

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) for 2014-2020 comprises 2 main funds, the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund, both of which will come to a close in December 2023. Sunderland City Council and other local and regional organisations, such as the universities and colleges, have benefited significantly from previous European funded programmes over the last few decades.

During the final European funding period for the UK, the City Council has benefited from direct grant awards of over £10m. Details of the projects supported are summarised below:

Sunderland Software City Phase 3

Project dates	October 2015 to December 2018
ERDF Funding	£1,005,444
Total Project Costs	£1,997,847
Project Description	The project supported the continued growth of the software sector in Sunderland and the North East by providing direct support, financial assistance and access to markets for new and existing businesses. During the project lifetime 272 businesses were assisted, including 16 businesses who received grant support totalling £225,000.

Digital Innovation Partnership

Project dates	April 2018 to June 2023
ERDF Funding	£2,051,075
Total Project Costs	£3,973,872
Project Description	The project aimed to drive productivity, efficiency and new product/service development through digital innovation. The project supported 289 businesses with direct support and 26 businesses with grant support.

Sunderland Energy Storage and Efficiency Project (SESEP)

Project dates	January 2018 to June 2023
ERDF Funding	£TBC
Total Project Costs	£TBC
Project Description	The project aimed to test the effectiveness of solar PV and battery storage technology on seven publicly owned buildings within the city of Sunderland. It also provided energy efficiency advice, support and access to finance for SMEs and voluntary sector organisations in Sunderland, leading to 72 beneficiaries receiving grants of up to 50% to fund energy efficiency measures such as LED lighting, heating improvement and solar PV.

Next Generation Advanced Manufacturing Accelerator (N-GAMA)

Project dates	July 2021 to June 2023
ERDF Funding	£527,636
Total Project Costs	£1,035,995

Project Description	The project delivered bespoke innovation support and grant funding to businesses to assist them to implement new digital technologies, particularly within the advanced manufacturing sector. A total of 22 SMEs were assisted across the North East LEP region, receiving a total of £341,850 in grants.
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Vaux Housing Smart Energy Grid

Project dates	January 2021 to September 2023
ERDF Funding	£2,004,902
Total Project Costs	£2,004,902
Project Description	<p>The project provided funding to create a demonstrator site of 132 “Homes of 2030” for the Festival of Future Living to be held in summer 2024. Specific activities funded through the project include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installing air source heat pumps and battery storage; • Installing improved insulation and high performance glazing; • Maximising on-site renewable energy generation using photovoltaic (PV) and other advanced technologies.

Electric Vehicle Hub

Project dates	January 2019 – June 2023
ERDF Funding	£1,619,375
Total Project Costs	£3,082,000
Project Description	The project created an Electric Vehicle Hub, over three sites, to support the operation and maintenance of the council’s electric commercial vehicles as well as providing a demonstration facility for other public sector organisations. ERDF contributed to investment in renewable energy, EV rapid/fast charging infrastructure and new energy storage technology.

Sunderland Community Led Local Development (ERDF)

Project dates	October 2017 – June 2023
ERDF Funding	£900,000
Total Project Costs	£1,500,000
Project Description	The CLLD programme provided sustainable economic opportunities and benefits to areas of Sunderland that face significant challenges. Challenges including social exclusion and multiple deprivation, capacity to access job opportunities, poor health or low levels of employment and entrepreneurship. The programme brought together local communities to explore, identify and address the challenges and experiences that make it more difficult for some people and communities to find a job, access training and support, or set up a new business. The programme provided an opportunity to develop new and different ways of addressing particular needs and circumstances in a very local area.