

The Manufacturing Growth Programme in East Sussex and Kent

What is the Manufacturing Growth Programme?

The Manufacturing Growth Programme (MGP) provides FREE, impartial advice and funding for small to medium-sized (SME) manufacturers, including Food and Drink producers, based in Kent and East Sussex. This is aimed at helping a business to:

- identify opportunities for growth and improvement;
- connect with experts/specialists who can support that growth;
- gain a **grant from £1,000 to over £2,000** towards the cost.

What does the funding cover?

A grant covers up to 35% of the cost of external advice/consultancy delivered by any third party, chosen by the business. A wide variety of projects can be funded, including Marketing, New Product Development, Quality, Leadership and Management, and Continuous Improvement. It also includes support towards achieving national standards, such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001, SALSA and BRC.

Who provides the support?

Funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the programme is delivered by Economic Growth Solutions through a team of local Manufacturing Growth Managers, with **Robin Simpson** providing FREE and personalised support to manufacturers in the region.

Who can apply for funding?

To apply for a grant, a business must be engaged in the manufacture of a product, foodstuff or drink. They must also be based in the region and meet the European Union definition of an SME, in that they:

- employ fewer than 250 employees;
- have a turnover of less than €50 million OR a balance sheet total less than €43m;
- not be part of a group exceeding any of the above.

Who do we contact?

Based on the South Coast, Robin has over 25 years of experience supporting business growth and development. He can assist any manufacturer, food or drink producer in East Sussex or Kent, to assess their opportunities for growth, to connect with a specialist and to gain funding towards this.

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