**Create Growth Nottingham & Nottinghamshire**

**Networking Grant Scheme**

**Purpose of the Grant**

The grant scheme aims to support small-scale events and networking activities that foster collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and growth among creative, digital and creative technology (CDI) businesses. The objective is to strengthen the CDI business ecosystem across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire by stimulating innovative communities that help grow the sector and drive investment. As a time limited programme, CGN2 is focused on developing a legacy for our CDI sector that will attract future regional and national support and investment.

For more information on CGN2 and the range of support available, please click [Home | Business Support Nottingham | Create Growth N2](https://creategrowthn2.co.uk/)

**Applicant Eligibility**

To be eligible, applicants must:

* Be a registered business, social enterprise, local authority, nonprofit organization or business network group.
* Have a business address within Nottingham & Nottinghamshire.
* Have been operating for at least 6 months at the time of application.

**Eligible Activities**

Although flexible by design with each proposal considered on individual merits, the CGN2 Networking Grant scheme will provide one-off funding for eligible approved activity that must clearly demonstrate the objective to develop and enhance the eco-system and networking opportunities for CDI businesses in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Funding can be used to support:

* Business networking events.
* Knowledge-sharing sessions (e.g. guest speakers, panel discussions).
* Workshops or roundtables encouraging collaboration or innovation.
* Digital or hybrid events that increase accessibility or reach.
* Local investment promotion events focused on the sector.

Although designed to support single events, consideration will be given to any proposal that includes a series or programme of events based on successfully meeting the criteria of the scheme and CGN2 wider objectives.

Any grant supported event should be open to all businesses and not restricted to members (if the applicant is a membership based organisation).

**Ineligible Activities**

The grant cannot be used for the following:

* Purely social or entertainment events with no clear business objective.
* Costs unrelated to the event (e.g. core business operations, salaries not linked to event delivery).
* Events that have already taken place (the grant cannot provide retrospective funding).

**Funding Available**

The grant fund is limited and available on a competitive first come first served basis dependent on the eligibility and strength of the proposal. Two tranches are available:

* Small Grant – up to £500 per project application
* Large Grant – up to £1000 per project application

As part of any proposal, applicants are expected to contribute at least 25% match funding (cash or in-kind).

The scheme is designed to support one proposal per applicant. However, consideration will be given to additional applicants based on the relevance of the proposal and track record of success.

**Timescales**

The scheme will be open for applicants from 1st September 2025. The closing date for applications to be considered for support is Friday 30th January 2026. The deadline for any supported activity to be completed is Friday 27th February 2026.

**Contract & Reporting Requirements**

Successful applicants will be required to sign a grant agreement with Nottingham City Council in advance of project delivery and any release of grant. The grant agreement will stipulate the following conditions:

* Use of grant
* Payment and monitoring requirements including evidence of expenditure
* Publicity and co-branding requirements

Grant will be paid on defrayed expenditure upon completion of a grant claim declaration.

All successful grant recipients will be required to submit a short post-event report within 4 weeks of the event or activity including the following details:

* Attendance numbers and details of attendees (subject to GDPR)
* Participant feedback or testimonies received
* Summary of event outcomes achieved and any lessons learned.
* Proposals to further develop or activity in the future.
* Photographs and/or video of the event.

**Marketing and Promotion**

Details will be stipulated in the grant agreement but all grant supported activity will be co-branded with CGN2.