

**Angus Innovation and Growth Business Grant**

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Supporting Local Businesses 2025/26**

**Guidance Note**

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a key pillar of the UK Government’s inward investment agenda, providing an allocation of funding to invest in domestic priorities and targeting funding where it is needed most - pushing power out to communities everywhere, with a specific focus to help kickstart economic growth and promoting opportunities in all parts of the UK.

The Angus Innovation and Growth Business Grant is being delivered as part of the UKSPF Supporting Local Business Investment Priority to support entrepreneurship, business development, local and social economies.

Priority consideration for grant funding will be given to applicants whose proposals clearly demonstrate ability to evidence more than one of the key UKSPF outcomes, alignment to key priority themes for Angus and whose proposals will encourage employment, grow an existing Angus business, support sustainability, safeguard existing or create jobs.

We recommend that all applicants read this guidance note in full before they start to complete an application and refer to it while filling out the application.

This grant is open from Monday 1 to Friday 26 September 2025

Any queries should be directed to Invest@angus.gov.uk

**THE AIM**

To encourage employment growth, business growth, business sustainability, adoption of innovation and transition to net zero in Angus.

Angus Council supports and encourages Fair Work Practices, including effective voice, opportunities, security, fulfilment, and respect, and expects businesses in receipt of public funds to take a positive approach to fair work practices. More information can be found here: <https://www.fairworkconvention.scot/the-fair-work-framework>

**THE OBJECTIVES**

The objective is to provide financial support for proposals that meet these key priority themes for Angus:

* **Innovation** – including diversification, adoption, new approaches or technology, new products, new processes, digital technology
* **Workforce skills development** – including training and upskilling of existing employees to improve profitability and efficiencies, adapting to new technologies, i.e. AI, automation etc.
* **Business premises** – support to open new or expand existing premises, including refurbishment and equipment for business purposes
* **Transition to net zero** – including improvements to premises, waste reduction or reuse, creation of green jobs
* **Market & Trade development** – support with the cost of exhibiting at trade shows within the UK or internationally, participating in overseas trade missions, and other costs associated with accessing new markets such as exporting

**UKSPF OUTCOMES**

Priority: Supporting Local Businesses

Theme: Support for Business

Missions:

* Mission 1: Kickstart the economy
* Mission 2: Make Britain a clean energy superpower
* Mission 4: Break down barriers to opportunity

**GRANT AVAILABLE**

**Large Grant**

* Businesses can apply for a minimum of £15,000, up to a maximum of £50,000
* Businesses must contribute 25% match funding

**Small Grant**

* Businesses can apply for a minimum of £3,000, up to a maximum of £10,000
* Businesses must contribute 10% match funding

**Both Grants**

* Project costs that exceed the maximum grant available must be met by the business
* Businesses can apply for capital and/or revenue costs
* All expenditure must be incurred and claimed by end February 2026
* A final report outlining the work undertaken and the anticipated benefits to the business must be submitted alongside the claim for grant drawdown
* The grant will be paid in one instalment in arrears on submission of the final report accompanied by evidence of payment for approved costs
* Angus Council cannot make payment of grants after 31 March 2026

**GRANT ELIGIBILITY**

**Eligibility**

* For the large grant, businesses must be actively trading for a minimum of 18 months
* For the small grant, businesses must be actively trading for a minimum of 3 months
* Business must be located within Angus Council boundaries
* Must be a registered SME business with fewer than 250 employees
* Sole traders are eligible to apply
* Business premises must be registered for non-domestic rates (or exempt where applicable)
* Organisations/Partnerships/Cooperatives should only submit one bid that encompasses all subgroup activity
* Must have a dedicated business bank account. This can be a personal account used for the sole purpose of managing business income and expenditure, no personal expenditure must take place using this account (you will be required to provide the account details as part of the application process, and this is the account your grant will be paid into if successful)
* Business has reported the accurate financial activity of the company and submitted accounts by the statutory filing deadline
* Business is not connected to a tax haven
* No outstanding debts to Angus Council

**Eligible business type**

* Limited Company
* Limited Liability Partnership
* Partnership
* Social Enterprise
* Sole Trader
* Charitable Organisation – that is engaged in commercial activity and where economic activity is the primary function of the business

**Eligible Sectors**

Priority will be given to businesses in the following sectors:

* Manufacturing and Engineering
* Agri including all types of food & drink production
* Clean Growth Renewables
* Tourism and Golf

Businesses operating in other sectors will be considered at the sole discretion of Angus Council.

