Foundational Economy Challenge Fund

16 September 2025

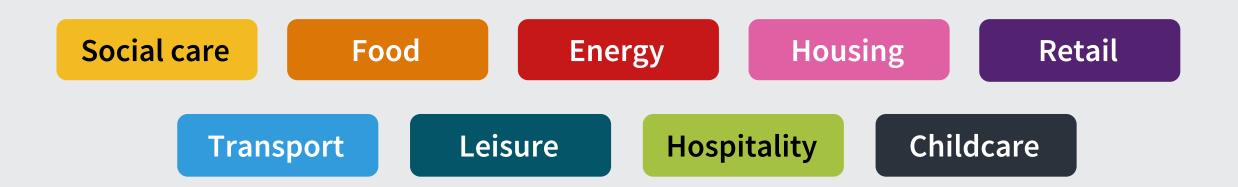
Mike McNally, Glasgow City Region Programme Management Office





What is the Foundational Economy (FE)?

- Businesses and services people depend on for their daily needs
- Makes up 60% of employee jobs in Glasgow City Region
- >500,000 people in the Region work in the FE



What is the Glasgow FE Challenge Fund?



Supporting Glasgow's economy – including the foundational economy



Foundational Economy Challenge Fund



New ideas to drive improvement in ELC in Glasgow

Quality, accessibility, sustainability, resilience



Inclusive and productive economy

The Fund will support:

Business innovation:

- Ideas for business improvement
- Challenge areas



Better Quality Business Offer



More Accessibility for Clients / Users

It is not for:

- Invention of something brand new
- Business as usual service delivery
- Buying resources
- Increasing staffing



More Sustainable Business Offer



How will it work?

- Resources, expertise, and support to make good ideas happen
- Phase one funding of up to £10k per project
- Phase two funding of up to £30k for successful phase one projects
- Linking likeminded innovators in a growing community across Glasgow

Now

- Planning and preparation
- Critical Friends Group

In the New Year

Bidding

Spring 2026

- Awarding funds
- Projects begin

Get involved!

- Look out for more information...
- Think about how to innovate within your business
- Talk about your ideas
- Apply to the Fund in the New Year





Initial point of contact:

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