This programme of support is designed for micro, small and medium sized organisations, that are based in Westmorland and Furness, and that are either commercial or social enterprises.

In detail, this means:

1. Location: the organisation must either have their business address in Westmorland and Furness, or must be seeking support in relation to a particular site that they operate in Westmorland and Furness. To receive a capital grant, the site of the investment must be within Westmorland and Furness.
2. Size: small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) are defined by the UK government in terms of number of staff, turnover and balance sheet as set out [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/beis-small-and-medium-enterprises-sme-action-plan-2022-to-2025/beis-small-and-medium-enterprises-smes-action-plan-2022-to-2025-accessible-webpage).
3. Nature of the organisation: organisations need to be *‘enterprises’* which are *‘engaged in economic activity’*, but this can be on a not-for-profit basis. To help define this, we can support businesses that:

* Provide easily identifiable and saleable goods or services to customers or clients. Saleable goods or services could include those that are provided below market rate, if the organisation is able to do so through the use of other income, donations or volunteer time.
* Have at least one member of staff earning and income from the organisation. The member of staff can be either the business owners or an employee.
* Have a bank account.
* Are formally constituted, as one of the following:
* Limited companies
* Business partnerships
* Sole traders
* Charitable companies
* Charitable incorporated organisations (CIOs)
* Charitable trusts
* Co-operatives
* Community interest companies (CICs).

The exception is in relation to access onto our Purposeful Start-Up course. It is recognised that start-ups, by nature, are just setting out on a process and therefore do not have to meet this particular criterion to access that course. Is it expected however, that they will be aiming to become an enterprise of some sort in the near future.

1. Sectors: we can support private and charitable sector organisations in any industry. We cannot support public sector organisations, for example, state schools.
2. Specific exclusions do apply:

* Faith, political or campaign-based organisations are ineligible. The exception here is if the organisation includes an enterprise ‘arm’, which is accessible to customers or clients of any faith or political standpoint. In these circumstances, support can be provided in relation to that enterprise part of the organisation only.

Housing providers. Bed and breakfasts and holiday-let businesses are eligible for support, provided that the accommodation is bookable for most of the year, i.e. operating as a business for most of the year. We acknowledge that the accommodation might also be the home of the business owner and that demand for accommodation is seasonal.