



Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP

Regional Growth Fund CALL – Ideas For Bids

The Regional Growth Fund (RGF) is now a £2.4bn fund operating across England from 2011 to 2015. It supports projects and programmes that lever private sector investment to create economic growth and sustainable employment. It aims particularly to help those areas and communities which were dependent on the public sector to make the transition to sustainable private sector-led growth and prosperity.

Round 3 of the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) is now open: £1bn is available for this round.

The first two rounds have been very successful - conditional allocations were made to 176 bidders which will leverage over £7.5bn of private sector leverage and deliver around 330,000 jobs.

For an opportunity to access the RGF, send in your completed application form and supporting documentation by the closing date of **13 June** to rgfround3applications@bis.gsi.gov.uk

For help with your bid, you may wish to book an Expression of Interest meeting with the RGF team.

See [Regional Events and EOIs](#) on the www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/regional-growth-fund/how-to-apply web link.

The criteria for bids is as follows:

- Create additional sustainable private sector growth;
- Rebalance the economy in areas dependent on the private sector;
- Projects must demonstrate additionality;
- Projects must offer value for money;
- All bids must be State Aid compliant.

The third round is open to applications for Projects and Programmes. Projects are individual bids that make a specific and significant contribution to the aims of the RGF. Project bids must be taken forward by the private sector or through a private-public partnership.

Programme Bids differ in that they need to demonstrate a clear over-arching investment strategy for a geographical area. Programmes will involve a set of linked projects which create sustainable private sector jobs and growth.

The minimum bid threshold is £1m which is in line with previous RGF Rounds.

How to apply

Application Forms & Bidding Guidance

The application process for the Regional Growth Fund is now open.

For bidding guidance and our application forms please visit the [how to apply](#) section www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/regional-growth-fund/how-to-apply web link.

The deadline for receipt of completed applications is **12 noon on 13 June 2012**.

The links for our most up-to-date data sources for the official statistics which will be used in assessing the locations that bids will impact are also listed.

It will be important to consider other evidence, and bidders are asked to submit any other information they believe will help us in forming a good understanding of the relative reliance of the area the bid will cover.

Submitting a bid

All completed applications and supporting evidence should be sent to: rqfround3applications@bis.gsi.gov.uk

The closing date for the fund is **12 noon on 13 June 2012**.

Bidding Support

There will be a number of regional events and Expression of interest meetings to support potential bidders with their applications.

Please note: **it is not mandatory to submit an Expression of Interest or attend an event in order to bid.**

Need some help?

Please see BIS web links above.

The GBSLEP Funding Sub-Group representatives will provide support to prospective private sector applicants within the GBSLEP area where it can. This can include offering a critical friend to review any draft bids (without any contractual obligations). The GBSLEP can also offer endorsement letters where it feels comfortable to do so.

If you are interested in receiving this assistance please contact in the first instance:-

Debbie Harris (GBSLEP): 01543 464490

Email : debbieharris@cannockchasedc.gov.uk