

Thank you for requesting an application pack for Collaborative Growth Funds.

Fund Aims

Working together allows individual businesses to generate efficiencies by sharing the cost of resources, such as equipment and staff and by pulling resources to create larger marketing and promotional campaigns than could be achieved individually.

The aim of this scheme is to support the development of co-operative enterprises in South Ayrshire which can create enhanced economic impact through collective working.

Eligible Groups and Projects

The grant will normally be restricted to constituted groups of 3 or more member companies. To evidence this a copy of your constitution should be submitted with the application form. For groups not currently constituted but who have the intention to do so support and advice is available from Co-operative Development Scotland – www.cdscotland.co.uk

All projects must demonstrate through collaboration, how the group will access new customers and markets, increase their reach, and grow revenues.

Groups should be involved in activities which generate turnover from out with South Ayrshire; i.e. manufacturing, exportable services (with a wider than local market) or tourism. Retail groups with projects aimed at attracting

consumers from out with the South Ayrshire area are also requested to apply for support.

Any funding under this scheme is discretionary and the Council reserves the right to vary eligibility in the light of specific circumstances. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate need and that payment of grant will achieve additionality to the project.

What can we fund?

All collaborative projects which can demonstrate increased sales revenues from out with the South Ayrshire Area, improve sector efficiency or increase local employment opportunities will be considered.

Project objectives could include

- ecommerce development
- co-operative development and training
- advertising and promotional campaigns aimed at customers out with the South Ayrshire area.
- consumer research projects
- design and development of a website
- trade events and exhibition attendance
- Groups with a tourism project can apply for contribution towards successful Visit Scotland Growth Fund applications.

Please Note: We cannot provide grant to assist purely with the purchase of any capital assets.

Rate of Grant

Grant levels will be calculated on a sliding scale proportionate to the overall value of the project with a maximum intervention rate of **50%**. The table below gives an indication of maximum grant levels in proportion to your investment.

Total Project Value	Maximum Grant
Under £10k	£3,000
£10k- £20k	£3000 - £5,000
£20k - £50K	£5000 - £8000
£50k - £100k plus	£8000 - £10,000

The maximum grant that can be awarded is £10,000

The Council reserves the right to vary the amount of grant at its sole discretion. Applicants will be expected to pursue all other sources of funding and demonstrate the need for grant assistance.

Applicants will also be required to supply information on any other assistance received (or applied for and awaiting decision) from public sector agencies during the last three years.

How to apply

Applications should be made on the Collaborate for Growth Application Form and submitted to:

South Ayrshire Council

Enterprise Service
Burns House
Burns Statue Square
AYR
KA7 1UT

Applicants should be aware that for larger amounts, we may require a business plan or marketing plan. Should this be the case, we will inform you once we have carried out a preliminary appraisal of your application.

Grants are discretionary and South Ayrshire Council reserves the right to refuse grant at its sole discretion. Where applicants have any amounts owing to South Ayrshire Council this will be taken into consideration in determining grant eligibility.

Award of grant will be conditional on the applicant(s) proving that they comply with all current statutory employment and related legislation.

The number of grants applied for, the number of projects supported and the amount of grant awarded and paid to each recipient company may be reported to an appropriate Panel of South Ayrshire Council. All other information on individual applicants will be treated as confidential. Information provided by applicants and used to administer the scheme will be stored in computer files. As such it is subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

Payment Procedure

In normal circumstances, grant will not be paid until proper proof of payment is received. Copies of invoices received and bank statements will be required. A site visit by a representative of the Council and/or appointed agents may also be made to view any assets purchased.

Grant Refusal

The Council reserves the right to refuse grant or to seek repayment of grant paid in the event that an applicant:

- fails to comply with any of the conditions stated in the foregoing sections;
- fails to disclose information relevant to their grant application; or
- provides information which is misleading, incorrect or incomplete.

Please Note:

The provision of false information may lead to prosecution

It will be a condition of grant that the group agree to regular monitoring of performance by South Ayrshire Council or its agents. This will include monitoring visits and submission of management accounts.

Grant funds cannot be paid for any project expenditure incurred prior to written approval being received.