

Making it in Leeds

News from Leeds Manufacturing

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New grant scheme will help Leeds businesses grow

A new business growth fund has been launched by Leeds City Council to help small and medium sized businesses in Leeds expand and recruit new staff.

Grants are available to companies operating in a range of sectors including manufacturing, manufacturing-related services, wholesale, distribution, construction, media production or business to business services.

The business growth fund is a continuation of the grant scheme originally launched under the Leeds Local Enterprise Growth Initiative, which helped create and support hundreds of new businesses and jobs but came to an end in March this year.

The grants form part of a 'legacy' programme of help for SMEs which includes intensive business support, enterprise coaching for business start ups and, now, the business growth fund to support existing businesses

Meanwood-based Bagel Nash, run by husband and wife team Uri and Karen Mizrahi, received a grant of nearly £7,000 through the Leeds LEGI programme towards the purchase of new equipment to help meet growing demand. The company now employs over 100 people across its manufacturing operation and retail outlets.

Grants of up to a maximum of £10,000 are available through the business growth fund, designed to support new investment such as the purchase of capital equipment and alterations to land or premises. The scheme also requires the expansion plans of the company to be linked to local recruitment, particularly unemployed or young people.

Companies with less than 250 staff can apply for support, although priority will be given to companies employing less than 50. Grants are limited to 20% of total capital costs for companies with up to 49 employees and 10% of total capital cost for companies with a workforce between 50 and 250.

Announcing the launch of the grants scheme, chief executive of Leeds City Council Tom Riordan said: "The LEGI programme may have ended but enterprise support from the Council continues and this scheme is a great example of that.

"A bit of financial support will be welcomed in this time when there's lots of talk about cuts and we hope to shift the thinking of owner/managers towards investment and growth."

Ends

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Application forms are available from www.enterpriseleeds.co.uk. For advice before applying contact Neill Fishman on 0113 220 6350 or email: neill.fishman@enterpriseleeds.co.uk