovation Networks Phase 2
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University Enterprises Ltd
Description of Project	Innovation Networks offers capital or revenue grants of £10,000 to West Midlands SMEs that are collaborating on the development of an innovative new product, process or service.
Category of Support Available	Developing a New Product or Service Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
End Date of Project	March 2015
More Information	Name: Gill Roberts Organisation: Coventry University Enterprises Ltd Telephone: 0247 623 6391 Email: groberts@cad.coventry.ac.uk Website: www.innovation-networks.co.uk

Project Name	Investing for Enterprise Space: Digbeth and the Jewellery Quarter
Delivery Organisation	Birmingham City Council
Description of Project	<p>A Grants programme to encourage the improvement and development of key vacant, derelict or underused properties and sites for economic use. Funding is targeted at SME enterprises located in the Digbeth and Jewellery Quarter (inc surrounding area) of Birmingham. There are two levels of funding available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Assistance: Grants will be payable as a contribution of up to 50% of eligible property development costs from a minimum grant value of £20,000 up to a maximum of £100,000 Applications on a first come first served basis. • Key Opportunities: Grants can be awarded at contribution rate of up to 35% of the eligible project development costs from a minimum grant value of £100,000.
Category of Support Available	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: Birmingham only</p> <p>Other: SMEs only or organisations equivalent in size and governance as per the EU SME definition. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must be private sector and ERDF eligible businesses • No retail or other marketable business-to-public activity • Specific outputs on improved business floor space, jobs created / safeguarded • Support subject to planning permission and match funding in place
End Date of Project	<p>June 2015 (grant funded projects)</p> <p>Programme likely to close to new applicants by June 2014.</p>
More Information	<p>Name: Planning and Regeneration Team</p> <p>Organisation: Birmingham City Council</p> <p>Telephone: 0121 303 1115</p> <p>Email: planningandregenerationenquiries@birmingham.gov.uk</p> <p>Website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/erdf</p>

Project Name	Shropshire and Herefordshire Business Enterprise Fund
Delivery Organisation	Shropshire Council (lead), Herefordshire Council
Description of Project	Businesses can obtain grants to start-up businesses of £1,500 more established businesses can obtain grants of up to £5,000 both match funded by the applicant. Projects need to show how the investment will make a step change to the business performance.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: Herefordshire and Shropshire only Other: SMEs only with fewer than 250 employee's based in the two authority area's. Exemptions include Retail, Business to Consumer, Annex 1, Land Based Businesses. Can fund Tourism Businesses if they can demonstrate that they are attracting increased visitors numbers from outside of the area.
End Date of Project	December 2013
More Information	<p>Shropshire: Name: Barbara Rogers Organisation: Shropshire Council Telephone: 01743 252596 Email: business@shropshire.gov.uk Website: www.shropshire.gov.uk/sbef</p> <p>Herefordshire: Name: Lyndsay McCron Organisation: Herefordshire Council Telephone: 01432 383633 Email: imccron@herefordshire.gov.uk Website: www.herefordshire.gov.uk/business</p>

Project Name	Staffordshire Business Incubation Support
Delivery Organisation	Staffordshire and Black Country Business Innovation Centre Limited
Description of Project	<p>Provision of intensive advice and assistance to businesses with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with finance, marketing, communications, electro/mechanical, innovation, medical technology and creative industries areas. • Grant/funding for specialist advice/assistance • Workshops and Seminars, focusing on New product development; marketing; leadership; protecting your innovation; funding; • Accommodation (fully furnished with ICT) on flexible weekly terms
Category of Support Available	<p>Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Developing a New Product or Service Securing Finance</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: North Staffordshire and Staffordshire only</p> <p>Other: SMEs only in the following sectors: ICT, Creative, High Value Added, Medical Tech, Business & Professional Services and Building Technologies.</p>
End Date of Project	31 March 2013
More Information	<p>Name: Jackie Millward / Sandra Butterworth Organisation: Staffordshire and Black Country Business Innovation Centre Limited Telephone: 01782 333798 Email: Jackie.millward@thebic.co.uk Website: www.thebic.co.uk</p>

This project also provides expertise and advice support.

