

Appendix A: Blaby District Council Business Grants Scheme

The Blaby District Council Business Grants Scheme supports micro businesses in Blaby District to invest in improvements that strengthen the local economy, improve local centres and reduce carbon emissions and running costs.

Total funding available: £25,000

Grants available

This scheme includes two grants and the available funding will be:

- Business Growth and Decarbonisation: £20,000
- Shop Front Improvements: £5,000

You can receive one grant per business under this scheme.

BDC will manage awards across the pots based on eligible demand and available budget.

Key dates

Applications open: 1 April 2026

Applications close: 30 May 2026

Decisions issued by: 28 July 2026

Projects must be completed by: 31 January 2027

Who can apply

You can apply if your business:

- is a micro businesses, meaning fewer than 10 full time equivalent employees and either turnover or balance sheet total no more than £2 million
- trades from premises in Blaby District
- has not already received a grant under this scheme

Tenants must provide written landlord approval for any proposed works, with a minimum of 1 year lease remaining for Shop Front Improvements and 3 years for Business Growth and Decarbonisation.

Evidence of trading premises

We will ask for evidence such as one of the following:

- business rates account
- lease or licence to occupy
- land registry title
- recent utility bill in the business name for the premises

Businesses we will not fund

We will not consider applications from:

- national chains
- pawn brokers, adult shops, betting shops and any business operations that do not align with Blaby District Council's health and wellbeing priorities, such as shops principally selling cigarettes, vapes and/or alcohol

- businesses in administration, insolvent or subject to striking off action

You cannot apply for funding for costs that are already funded, or due to be funded, by another public or private sector grant.

Match funding

Match funding requirements: 50% for Business Growth and Decarbonisation grants. None required for Shop Front Improvements.

If match funding applies, the application form will state:

- the percentage contribution required
- what counts as match funding
- what evidence you must provide

How we assess applications

Funding is limited and not all eligible applications will be successful. Applications will be assessed against:

- fit with the grant objectives (see Grant Purpose below)
- clear outcomes and benefits
- value for money and deliverability within the timescales
- quality of the proposal and quotations
- evidence of permissions and consents where needed
- additionality, meaning the project would not proceed in the same way without the grant

If the scheme is oversubscribed, BDC will prioritise the strongest applications based on these criteria.

General rules for all grants

- You must apply and receive written approval before you start any work or place any orders. We cannot fund retrospective costs.
- You must provide at least two like for like quotations from different suppliers.
- Payment is normally made in arrears once the project is complete and you have provided evidence of spend, unless BDC agrees otherwise in writing.
- You must keep invoices, receipts and evidence of delivery for audit purposes.
- You must obtain any necessary permissions before work starts, including landlord consent and planning or advertising consent where required.

What you need to apply

You will need:

- at least two quotations
- a bank statement showing the account name, sort code and account number that matches the applicant name
- proof you trade from premises in Blaby District
- landlord consent where applicable
- any relevant permissions where required
- Evidence of planning permission, where applicable

Apply online: [insert URL]

Enquiries: [insert email] | [insert phone]

Grant 1: Shop Front Improvements Grant

Purpose

To support visible improvements to trading premises that enhance the appearance, accessibility and safety of local centres.

Funding pot

Total pot: £5,000

Who it is for

Micro businesses trading from premises in Blaby District, including:

- shops and retailers
- cafes, restaurants and bars
- hair and beauty and professional services
- charity shops where the premises is used for trading

What we will fund

Examples include:

- painting and clean up
- shopfront and frontage improvements
- new signage and window displays
- security improvements such as shutters and gates
- accessibility improvements

Grant value

Grant value: [insert range and maximum award]

Match funding: [confirm rule, or state not required if that is the decision]

Grant 2: Decarbonisation and Business Growth Grant

Purpose

To help businesses reduce energy use, cut carbon emissions and lower running costs.

AND/OR

To support investment that helps businesses grow through new, or significantly improved, products, services or ways of working.

Funding pot

This grant is funded from the £20,000 Business Growth and Decarbonisation allocation.

Typical projects

Examples Include:

- LED lighting upgrades and controls
- insulation and draught proofing
- solar PV and other on site generation
- low carbon heating where appropriate
- water efficiency measures
- low carbon transport solutions for business operations
- specialist equipment to deliver a new or improved product or service
- software required to implement a growth project
- prototyping, testing and small scale research and development
- digital tools that improve delivery and productivity
- staff training directly linked to implementing the project

Grant value

Grant value: £500 to £3,000

Match funding: [confirm rule]

Important note on other grants

You cannot use this grant for costs already funded, or due to be funded, by another public grant. If you are applying for another grant for the same cost, you must declare it in your application.

After you apply

We will:

- confirm receipt of your application
- contact you if we need clarification on any points you capture in your application
- notify you of the outcome by [insert date]

If successful, you will receive an offer letter confirming:

- the approved activities and costs
- the maximum grant award
- any match funding requirements
- the project completion date
- the evidence required for payment

Terms and conditions

Successful applicants must agree to BDC's grant terms and conditions, including:

- declarations required for public funding and subsidy control where applicable
- fraud prevention checks and audit rights
- data protection and privacy terms: [insert link]
- clawback where terms are breached or information provided is false