



**LIVERPOOL
CITY REGION**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

METROMAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

General Block Exemption State Aid Scheme

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The Liverpool City Region Single Investment Fund Enterprise Support State Aid Scheme (the "Scheme")

The purpose of this Scheme is to provide State Aid cover for awards of public funding made by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority using the Liverpool City Region Single Investment Fund (**SIF**). Further information may be found at <https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk>

To comply with this Scheme, each award must meet all relevant General Conditions and Specific Conditions.

General Conditions

1. Title

The Liverpool City Region Single Investment Fund Enterprise Support State Aid Scheme (the **Scheme**)

2. Member State

United Kingdom

3. Regions

Merseyside
Liverpool
Sefton
Halton and Warrington
Wirral

4. Granting Authority

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
1 Mann Island Liverpool, L3 1BP
<https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk>

5. Legal Basis

Aid under the Scheme may be awarded whenever it meets the relevant terms and conditions of GBER.

6. UK Legal Authority to award aid

Industrial Development Act 1982
Localism Act 2011

7. Duration

Aid awarded from 01/04/2016 to 31/12/2020.

8. Economic sectors eligible

All sectors are eligible to receive funding, other than those specified at Article 1 of the GBER.

9. Beneficiary type

Large, medium sized and small enterprises may receive aid under the Scheme.

10. Total annual budget planned

In any calendar year the Scheme shall not be used to provide awards which cumulatively exceed £70 million. For the avoidance of doubt, this figure does not reflect a committed budget, but instead is the total amount which may be allocated under the Scheme for State Aid law purposes. Aggregate awards made may be considerably less than this amount.

11. Types of aid funding

It is anticipated that the following types of aid will be awarded under the Scheme:

Direct Grant
Interest rate subsidy
Risk Finance
Loan/Recoverable advances
Guarantee

But this shall not preclude awards in any other transparent form in line with the requirements set out in Article 5 of GBER.

12. Co-financing with EU Funds

It is not expected that the Scheme will be used to co-finance with EU Funds, but Liverpool City Region Combined Authority reserve the right to declare EU funds, including European Structural and Investment Funds, under this Scheme.

13. Incentive Effect

All awards under the Scheme must, where applicable, demonstrate the “incentive effect” in accordance with the requirements of GBER (which may involve the submission of documents to the Granting Authority prior to funding award).

14. Cumulation

Aid awarded under the Scheme may only be cumulated with other awards of State Aid where this is consistent with the provisions of GBER.

15. Primacy

If any part of this Scheme is inconsistent with GBER, the provisions of GBER shall prevail.

Specific Conditions

1. Scope

The Scheme covers all the GBER categories set out in the table below.

2. Eligible Costs

The eligible costs shall in relation to each primary objective be those that meet the criteria set out in GBER in respect of such primary objective.

3. Aid Intensity

The aid intensity applicable to the aid measures listed in the primary objectives column in the table below shall be as set out in the relevant specific condition of the GBER.

4. Excluded Undertakings

See GBER Article 1 and the GBER Article relevant to each aid measure.

5. Reporting

Any project receiving aid under this Scheme shall agree to provide sufficient information to Liverpool City Region Combined Authority upon request to enable it to meet its reporting requirements under Article 9 and 11 of GBER.

Table

Primary Objective/General Objectives	Max aid intensity in % or max annual aid amount in national currency	SME-bonuses in %
Regional aid-Investment aid (Art.14)	10%	+20% (small) +10% (medium)