Project Name	Tyseley Property Assistance Programme and Tyseley Key Opportunities Programme
Delivery Organisation	Birmingham City Council
Description of Project	<p>The Tyseley Industrial Area covers over 230 businesses and around 100 hectares of traditional industrial and employment land. As well as being recognised as an important industrial location it has been identified as needing investment in the physical environment - particularly the under utilised sites and premises. These programmes supports SMEs and organisations within the area who wish to improve and develop their land and property. There are two levels of funding available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Assistance: Grants will be payable as a contribution of up to 50% of eligible property development costs, up to a maximum of £100,000. Applications on a first come first served basis. • Key Opportunities: Grants can be awarded at contribution rate of up to 35% of the eligible project development costs from a minimum grant value of £100,000.
Category of Support Available	<p>Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Securing Finance</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: Birmingham only</p> <p>Other: SMEs only or organisations equivalent in size and governance as per the EU SME definition. In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must be private sector and ERDF eligible businesses • No retail or other marketable business-to-public activity • Specific outputs on improved business floor space, jobs created / safeguarded • Support subject to planning permission and match funding in place
End Date of Project	<p>June 2015 (grant funded projects) Programme likely to close to new applicants by June 2014.</p>
More Information	<p>Name: Planning and Regeneration Team Organisation: Birmingham City Council Telephone: 0121 303 1115 Email: planningandregenerationenquiries@birmingham.gov.uk Website: www.birmingham.gov.uk/erdf</p>

Project Name	West Midlands SME Internationalisation Project
Delivery Organisation	Coventry University Enterprises Ltd (lead), West Midlands Chamber of Commerce LLP, UK Trade and Investment.
Description of Project	The project offers direct support to eligible West Midlands SMEs to assist them in developing their international business aspirations and potential. The support covers both direct grant assistance and also advice and information on overseas priority opportunity markets and international innovation considerations.
Category of Support Available	Expanding Your Market Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: SMEs only
End Date of Project	March 2015
More Information	Name: Julie Coles Organisation: Coventry University Enterprises Ltd Telephone: 0247 623 6406 Email: wmint@cad.coventry.ac.uk Website: www.chamberinternationaltrade.co.uk Website: www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk

This project also provides expertise and advice support.

Project Name	Worcestershire Resource and Efficiency Programme
Delivery Organisation	Worcestershire County Council (lead), Hereford & Worcester Chamber of Commerce
Description of Project	The project provides advice and grant support to SMEs to enable them to improve energy and water efficiency, reduce waste and increase profitability. Support available includes grants for installation of equipment, behaviour change programmes and research into process analysis, improved packaging and ecodesign.
Category of Support Available	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems: Technology, Technical, Resources, Premises Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: Worcestershire only Other: SMEs only employing fewer than 250 staff and with turnover of less than 50 million Euros per annum. To receive support businesses need to be working in the eligible sectors of manufacturing and construction. This project cannot support businesses within retail or primary agriculture sectors.
End Date of Project	March 2015
More Information	Name: Chris Atkinson Organisation: Worcestershire County Council Telephone: 01905 822816 Email: sustainability@worcestershire.gov.uk Website: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/business

This project also provides expertise and advice support.

Equity or Loan Fund

Project Name	Advantage Media Production Fund
Delivery Organisation	Creative England
Description of Project	<p>The Advantage Media Production Fund was set up in 2007 to support the development of the West Midlands as an economic hub for filmmaking in the UK and to provide access to finance for SMEs active in this sector.</p> <p>The fund exists to provide production finance to film production companies based in the West Midlands. Supported projects can be of any genre including documentaries, but must be feature length and intended for theatrical release.</p>
Category of Support Available	<p>Developing a New Product or Service</p> <p>Securing Finance</p>
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: All of the West Midlands</p> <p>Other: This is a sector specific project designed specifically to benefit feature film production companies based in the West Midlands</p>
End Date of Project	December 2013
More Information	<p>Name: Creative England Talent Team</p> <p>Organisation: Creative England</p> <p>Telephone: 0844 824 6042</p> <p>Email: talent@creativeengland.co.uk</p> <p>Website: www.creativeengland.co.uk</p>

This project also provides expertise and advice support.

Project Name	Enterprise 1830
Delivery Organisation	The Prince's Trust
Description of Project	Enterprise 1830 gives young people, aged 18 to 30 pre-start support, start-up support and post-start mentoring. Clients may apply for start-up finance, subject to eligibility.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands
	Other: This project is designed to help young people aged 18 to 30 and are unemployed at the time of application.
End Date of Project	March 2015
More Information	Name: Gareth Smith Organisation: The Prince's Trust Telephone: 0121 772 9230 Email: gareth.smith@princes-trust.org.uk Website: www.princes-trust.org.uk

This project also provides expertise and advice support.

Project Name	Mercia Fund 1
Delivery Organisation	Mercia Fund Management
Description of Project	Mercia Fund 1 specifically supports University spin outs in the West Midlands via equity investments of up to £0.5m (typically £0.25m) from any one of the 8 universities: University of Warwick, University of Birmingham, Keele University, Coventry University, University of Wolverhampton, Birmingham City University, Aston University and Staffordshire University.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: Mercia Fund 1 'exclusively' supports University spin outs in the West Midlands via equity investments. Universities covered are limited to: University of Warwick, University of Birmingham, Keele University, Coventry University, University of Wolverhampton, Birmingham City University, Aston University and Staffordshire University.
End Date of Project	Evergreen Fund (ERDF support ends December 2015)
More Information	Name: Mary Payton Organisation: Mercia Fund Management Telephone: 0121 250 3815 Email: markp@merciafund.co.uk Website: www.merciafund.co.uk

This project also provides expertise and advice support.

