

## **Skills Capital Fund 2016 Eligibility and Guidelines**

### **Introduction**

The Local Enterprise Partnership has negotiated with the Government for a Local Growth Deal that allows freedoms, flexibilities and will influence resources. This will enable further targeted investment in the growth priorities of our Local Enterprise Partnership area. An important component of the Local Growth Deal is the Skills Capital Fund.

The Skills Capital Fund will provide the infrastructure to support delivery of the skills needed for the economic growth as outlined in the Strategic Economic Plan.

During May 2016 the Local Enterprise Partnership will invite submissions of Expressions of Interest that seek investments in skills capital proposals.

### **Project proposals are invited that will:**

- Develop high quality learning environments in Further Education Colleges
  - Providing outstanding learning and training environments that are safe, fit for purpose and able to match workplace standards
  - Reduce College estate in poor condition (i.e. Categories C and D)
- Support business growth
  - Investing in facilities and equipment that support economic growth in areas such as Food manufacturing, Agriculture and agri-tech, Engineering and the bio-economy
  - Contribute to the socio-economic needs of the locality particularly in rural areas and those of high disadvantage

## Eligibility to apply

Applications will be considered from:

- Organisations based in the YNYER Area with proposals that would benefit local people

AND ALSO

- Be one of the following:
  - A Post 16 Further Education College (including delivery of higher education)
  - A Sixth Form College
  - A University Technical College (Post 16+)
  - A approved training organisation #
  - A charitable training provider
  - A specialist organisation that provides further education for students with a range of learning difficulties

# On the Register of Training Organisations with the Skills Funding Agency in the current academic year

## Submitting an Expression of Interest

1. Download the Expression of Interest form and Guidelines from the Local Enterprise Partnership website
2. Complete all parts of the Expression of Interest as fully and accurately as possible
3. Sign the Expression of Interest (e.g. electronic signature) and return as an email attachment to [Skillscapital@businessinspiredgrowth.com](mailto:Skillscapital@businessinspiredgrowth.com) by 17.00 on 18 May 2016.
4. If no acknowledgement is received to confirm receipt please contact the Local Enterprise Partnership

## Notes

1. There is no lower or upper financial limit to a proposal
2. Where organisations submitting Expressions of Interests are served by two Local Enterprise Partnerships the YNYER Partnership reserves the right to resolve any potential duplication
3. The project should be value for money, give good returns on the public investment and be sustainable
4. Should an organisation have a track record for delivering previous government skills contracts this will be taken into account
5. Projects will not be supported that are principally for the development of the organisation's own workforce

## **The Process**

1. Following submission applicants will receive confirmation by email that the Expression of Interest has been received
2. The Local Enterprise Partnership will verify that all the necessary information has been provided or will contact to advise
3. The Expressions of Interests will be appraised by members of the Skills Capital Panel which may also utilise external expertise where applicable
4. In order to preserve objectivity and fairness neither the Partnership nor assessors will discuss applications during the assessment period
5. Expressions of Interest that are successful will progress to the next stage - further guidance on this will be issued as required
6. Applicants will be notified during June 2016 whether their proposal will be progressed to the next stage and also given an opportunity for feedback
7. Proposals progressing to the next stage will be required to submit a detailed business case

## **Potential projects (i.e. still at conceptual stage and not yet ready to submit)**

It is strategically important for the Local Enterprise Partnership to have a strong awareness of potential projects even though only at conceptual stage. In order to gain a better insight of future skills needs the Partnership will engage in activities to collect these conceptual projects. Wherever possible the Partnership will help to develop conceptual proposals towards funded projects. More information will be published at a later date.

## **Support**

Any queries should be emailed to [Skillscapital@businessinspiredgrowth.com](mailto:Skillscapital@businessinspiredgrowth.com).