**APPLICATIONS MUST**

Your application will need to clearly demonstrate:

* Complete the five questions within the [Project Document](https://investinangus.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Innovation-and-Growth-Project-Document.docx). This will need to be uploaded to the online application form when prompted to do so.
* Project summary, including demand and the need for funding (evidence based)
* The skills you have to deliver the project and how this will be implemented
* The project's benefits for the business and the local economy
* Commitment to fair work practices and achieving net zero
* Evidence and description of costs such as quotes or estimates
* Value for money and return on investment
* Impacts and how these will be measured

**EVIDENCE REQUIRED**

Businesses will be asked to upload the following evidence:

* Companies House Certificate (if applicable)
* Evidence of PAYE registration (for employers)
* Evidence of self employment registration (for self-employed/sole traders)
* Non-Domestic rates (if applicable)
* Utility bill showing business address
* Annual accounts
* Most recent bank statement
* Copy of quotes / costs – Please consider purchasing from local suppliers where possible

**WHAT WE CAN AND CAN’T FUND**

**Examples of eligible expenditure**

* Innovation support (technology / products / services)
* Support for digital transformation through digital technologies
* Support for the implementation of carbon reduction technologies and processes and premises improvements to help businesses achieve their net zero objectives, including circular economy activity, waste reduction/reuse
* Premises improvement / expansion
* Purchase of new equipment (replacing like for like is ineligible)
* Costs associated with accessing new markets, including exporting and attendance at trade shows and exhibitions
* Workforce development to support efficiencies and adapt to new technology

**Example of ineligible expenditure**

* Core / Essential / Statutory running costs
* Office furnishings, e.g. desks, chairs, business as usual furnishings
* Working capital, including the purchase of stock or materials
* Business as usual training costs
* Recruitment costs
* Vehicles
* Websites and social media consultancy
* Goods or services purchased prior to offer of grant
* Replacing old for new equipment on a like for like basis
* Expenditure undertaken to meet legislative requirements
* Debt repayment

**VAT**

If you are VAT registered, you must provide your VAT number.

If you claim VAT back, your grant will exclude VAT and you will have to cover this cost, plus your match funding contribution.

If you are not VAT registered, you will receive the full grant amount, minus the match funding allocation.

**Example:**

**Item:** New piece of equipment

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Net (Ex VAT) | VAT | Gross (Inc VAT) | Match Funding |
| £15,000 | £3,000 (20%) | £18,000 | 25% |

If you are VAT registered your grant will exclude VAT. You must cover this cost and your match funding contribution. Therefore:

* You could claim £11,250 grant funding (75% of the net value)
* Your match funding contribution would be 25% of the net value, £3,750
* You would also be responsible for paying VAT of £3,000

If you are not VAT registered:

* You could claim £13,500 grant funding (75% of the Gross value)
* Your match funding contribution would be 25% of the Gross value, £4,500

**HOW WE ASSESS APPLICATIONS**

All applications will be assessed against 5 funding objectives:

1. Strategic fit
2. Potential value for money / return on investment
3. Supplier capacity and capability
4. Affordability
5. Achievability

Applications will be assessed then reviewed by a verifier before a decision is made on the outcome of the application.

This will be a discretionary fund, with each case being considered on its merits, outcomes and benefits to the company and local economic impact potential for Angus as a whole.

Angus Council’s decision will be final, there is no appeal process.

**Application Processing Time**

Angus Council will require to undertake a series of checks but will endeavour to process applications by 24 October 2025 (subject to change depending on volume of applications received).

There is no automatic entitlement to funding and any award granted will be at the sole discretion of Angus Council Officers.

**MONITORING YOUR GRANT**

Successful applicants will be required to submit a copy of the invoice and evidence of payment for the approved goods/services. Upon receipt of this evidence, the grant will be paid retrospectively.