Project Name	Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Business Loan Fund
Delivery Organisation	Staffordshire County Council (lead), Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Description of Project	<p>The project will provide loan finance from £10,000 to £50,000 to viable small businesses in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent that have been unable to secure finance from mainstream sources.</p> <p>Please note: The loan fund will launch in April 2013. A loan provider will be appointed early in 2013 and businesses should approach the loan provider directly once the appointment has been announced.</p>
Category of Support Available	Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	<p>Coverage: North Staffordshire and Staffordshire only</p> <p>Other: SMEs only, and in addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start-up businesses will be eligible to apply. • Businesses must be viable • Loans of £10,000 to £50,000 may be applied for – a single business may not receive more than £50,000 throughout the lifetime of this project. • Loan terms will be for no more than five years and must be used for expansion or development of the business (to increase the productivity of each business) • Businesses from a small number of sectors will not be eligible for loan funding from this project. Please contact for details.
End Date of Project	The loan fund will be invested on demand. The latest date for loans to be agreed and drawn down is 30 June 2015.
More Information	<p>From April 2013, businesses should contact the loan provider directly. In the meantime, please contact:</p> <p>Name: James Hinton Organisation: Staffordshire County Council Telephone: 01785 277232 Email: james.hinton@staffordshire.gov.uk</p>

Project Name	The Early Advantage Fund
Delivery Organisation	Midven Limited
Description of Project	The Fund makes predominantly equity investments alongside private individuals and/or institutions into early stage businesses in most sectors.
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Developing a New Product or Service Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: SMEs only (broadly less than 250 employees). There are some sectoral restrictions. The Fund cannot invest in a “company in difficulty” as defined in EU guidance.
End Date of Project	31 December 2015
More Information	Name: Duncan Kerr Organisation: Midven Limited Telephone: 0121 710 1990 Email: enquiries@midven.com Website: www.midven.co.uk

This project also provides expertise and advice support.

Project Name	The Exceed Fund
Delivery Organisation	Midven Limited
Description of Project	<p>We provide risk capital and advice to businesses in the West Midlands region. The fund can make an initial investment of up to £500,000.</p> <p>Our focus is on dynamic businesses with the potential to create a strong competitive position in a large growing market, helping them to achieve their goals and build profitable businesses with attractive exit options. We actively support the businesses we invest in, building close relationships and providing advice, guidance and opportunities.</p>
Category of Support Available	Business Start Up Expanding Your Market Securing Finance
Eligibility Criteria	Coverage: All of the West Midlands Other: Companies that we assist can vary in size from complete start-ups to those employing up to 250 people.
End Date of Project	31 December 2015
More Information	Name: Surjit Kooner Organisation: Midven Limited Telephone: 0121 710 1990 Email: enquiries@midven.com Website: www.midven.co.uk

This project also provides expertise and advice support.

Quick Reference Guide

	Category of Business Support Available					Type of Support		
	Developing a New Product or Service	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems	Expanding Your Market	Business Start Up	Securing Finance	Expertise and Advice	Grant	Equity or Loan Fund
Name of Project:								
Accelerating Innovation in Mass Market Housing and Green Homes (AIM HIGH)	X	X	X			X		
Advanced Materials Programme	X	X	X			X		
Advantage Media Production Fund	X				X	X		X
Assistive Technologies and Community Healthcare Project	X					X		
Black Country Business Property Investment Programme		X	X		X		X	
Built Environment Climate Change Innovations (BECCI)	X					X		
Burslem Building Improvement Scheme		X			X		X	
CASIM ² : Centre for Advanced Simulation and Modelling for Manufacturing	X	X	X			X		
Centre of Refurbishment Excellence	X	X	X			X		
Classic Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KEEN)	X	X	X			X		
Competitiveness Through Collaboration	X	X	X			X		
Coventry and Warwickshire Enterprise and Business Growth Package: Enabling Innovation and Growth	X		X			X		
Coventry and Warwickshire Enterprise and Business Growth Package: Resource Efficiency Business Support		X	X			X		

