

Key Features Hertfordshire LEP Schemes

SME Growth Loan Scheme

Loan amount: £200,000 - £500,000

Loan term: up to 5 years with a capital repayment holiday, typically up to 6 months

Security: debenture; limited unsupported personal guarantees may be required depending on risk assessment; legal assignment of Keyman insurance policy may be taken

Interest charges and fees: variable, reflective of risk

Eligibility: to apply, the business must:

- have a proven business concept with some commercial traction (i.e. existing sales and customers)
- have compelling commercial potential and a viable business plan with projections that the fund can lend against
- need finance to invest in scaling up activities that will deliver growth such as:
 - ✓ sales & marketing
 - ✓ hiring new staff
 - ✓ new product development
 - ✓ entering new markets
 - ✓ exporting abroad
 - ✓ purchasing new equipment
 - ✓ working capital for growth

Business Expansion Grants

Grant amount: £10,000 - £100,000; up to 50% of total expansion costs; £25,000 grant per new job created (min 12 month roles)

Eligibility: to apply, the business must require finance to support expansion plans that lead to business growth and job creation such as:

- ✓ Plant, machinery, tooling
- ✓ Fixtures, fittings & furniture
- ✓ Commercial vehicle costs
- ✓ IT/mobile equipment
- ✓ Moving to new premises
- ✓ Improving/extending existing premises
- ✓ Land acquisition

The investment project must be ready to start with any necessary planning consents/approvals in place.

Property expenditure must relate to improving productive capacity (not simple expansion of assets).

Start ups not eligible.

All applicant businesses must be a small to medium sized enterprise (SME) established as a limited company with a material part of its operations in Hertfordshire

Exclusions: the schemes will only provide finance to companies that meet the EU definition of an SME. The funding is available for investment purposes and not for refinancing of existing loans or creditors, general working capital or turnaround situations. The following sectors are excluded, which include those covered by EU rules and regulations: land and property development, dealing and investment, financial services, accountancy and legal services, hotels, nursing and residential care homes, international motor transport, agriculture, forestry and timber production, horticulture.