April 2025

Mayoral Investment Fund

Business Innovation Fund Prospectus Launch

YORK & NORTH YORKSHIRE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Fund Introduction

- **Innovation is a vital enabler to growth in York and North Yorkshire.** It will help us unlock our region's potential as a city region and rural powerhouse.
- **Helping businesses to innovate can drive inclusive economic growth**
- York and North Yorkshire is an ideal place for businesses to grow and innovate. It is home to world-class universities and R&D centres and has a dynamic and diverse eco-system of sectoral clusters.
- **To help our businesses innovate more and with greater impact, support needs to reflect their needs.** There is no 'one size fits all' solution.
- **This Business Innovation Mayoral Investment Fund has been co-created with businesses and innovation experts to complement existing regional and national innovation support, offering businesses a range of programmes to target potential growth opportunities.**

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“New Ideas” Programme

- Going out to tender for a provider April 2025
- Total budget £2.5m
- Live launch to businesses – **January 2026**
- 2-year Programme
- **Open to any business size**
- “Dragons Den” style application then…

1. **Idea coaching & development**
2. **Revenue Grant up to £60k (no match)**
3. **Finance & Grant readiness coaching.**

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“Get Funded” Programme

- Going out to tender for a provider **April 2025**
- Recruitment of GH Finance lead
- Live launch to businesses planned for Autumn
- Investor readiness coaching & events
- Regional finance/grant network developed
- Application support
- Locality reach focus

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“Get Exporting” Programme

- Delivered by CA in partnership with DBT, NYC,CYC & UK Export Finance
- **Grants open in May 2025** (then every 6 months)
- Export Roadshows will be delivered in October 2025 & 2026 across YNY geography
- **Grants will be £3,000-£10,000, 25% match required**
- Grants can be used towards export related activity and advice

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Sector Activity Grant 1

- **The Cluster Mobilisation** grants will **open April-End June 2025** and repeated in 2026.
- To convene & mobilise cluster groups within the YNYCA's high growth sectors: **Health & Lifesciences, Bio-Economy, Agri-tech, Digital & Creative, Manufacturing & Rail.**
- It will also support **Marine in North Yorkshire and Business & Professional Services in the City of York** as local specialisms.
- Grants between **£3,000-£50,000 per cluster** (no match required)
- Target applicants: **Business Groups, Organisations and Local Partnerships**
- A good spread of place focused clusters across the regional geography is desired.

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Sector Activity Grant 2

- **Project Feasibility Grants** will **open April-End June 2025** and again in 2026.
- Revenue-based grants between **£3,000-£30,000** (no match required)
- This is **about helping to support and test new potential projects that would strengthen sector development for the region/place.**
- **The grant can be used towards the commissioning of external consultants with the aim of addressing project feasibility and hopefully building a clear business case.**
- **Projects can be broad in theme but will have to demonstrate how they would strengthen the local place and contribute to being a future regional sector asset.**

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Spin-Out & Start-up Catalyst

- **Phase 1:** To understand the barriers and potential opportunities for the creation of spin-outs and start-ups in our 3 Universities
- **Phase 2:** To activate project opportunities identified in the above research.
- **Phase 1 Target applicants: Spin-Out and Start-Up research**: Experienced research or consultancy companies to submit research proposal.
- **Phase 2 Target applicants:** Based on the agreed Action Plan (output of research), each **university** to submit activity proposals later in 2025.
- **£28,000 Call for research provider** proposals **go live in April 2025** (via email)
- **Spin-Out and Start-Up projects:** this **£200,000 fund** will offer revenue grants (no match required) for each university to **activate projects** that leads to the creation of new Spin-Out and Start-Up

Assessment Of Grant Applications & Requirements

Assessment of grant applications

We will conduct a standardised and transparent appraisal process with all applications.

Appraisal of applications will utilise Green Book methodology and consider:

Deliverability - the ability of applicants to deliver in full within the timeframe specified.

Impact - the degree to which all outputs and outcomes are likely to be achieved.

Value for money - the delivery of outputs and outcomes at reasonable cost.

Added value - where an applicant can demonstrate added financial and social value.

Legacy - where activity is considered to be sustainable into the future.

Wider place and sector impact – where appropriate to the programme

Group approaches – demonstration of strong collaboration between partners, where appropriate to the programme.

Experience - demonstrable experience of delivering similar programmes/ projects, where appropriate to the programme

Decision making
All applications passing basic programme eligibility criteria checks will be appraised and presented to an independent decision panel of internal and external experts

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Expectations of successful applicants

At the point of a successful applicant/consortium being awarded a grant offer, we will include details of:

- Monitoring expectations
- Project evaluation criteria – including final reporting requirements
- Our expectations around participation in case study work/ promotion of the scheme
- Data sharing protocols consistent with GDPR policy and YNYCA procedures
- The communications and branding guidelines issued by YNYCA

Any Questions?

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