



## Financial Guide to Export

**ExportSefton provides a professional advisory and information service both to existing businesses and those interested in relocating or investing in the Borough and who are already exporting or considering exporting.**

ExportSefton delivers a range of financial support incentives including:

### **Business Growth Grant**

The Business Growth Grant is a £15 million investment programme secured by Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and administered in conjunction with the City Region's Local Authorities. It is funded by the Government through the Regional Growth Fund (RGF).

The Business Growth Grant has been designed for companies who are unable to bid directly into the Government RGF programme which has a grant application limit of £1 million. Typically the Programme will look to award grants of between £10,000 and £1,000,000.

The grant is designed to unlock private sector investment. A grant can contribute approximately 15% – 20% of total project costs, depending on the project. The remaining funds must come from another private source such as company or bank finance. All projects must result in business growth and create sustainable jobs as a result of investment. For further information on Business Growth Grant please email [info@investsefton.com](mailto:info@investsefton.com) or call 0151 934 3451.

### **Funding Circle**

Funding Circle is an online marketplace which can help businesses access fast and simple finance, whilst investors have the potential to earn better returns by lending to them. Funding Circle directly connects people and organisations who want to lend, with vetted, established businesses who want to borrow.

Businesses submit an application which is then reviewed by a team of underwriters. Once approved, businesses post their loan request on the Funding Circle marketplace and each one is funded via an auction process. Investors choose which businesses they'll lend to and place bids of the amount of money they wish to lend, and the interest rate they want to earn. Investors bid small amounts on hundreds of different businesses to spread their risk.

Sefton Council has invested in Funding Circle to provide funding for credit worthy businesses located in Sefton. Further details can be found at [www.fundingcircle.com](http://www.fundingcircle.com).

Alternatively please email [kristina.swift@investsefton.com](mailto:kristina.swift@investsefton.com) or call **0151 934 3472**.

## Regional Growth Fund

The Government has announced that the 6th funding round of the Regional Growth Fund will re-open for applications in the summer 2014. The Regional Growth Fund (RGF) is a £3.2 billion fund that supports projects and programmes that are using private sector investment to create economic growth and sustainable employment.

Round 6 will be open to private sector bidders seeking £1 million or more. The government is calling for companies planning high quality projects that will generate significant private sector investment and sustainable jobs. Bids may be supported by local authorities or Local Enterprise Partnerships, but should not use them for delivery. Universities and HE establishments will continue to be regarded as private sector, as in previous rounds.

Previous projects supported include Zytek Automotive, a vehicle engineering enterprise based in Staffordshire that received £1.3 million from the Regional Growth Fund for an innovative research and development project, which led to the introduction of some new products into a competitive market and the creation of 40 new jobs.

[www.gov.uk/understanding-the-regional-growth-fund](http://www.gov.uk/understanding-the-regional-growth-fund)

## Merseyside Business Support Programme

Funded by European Regional Development Fund and available to qualifying businesses in Sefton:

- Delivered via face to face advice and support
- Specialist Adviser who has extensive financial experience and commercial acumen
- Assistance in identifying most appropriate route to finance be it Debt, Equity or other alternative finance solution

**The service will ensure that the Business is 'Finance Ready' by:**

- Assisting in the development of a credible, viable business plan
- Ensuring the Financial Information is available to support a funding application
- Assessing the business to ensure the most appropriate form of finance is being requested
- Explaining the various financial products and options so that an 'informed' decision is reached

**From an established network of contacts and providers we will:**

- Identify the most appropriate providers
- Know who has both appetite and available funds
- Understand the application process and assist with submission
- Meet potential funders with client
- Support Client through process to approval and drawdown

For a confidential meeting please email [kristina.swift@investsefton.com](mailto:kristina.swift@investsefton.com) or call 0151 934 3472

ExportSefton has established close links with a wide variety of grant and loan awarding bodies to support new and existing businesses. For further details please visit:

**United Kingdom Trade & Investment:** [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-export-finance](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-export-finance)

**Merseyside Special Investment Fund:** [www.msif.co.uk](http://www.msif.co.uk)

**Northwest Business Angels:** [www.nwbusinessangels.co.uk](http://www.nwbusinessangels.co.uk)

**Manufacturing Advisory Service:** [www.myas.org](http://www.myas.org)

**The North West Fund:** [www.thenorthwestfund.co.uk](http://www.thenorthwestfund.co.uk)

**For further information on exporting please contact the  
ExportSefton team on:**

**T:** 0151 934 3450

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