

# **Is your Business Fit for Finance Event**



# What is Business Link?

- A national business and skills brokerage service to help businesses
- An impartial, independent business support service for all Small and Medium Sizes Enterprises.
- And .....Its Free !



## Benefits of dialling in to Business Link

- A **robust, impartial, independent** and **fully-funded** Business Review to help identify business and skills needs, leading to an agreed Action Plan
- **Single** point of access
- **High-quality** information
- Knowledge of and access to a wide network of **providers.**



# Resources Available

## Information

- Award-winning website
- Knowledge Bank

## Diagnostic

- Network of qualified Business Support Brokers with business and skills knowledge

## Brokerage

- Service Provider Register and Skills Portal
- Access to financial support.
- Links to a wide range of support services



# Real Help For Business

## Solutions for Business Portfolio

- Starting Up
- Grow your Business
- Employing People
- Finance and Grants
- Exploit your Ideas
- Environment and Efficiency
- International Trade
- Real Help Now.



# Grants

- Grant availability changes regularly
- Talk to your Business Link Adviser to find out what's available to support your particular project
- Have that discussion BEFORE you begin any project as funding cannot be applied retrospectively
- Grants are discretionary and must meet eligibility criteria.



## Example: Resource Efficiency Grant

- A Resource Efficiency Diagnostic is a pre-requisite
- Projects to purchase more-efficient capital equipment may qualify
- Where applicable, equipment must be purchased from Energy & Water Technology lists
- 50% of project costs up to a maximum of £10,000
- Equipment may also qualify for Enhanced Capital Allowance.



# Skills Support

- **NVQs**
  - **Apprenticeships** (now **all** ages)
  - **Skills for Life** – literacy, numeracy
  - **Skills Pledge** – show your commitment to supporting skills development of employees
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- **Leaders First**
    - Grant funding to support development of **key decision-makers**, e.g. owner-managers/MDs.  
( For companies with more than 5 staff )



# New Funding Support for Businesses

- Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme
- Working Capital Scheme
- Capital for Enterprise Fund

The first two are **loan guarantee schemes**, which are available through banks

The third is **equity finance**, available through fund managers.



# On-line self-help

- Credit Crunch

[www.businesslink.gov.uk/eastmidlands/creditcrunch](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/eastmidlands/creditcrunch)

- Business Health-Check

[www.businesslink.gov.uk/eastmidlands](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/eastmidlands)

- Resource Efficiency Diagnostic

<https://diagnostic.businesslinkem.co.uk>

- Which Finance Scheme?

[www.businesslink.gov.uk/eastmidlands/realhelp](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/eastmidlands/realhelp)



# **Business Link East Midlands**

**0845 058 6644**

***info@businesslinkem.co.uk***

***www.businesslink.gov.uk/eastmidlands***

