



Capital Growth Grant – Expression of Interest (EOI) Evaluation Process

This appraisal framework is used as an initial screening tool to assess whether an Expression of Interest (EOI) demonstrates sufficient potential, strategic alignment, and feasibility to progress to a full Grant Application.

Stage 1: Gateway Assessment

All EOIs are subject to an initial Gateway Assessment. EOIs must meet **all** gateway criteria to proceed.

Eligibility Criteria

The applying enterprise must:

- Be an SME
- Be a legally registered enterprise
- Be a trading enterprise or engaged in business activity.
- Not be in liquidation, dissolved, struck off, or subject to a striking-off notice
- Not be classed as an undertaking in difficulty
- Be registered in the UK
- Have an operational base within the South Midlands area
- Propose to deliver the project within the South Midlands area

EOI Completeness

The EOI must include:

- A fully completed EOI form, including the Subsidy Control section
- Proof of company registration (e.g. Companies House registration, UTR, partnership or charity number)
- Proof of trading address if this is not their registered address

Assessment Outcome

- **Pass / Fail**
- Projects must satisfy **all** gateway requirements to be considered for selection.
- Failure to adequately demonstrate compliance with any of the gateway criteria will result in rejection at this stage.



Stage 2: Initial Qualitative Assessment

EOIs that pass the Gateway Assessment will be reviewed against the following high-level criteria by a Business Adviser Specialist:

Strategic Growth Potential

The extent to which the project demonstrates the potential to support meaningful and sustainable business growth if funded.

Innovation

Evidence that the project will introduce a new or significantly improved product, service, process, or capability within the business and/or market.

Environmental and Decarbonisation Contribution

The degree to which the project contributes to decarbonisation objectives or improved environmental performance.

Initial Financial Credibility

An initial assessment of whether the business appears financially credible and capable of delivering the proposed project.

Indicative Deliverability

Whether the project appears realistic and deliverable within the programme's defined timeframe.