

Eastbourne Borough Council**Local Employment and Training Grants Policy****Introduction**

The Council recognises and values the significant contribution private, public and third sector education, training and employment support partners play in maintaining and developing the economic viability of the town. The Council also acknowledges that local businesses are vital and are a major contributor to the town's economic success.

The Council's Local Employment and Training Supplementary Planning Document, adopted November 2016 (LET SPD) aims to ensure local people have access to employment and training opportunities and that local businesses have an opportunity to tender for contracts on developments within the Borough of Eastbourne. To enable the ongoing development of the local economy, monitoring monies generated from qualifying developments via the LET SPD will be used to fund a Local Employment and Training Grants programme for the benefit of local people and businesses.

South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP)

The SELEP Skills Strategy 2018 – 2023 documents a vision for skills in the South East to help deliver a flourishing and inclusive economy equipping employers, adults and young people with the skills, conditions and aptitudes to deliver significant growth. The LET Grants Programme will contribute to the education, skills and development of local residents. The SELEP Skills Strategy is available from:
<https://www.southeastlep.com/our-strategy/skills/>

East Sussex County Council (ESCC)

Skills East Sussex (SES) is the County's strategic body for employment and skills. The Construction Task Force is one of a number of sector task groups established to address employment, education and training. The LET Grants Programme will address a number of priorities, particularly those associated with the construction sector. Further details on SES is available at: <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/eastsussex/selep/ses/ses/>

Legislation

Section 1(4)(c) of the Localism Act 2011 permits a local authority to do anything that individuals generally may do, in any way whatever, including power to do it for, or otherwise than for, *'the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in its area.'*

Policy

- 1) The Council's policy is to offer grant funding to a small number of organisations which provide employment support, education and training services to Borough of Eastbourne residents, particularly those experiencing hardship or disadvantage, or which play a key role in developing the future local workforce.

- 2) The Council only offers grants to organisations which are established and embedded in the Borough of Eastbourne to deliver services which will contribute to and build the economic viability of the town.
- 3) Organisations funded must be fully inclusive, and in a position to deliver services to all residents within the Borough.
- 4) Grants will only be given to organisations which
 - a) have a need for grant funding;
 - b) have sound governance arrangements and financial management;
 - c) can demonstrate good value for money and
 - d) where appropriate, have clear policies on safeguarding, equality and inclusion covering service users, volunteers and staff and encompassing, as a minimum, all those groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.
- 5) Given current constraints on all Council budgets, the Council will not make any allowance for inflation.

State Aid

- 1) Legislation:
 - a) Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that:

"Save as otherwise provided in this Treaty, any aid granted by a Member State or through State resources in any form whatsoever which distorts or threatens to distort competition by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods shall, in so far as it affects trade between Member States, be incompatible with the common market"
- 2) Council's Approach:
 - a) The Council does not consider that grants made under this policy constitute state aid because the money originates from a closed fund which can only be spent on specified items. Therefore, such spending does not deplete state resources.
 - b) Also, the maximum grant available under this policy is £5000, an amount which the Council does not consider will distort competition or affect trade between member states.
 - c) Prior to making any grant payment council officers will, in consultation with Legal Services **where appropriate**, complete the State Aid Checklist (based on the 4 characteristics of State aid) below and will require recipients to sign the De Minimis Declaration (also below) confirming that the grant will not breach the relevant de minimis threshold.

Data Protection

- 1) The making of Local Employment and Training grants may involve the transfer, receipt or sharing of personal data to, from or between the Council and the grantee. Where this occurs, the parties will consider entering into a data sharing agreement setting out the nature and scope of any personal data processing, and how both parties will ensure that processing is carried out in accordance with data protection legislation, primarily the General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/679) and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- 2) Any such data sharing agreement may be incorporated within the grant funding agreement or prepared as a discrete document, as appropriate.
- 3) Data sharing agreements must be prepared in consultation with the Council's Information Governance Manager or Data Protection Officer.

Policy agreed at XXX

State Aid Checklist

The four characteristics of State aid:

- 1) State aid is granted through state resources.
- 2) State aid favours certain undertakings, or the production of certain goods.
- 3) State aid distorts competition (or threatens to do so).
- 4) State aid affects trade between member states

State Aid – De Minimis Declaration

Please refer to the State Aid Guidance issued with your application pack (available on-line at [State aid - GOV.UK](http://Stateaid-GOV.UK)).

I declare that the grant offered by the Council will not increase the amount of State Aid which (*name of organisation*) has received or will receive over any three year period and which includes some or all of the Council grant period will not exceed 200,000 euros.

SignedDate
(*to be signed by an authorised officer*)

Position in organisation.....

Company/Organisation (*full Legal Name*).....