

Press Release ref: GL162

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## Call out to Gloucestershire organisations



### Three new European calls;

### Digital Tech, Export & Low Carbon Innovation

The following European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) calls are now open for partners to begin the application process.

#### Digital Tech Call:

Gloucestershire is pioneering digital and cyber advancements for businesses, particularly with such projects like the new Cyber Security facilities at Cheltenham and Berkeley Green and increased broadband connectivity implemented by *Fastershire*. This is now opening up opportunities for technical advances letting SME's grow, increasing digital capacity and capability and their cyber protection.

This call provides a funding opportunity of £500k of ERDF resource (matched at 50% so the total value is £1m), to develop business support activities encouraging SME's to enhance their performance via digital technological or cyber advances. This call seeks proposals for the delivery of high quality bespoke business support to increase the understanding and application of digital technologies to improve performance and growth.

Potential applicants can find out how to apply on;

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5956216240f0b60a400000ba/PA3\\_Gloucestershire\\_Creation\\_and\\_Capacity.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5956216240f0b60a400000ba/PA3_Gloucestershire_Creation_and_Capacity.pdf)

We will be holding a workshop to discuss the opportunity, and provide potential applicants further detail on the requirements of the call and the application process for the funding. This workshop will be held at 10am on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of July at the Growth Hub. To book your place on the workshop please contact Kate Hull on [Kate.Hull@gfirstlep.com](mailto:Kate.Hull@gfirstlep.com)



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## Export Call:

Gloucestershire is home to major exporters such as Prima Dental and Renishaw, however as identified in the Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership Structural and Investment Funds Strategy, there is evidence that productivity has slowed.

This call provides a funding opportunity of approximately £500k of ERDF resource (matched at 50% so the total value is £1m). It is predominantly seeking to invest European Regional Development funds in activities to boost exports of high Growth Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), including those working within intensive manufacturing services, enabling businesses to grow their capacity and capability for export sustainability.

Potential applicants can find out how to apply on;

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/59562753e5274a0a690000d3/PA3\\_Gloucestershire\\_Capacity\\_Only.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/59562753e5274a0a690000d3/PA3_Gloucestershire_Capacity_Only.pdf)

We will be holding a workshop to discuss the opportunity, and provide potential applicants further detail on the requirements of the call and the application process for the funding. This workshop will be held at 2pm on Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> of July at the Growth Hub by invitation only. To book your place on the workshop please contact Kate Hull on [Kate.Hull@gfirstlep.com](mailto:Kate.Hull@gfirstlep.com)

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## Low Carbon Innovation Call:

Gloucestershire is on target to become a national centre of excellence for innovation and learning in the energy sector. The strategy as stated by the Gloucestershire Local Enterprise Partnership European Structural and Investment Funds Strategy also lists support for energy conservation and low carbon generation as a key priority for investment. Gloucestershire is especially well placed to deliver innovative solutions focused around solar, wind and tidal energy.

This call provides a funding opportunity of approximately £1m of ERDF resource (matched at 50% so the total value is £2m). It is seeking ERDF in activities which capitalise on the county's location and current innovation. The activities will need to deliver one or more of the following:

- stronger links between innovation-strong research or higher education institutions and Gloucestershire businesses
- business-to-business, low carbon/environmental goods and service specific innovation networks
- improved and/or new renewable and low carbon technologies and/or environmental goods and services
- specific research, development and implementation of innovative solar, wind or tidal energy technology
- support for businesses to develop new low carbon technologies/environmental goods and services, including access to facilities to trial and test new products
- development of the supply chain and local market



Potential applicants can find out how to apply on;

**[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5956173140f0b60a440000c8/PA4\\_GFirst\\_Gloucestershire.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5956173140f0b60a440000c8/PA4_GFirst_Gloucestershire.pdf)**

We will be holding a workshop to discuss the opportunity, and provide potential applicants further detail on the requirements of the call and the application process for the funding. This workshop will be held at 2pm on Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of July by invitation only. To book your place on the workshop please contact Kate Hull on **[Kate.Hull@gfirstlep.com](mailto:Kate.Hull@gfirstlep.com)**

### **Notes to Editors**

**GFirst LEP**, Gloucestershire's Local Enterprise Partnership, brings together businesses to make the county successful and create jobs. It is led by the business community in partnership with the education and public sectors to help Gloucestershire realise its economic potential.

For more information visit **[www.gfirstlep.com](http://www.gfirstlep.com)**

For more information about GFirst LEP, please contact the Marketing team on 01242 715491 or email **[dev.chakraborty@gfirstlep.com](mailto:dev.chakraborty@gfirstlep.com)**.