Name of Project:	Category of Business Support Available					Type of Support		
	Developing a New Product or Service	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems	Expanding Your Market	Business Start Up	Securing Finance	Expertise and Advice	Grant	Equity or Loan Fund
Coventry and Warwickshire Enterprise and Business Growth Package: Accelerated Growth Business Support	X		X		X	X	X	
Coventry and Warwickshire Enterprise and Business Growth Package: Start Up Support				X		X		
Creative Enterprise	X		X	X		X		
Creative Industries Programme—Cre8		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Design Space	X	X	X	X		X		
Digital Heritage Demonstrator Project	X	X	X			X		
Dudley Townscape Heritage Initiative		X			X		X	
East and North Birmingham Industrial Corridors		X			X		X	
Eco Business		X	X		X	X	X	
Electric and Intelligent Vehicles Project	X	X	X	X	X		X	
Enterprise 1830				X	X	X		X
Enterprise Catalyst (2) Business Support Initiative	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Enterprise Coaches				X		X		
Entrepreneurs for the Future (e4f)	X	X	X	X		X		
European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI)	X					X		
Exploiting Servitisation in West Midlands SMEs	X		X			X		
Fibre Optics and Laser Sensing Technologies Phase 2	X					X		

	Category of Business Support Available					Type of Support		
	Developing a New Product or Service	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems	Expanding Your Market	Business Start Up	Securing Finance	Expertise and Advice	Grant	Equity or Loan Fund
Name of Project:								
Generating Employment Opportunities		X				X		
Graduate Placement Service		X	X			X		
Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Business Development Programme			X		X		X	
Growing the Social Enterprise Sector in the West Midlands Phase 2	X		X	X		X		
HEART of ENGLAND fine foods—Improving and Growing Food and Drink Businesses within the Supply Chain	X		X	X		X		
Human Interface Technologies Applied Research Centre	X					X		
Innovation 1st	X	X	X	X		X		
Innovation Networks Phase 2	X				X		X	
Innovation University Enterprise Network	X		X			X		
Innovative Product Support Services (IPSS)	X					X		
Investing for Enterprise Space: Digbeth and the Jewellery Quarter		X			X		X	
Investing in the City Region		X	X			X		
Journey for Success: Enterprise			X	X		X		
Let's Do—Boosting Business Performance			X			X		
Make It—Your Business			X			X		
Marches Business Support Project			X	X		X		
Mercia Fund 1	X		X	X	X	X		X

Name of Project:	Category of Business Support Available					Type of Support		
	Developing a New Product or Service	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems	Expanding Your Market	Business Start Up	Securing Finance	Expertise and Advice	Grant	Equity or Loan Fund
Metrology for Industry West Midlands		X				X		
New Technologies and Applications for Identification, Location and Sensing (NTAILS)	X	X	X	X		X		
North Arran Way—Access Co-ordination & Enterprise			X			X		
North Staffordshire Employment and Skills Service			X			X		
North Staffordshire Inward Investment		X		X		X		
Promoting Biomarker Development in West Midlands SMEs	X					X		
Science City Energy Efficiency	X					X		
Shropshire and Herefordshire Business Enterprise Fund				X	X		X	
Smarter Working West Midlands		X				X		
SPEED Plus				X		X		
Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Business Loan Fund					X			X
Staffordshire Business Incubation Support	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Staffordshire Visitor Economy Development	X	X	X	X		X		
Supporting Employment and Enterprise Development (SEED)			X	X		X		
Sustainable Building Futures	X	X	X	X		X		
Technology and Innovation Futures West Midlands	X	X	X			X		

Name of Project:	Category of Business Support Available					Type of Support		
	Developing a New Product or Service	Making Performance Improvements and Solving Problems	Expanding Your Market	Business Start Up	Securing Finance	Expertise and Advice	Grant	Equity or Loan Fund
The Black County "An Entrepreneurial Spirit"			X	X		X		
The Early Advantage Fund	X		X	X	X	X		X
The Exceed Fund			X	X	X	X		X
The International Institute for Product and Service Innovation	X	X	X			X		
Tyseley Property Assistance Programme and Tyseley Key Opportunities Programme		X			X		X	
Ultra Efficient Lighting Product Development Centre (UELPDC)	X					X		
West Midlands Industrial Symbiosis		X				X		
West Midlands SME Internationalisation Project			X		X	X	X	
Worcestershire Resource and Efficiency Programme		X			X	X	X	

© Crown copyright, 2012

Copyright in the typographical arrangement rests with the Crown.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, visit

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/> or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or e-mail: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This publication is also available on our website at:

www.gov.uk/erdf-regional-guidance-west-midlands#programme-documents

If you require this publication in an alternative format please email:

alternativeformats@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Any enquiries regarding this publication and the West Midlands European Regional Development Fund Programme should be sent to:

Department for Communities and Local Government

Programme Delivery Team: West Midlands

5 St Philips Place

Colmore Row

Birmingham

B3 2PW

Telephone: 0303 444 6587

Email: WM.ERDFenquiries@communities.gsi.gov.uk

December 2012-13