

Connect Local Regional Food Fund

Guidance Notes

This is a £250K Regional Food Fund (RFF) to support growth in Scotland's local / regional food and drink sector.

Objective

- To support initiatives and projects in Scotland which celebrate and promote locally sourced and produced food and drink, in line with the priorities of [Ambition 2030](#), including the aspirations of the Scottish Food Tourism Strategy.
- The fund is for **collaborative** projects where groups of producers and food & drink businesses benefit from these initiatives.
- The fund will allow for support to food and drink producers, regional groups and networks, including farm retail and local food events for collaborative projects where traditionally funding can be hard to find.
- In particular it is hoped that the funding will help new support initiatives in their early stages but which will deliver benefits over the long-term. This recognises the importance of collaboration to Scotland's food and drink progress to date.
- This is a competitive fund and it is not guaranteed that you will receive funding.

Criteria

- Applicants can apply for up to a maximum of £5000. Eligible costs will be judged on a case by case basis (and at the discretion of the Fund Award Panel).
- This is a competitive grant and applications are judged on their individual merit.
- Who can apply:
 - Individual businesses in the food and drink sector including primary producers on behalf of a collaborative group
 - Regional and community groups (both rural and urban)
 - Individuals on behalf of a collaborative groupProjects should be collaborative; activities need to be based in Scotland, and all applications should address the objectives above and promote Scottish local produce in line with the aspirations of Ambition 2030.
- Examples of areas of potential support could include:
 - Promoting or developing regional groups and their initiatives to showcase local food and drink, and food tourism
 - Businesses collaborating to promote Scottish provenance and sales at a local and national (Scotland) level
 - Developing collaborative local food and drink events to celebrate and promote food and drink and its provenance (including the strengthening of the local food and drink presence at existing events).
- The RFF is specifically looking for projects that:
 - Provide benefit to groups of local food and drink producers and/or communities
 - Are collaborative in nature
 - Have a plan in place for continuity and for long term development and growth
- This grant can be a contribution towards a specific activity within a broader project.

Application Process

- The [Application Form](#) and the Guidance Notes are available on the [Connect Local website](#).
- The Application Form should be completed and submitted online through the Connect Local website following the instructions on the website.

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- Those seeking funding should ensure that their application addresses the grant objectives and criteria.
- Applications will be reviewed by a Panel that will meet three times per annum over the next two years.
- Applications can be submitted at any time but there will be a submission deadline ahead of each panel.
- Submission deadlines will be highlighted on the Connect Local Website and the Panel will meet approximately 4 weeks after the submission deadline.
- Applicants will be notified of the panel's decision within two weeks of the panel meeting.
- Successful applicants will receive a grant contract and will need to sign and return this along with bank details.
- Successful applications will receive 50% of the funding upon completion of the aforementioned contract; although consideration will be given to a greater proportion of funding (up to 75%) if it is shown that there is a specific need.
- The balance of funding will be paid upon project completion; and the receipt and approval of a final project report.

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