Regional aid-Operating aid (Art.15)		
SME Aid (Art.17-20)		
Investment aid to SMEs (Art.17)	10%	+ 10% (small)
Aid for consultancy in favour of SMEs (Art.18)	50%	
Aid to SMEs for participation in fairs (Art.19)	50%	
SME Aid- SMEs access to finance (Art.21-22)		
SME risk finance aid (Art. 21)	€15,000,000	
SME aid for start-ups (Art.22)	Various	Various
SME aid to alternative trading platforms (Art.23)	100%	
SME aid for scouting costs	50%	
Aid for research, development and innovation (Art. 25-30)		
Aid for research and development projects (Art. 25)		
Fundamental research (Art. 25(2)(a))	100%	
Industrial research (Art. 25(2)(b))	50%	+20% (small) +10% (medium)
Experimental development (Art. 25(2)(c))	25%	+20% (small) +10% (medium)
Feasibility studies (Art. 25(2)(d))	50%	+20% (small) +10% (medium)
Investment aid for research infrastructures (Art. 26)	50%	
Aid for innovation clusters (Art. 27)	55% (clusters located in (c) assisted areas)	
Innovation aid for SMEs (Art.28)	50%	
Aid for process and organisational innovation (Art. 29)	15%	+35%
Training aid (Art. 31)	50%	+20% (small) +10% (medium)
Aid for disadvantaged workers and workers with disabilities (Art. 32-35)		
Aid for the recruitment of disadvantaged workers in the form of wage subsidies (Art. 32)	50%	
Aid for the employment of workers with disabilities in the form of wage subsidies (Art. 33)	75%	
Aid for compensating the additional costs of employing workers with disabilities (Art. 34)	100%	
Aid for compensating the costs of assistance provided to disadvantaged workers (Art. 35)	50%	
Aid for environmental protection (Art. 36–49)		
Investment aid enabling undertakings to go	45% (investments	+20% (small)

beyond Union standards for environmental protection or increase the level of environmental protection in the absence of Union standards (Art. 36)	located in (c) assisted areas)	+10% (medium)
Investment aid for early adaptation to future Union standards (Art. 37)	15% (investments located in (c) assisted areas)	+20% (small) +10% (medium)
Investment aid for energy efficiency measures (Art. 38)	35% (investments located in (c) assisted areas)	+20% (small) +10% (medium)
Investment aid for energy efficiency projects in buildings (Art. 39)	€10,000,000 (loan value)	
Investment aid for high-efficiency co-generation (Art. 40)	50% (investments located in (c) assisted areas)	+20% (small) +10% (medium)
Investment aid for the promotion of energy from renewable sources (Art. 41)	50% (investments located in (c) assisted areas)	+20% (small) +10% (medium)
Operating aid for the promotion of electricity from renewable sources (Art. 42)	5%	
Operating aid for the promotion of energy from renewable sources in small-scale installations (Art. 43)	100%	
Aid in the form of reductions in environmental taxes under Directive 2003/96/EC (Art. 44)	100%	
Investment aid for remediation of contaminated sites (Art. 45)	100%	
Investment aid for energy-efficient district heating and cooling (Art. 46)	50% (investments located in (c) assisted areas)	+20% (small) +10% (medium)
Investment aid for waste recycling and re-utilisation (Art. 47)	40% (investments located in (c) assisted areas)	+20% (small) +10% (medium)
Investment aid for energy infrastructure (Art. 48)	100%	
Aid for environmental studies (Art. 49)	50%	+20% (small) +10% (medium)
Aid schemes to make good the damage caused by certain natural disasters (Art. 50) Date of occurrence of the natural disaster: Start 1/9/2016 End 31/12/2021 Type of natural disasters: Earthquake, landslide, flood, tornado, hurricane, wild fire	100%	
Social aid for transport for residents of remote regions (Art. 51)	100%	

Aid for broadband infrastructure (Art. 52)	€70,000,000 (total costs)	
Aid for culture and heritage conservation (Art. 53)	100%	
Aid schemes for audio-visual works (Art. 54)	50%	
Aid for sport and multifunctional re-creation of infrastructures (Art. 55)	100%	
Investment Aid for local infrastructures (Art. 56)	100%	
Aid for regional airports (Art. 56a)	50%	
Aid for maritime ports (Art. 56b)	100%	
Aid for inland ports (Art. 56c)	100%	

6. Conditions

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority reserves the right to add further conditions to any award made using this Scheme.

7. State Aid beneficiary commitments

Any organisation which receives State Aid cover under the Scheme agrees:

- (a) to use reasonable endeavours assist Liverpool City Region Combined Authority in the event of an investigation into the Scheme; and
- (b) to undertake their own assessment of the funding to ensure that they meet the terms and conditions of this GBER Scheme.