All approved applications may be subject to a monitoring visit undertaken by a nominated representative from Angus Council Economic Development, during Department during which all relevant documentation and management accounts should be made available. The purpose of this visit will be to support the successful applicant, evaluate the impact of the funding, and support future business needs.

All successful applicants will be provided with a full evaluation form that must be returned to Angus Council by 20 March 2026. Follow up visits may be made by Angus Council Economic Development Department to review your project and to offer support where necessary.

**GENERAL TERMS**

Companies must:

1. Apply online via <https://myangus.angus.gov.uk/service/Angus_Innovation_and_Growth_Business_Grant_application_form>
2. Provide further information as requested, and understand that any delay may result in delay in processing your application or rejection of application
3. Use any funding awarded for exactly the purpose set out in your application unless otherwise agreed. You will not make any major change to your project without first receiving written agreement from Angus Council.
4. Not use the funding to pay for goods or services which you buy or order before you receive the award letter confirming the funding
5. Agree that funding will not be increased if you overspend
6. Agree that expenditure must be incurred and invoiced by end February 2026
7. Agree that the grant will be paid in one instalment in arrears on submission of the final report accompanied by evidence of payment for approved costs, such as paid invoices, receipts, bank statements
8. Agree that Angus Council cannot make payment of grant after 31 March 2026
9. Provide latest annual accounts with their most recent bank statement
10. Agree to and sign the grant award, and retain and submit invoices and bank statements as proof of purchase for items or services
11. Meet with a nominated representative of the Economic Development Department and provide a copy of their accounts one year after the project completion to evaluate the success of the funding and review any further required support
12. Effect and maintain such insurance over the funded assets and business as is reasonable and customary for a business engaged in the same or a similar activity
13. Agree to a physical inspection of the funded asset(s) once purchased, and at agreed intervals thereafter
14. Not, for the period of five (5) years from the end of the project, without the prior written consent of Angus Council, sell or dispose of assets which have been acquired or improved with the benefit of the grant
15. Agree to take part in any publicity related to the grant, if requested. Tag @InvestInAngus and use #InvestInAngus in any social media promotion relating to use of grant
16. Agree to acknowledge funding from UK Government and support from Angus Council in any publicity of the project carried out by the business including, but not limited to, press releases, social media and webpage activity
[Funded by UK Government publicity requirements and branding - Google Drive](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Ct8DBiRZSTg_5lLmLwkB9va24wALx3_G)

**SUBSIDY CONTROL**

Approved grants are awarded by Angus Council by way of a Minimum Financial Assistance (MFA) subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2022, subject to your agreement to, and compliance with, the terms and conditions set out in the application and guidance notes.

By accepting an offer of grant, you confirm that receipt of the payment will not exceed your MFA threshold of £315,000 cumulated over this and the previous two financial years, as specified in section 36(1) of the Subsidy Control Act (2022), and should there be any change in this position, you will advise Angus Council without delay.

You will be asked in your application to confirm, for and on behalf of the business, that you will adhere to the Subsidy Control requirements set out in the Subsidy Control Act 2022 in respect of this application.

[**https://www.gov.scot/publications/subsidy-control-guidance/**](https://www.gov.scot/publications/subsidy-control-guidance/)

[**https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/23**](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/23)

**DATA PROTECTION**

By completing the online application form, you acknowledge that any information provided will be captured and stored by Angus Council to process your request. You can find out more about how we handle your data by reading the [privacy statement](https://www.angus.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/managing_and_accessing_information/information_governance_privacy_and_gdpr/angus_council_full_privacy_statement) on our website.

**KEY DATES**

1 September 2025 Fund and application [open online](https://myangus.angus.gov.uk/service/Angus_Innovation_and_Growth_Business_Grant_application_form)

26 September 2025 Application round closes at 5pm

27 October 2025 (Week beginning) Offer of Grant letters issued\*

28 February 2026 All projects must be fully completed

28 February 2026 Final date for submission of evidence of spend claim and report

20 March 2026 Final funding payment made

20 March 2026 Funding evaluation submitted

\*Dates subject to change depending on volume of applications received.