

Borderlands Energy Investment Programme: Call for Projects

Frequently Asked Questions

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Does the £3m funding cap apply to the EOI or each delivery partner?

The £3m funding upper limit relates to the EOI as a total. The Borderlands Partnership Board reserve the right to go above the upper limit.

How many EOIs can we submit?

There is no limit on the number of EOIs an organisation can submit. However, to ensure a fair even spread of activity across the Borderlands region it is unlikely that more than one EOI per lead organisation will proceed to the next stage although it may be appropriate for some organisations to be a member of a consortium or partnership for a number of projects.

Can projects be grouped together into one EOI to get over the £1.5m funding threshold?

Projects should not be artificially brought together to get over the minimum grant threshold.

Projects could be grouped where there is a genuine need to bring projects together to collaborate and/or there is a clear benefit in doing so. The following points should also be considered:

- There would need to be one single contracting body that would be responsible for all grant funding agreement requirements.
- Each project would need to be at the same stage of development as all projects would need to be signed off as part of the overarching Full Business Case.

Can an EOI span multiple local authority areas?

Yes. In your EOI please make it clear how much Borderlands funding is required for each Local Authority area.

How are grant payments made?

All Borderlands grant funding is paid quarterly in arrears, usually within three months of the end of the quarter providing the claims are submitting on time with the correct evidence and the funding has been received from the relevant government department.

When can the project start?

Projects can start once their Full Business Case has been approved and the Grant Funding Agreement issued and accepted. For project planning purposes we would advise that the FBC review and approval process could take around 6 months.

What happens once the EOI is accepted?

The EOI is the first stage of the process. If selected to be taken forward, each successful EOI will be required to develop a HM Treasury Green Book Compliant Full Business Case. This will be submitted to government for review before the final decision is made by the Borderlands Partnership Board.

Being successful at the EOI stage does not guarantee the project will be funded as each project will need to demonstrate its impact and deliverability at Full Business Case stage.

Would applicants based in the Borderlands region be given preferential scoring over organisations based out with the region?

No, it's just the project activity that needs to be in the Borderlands region.

Would different organisation types be scored differently/be preferred over others?

No, but deliverability is considered along with track record for delivering similar projects (see Q 5.6 and 5.7 of the EOI Form).

Can the lead applicant change after the EOI has been submitted?

Yes, it would be possible to change the lead applicant following EOI submission. However, you would need to consider any potential change to the intervention rate.

Deliverability will be considered as part of the assessment. If you think this a change to the lead applicant is likely, please list all potential lead organisations in the EOI and state the final decision will follow. You will also need to outline the track record for each potential lead applicant.

If a project is shortlisted, is funding available to support the development of the business case?

The costs for developing the business case are the responsibility of the organisation applying for the funding.

However, we are in discussions with government to repurpose some funding to support the development of business cases. If agreed, the approach will be for the Borderlands PMO to procure services that shortlisted projects will have access to e.g. support to develop the Economic Case.

How many projects do you think you will fund?

We envisage two or three projects per local authority area, however this depends on the projects that come forward and the grant funding requested.

Can you apply for Borderlands funding if you've applied and potentially obtained grant funding elsewhere?

Yes, providing the project can demonstrate the Borderlands funding will enhance the project / do more than originally planned. Similarly, an applicant who has received other Borderlands funding would also be eligible to apply through this route.

Are projects purely considered based on their merits or is a level of geographical spread going to factor into the decision making?

There are multiple factors that will be considered when selecting projects to proceed to the next stage, this includes: Strategic Fit, Deliverability, Location and level of funding requested per local authority area.

As set out in the Call documentation there are series of compulsory outputs reflecting the focus of the call on bringing together economic opportunities and the shift to net zero energy. Projects must deliver against this objective and during the shortlisting achievement of the overarching targets for the programme will also need to be considered.

Can use of internal resource count towards match funding, or does the match funding need to be explicitly capital?

Yes, they can count as match funding providing the cost can be evidenced.

Will decisions on EOIs be made with potential to integrate projects?

Yes, where there is a genuine benefit to doing so. Where there are new opportunities to enhance or integrate projects these will be shared with the project as part of the review process.

Are district heat networks included in the scope of this fund?

Yes.

Can match funding be revenue?

Yes.

How does public procurement fit into the process?

All projects will need to demonstrate compliance with Public Procurement Regulations.

What's the latest a project can start?

Projects must be able to start by 30th June 2026.

If a project has already started, can we still apply for funding?

If the Borderlands funding would directly replace funding (public or private) that is already in place then we would not be able to support the project. This is because the project isn't able to demonstrate need for grant as it can already be delivered by other resources.

However, if the project is scalable with clear additional elements that will bring about change and deliver additional outputs, outcomes and impacts then this could be considered eligible. There would need to be clear demarcation between the original project and the Borderlands project.