



GBE Supply Chain Fund: Offshore Wind and Networks Guidance

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Version Control

The table below summarises the key updates (as of 1st October 2026) to the Guidance for the GBE Supply Chain Fund: Offshore Wind and Networks since publication of Version 2 on 4th June 2026. These updates form Version 3 of the Guidance.

Update	Description	Page/s
Additional Critical Components submission form	Updated the guidance to direct stakeholders to the Additional Critical Components submission form, available on the GBE website.	13
Table 2: Critical Components	Updated eligibility list with 17 additional Critical Components.	14
Grant Intensity	Updated the guidance to include details about Grant intensity including detail about the proportion of a project's eligible costs that would be funded by the grant.	15
Proportionality of Evidence	Clarified that the level of evidence should be proportionate to the size, complexity and nature of the project, with assessors taking this into account when utilising the Full Assessment Framework to evaluate applications.	40
Annex B – Critical Components	Updated the table in the guidance to include descriptions for each of the 17 new eligible Critical Components and clarified the wording of existing component descriptions (Switchgear and HVDC Converter Stations).	55
Case for Assistance evidence	Additional footnote clarifying that evidence requirements are proportionate to the size and risk of grant.	66
FAQ updated to include Grant Intensity	Updated the FAQs by revising the question on grant size to include details on grant intensity.	75

The table below summarises the key updates (as of 4th June 2026) to the Guidance for the GBE Supply Chain Fund: Offshore Wind and Networks since publication of Version 1 in December 2026. These updates form Version 2 of the Guidance.

Update	Description	Page/s
Full Assessment clarification deadline	Updated deadline for responding to clarifications at Full Assessment (from 3 working days to “within the deadline set by GBE”).	9
Considering reopening to unsuccessful applicants if application window is extended beyond Round 4	Should GBE extend the application window beyond Round 4, it may consider reopening applications to previously unsuccessful applicants, allowing them to update their application and reapply with the same project.	10, 22
Voltage requirements for electricity network components	Clarified voltage requirements for eligible electricity network components (> 132kV updated to $\geq 132\text{kV}$).	15
Publication of indicative Grant Funding Agreement Terms and Conditions	Updated to reflect publication of indicative Grant Funding Agreement Terms and Conditions on the GBE website .	18
Signposting to the Department of Business and Trade at Readiness Review	Clarified that Not Ready applicants will be signposted to the Department for Business and Trade where appropriate.	23, 28
Readiness Review consecutive unsuccessful applications	Updated to include that GBE reserves the right not to consider further Readiness Review applications from an applicant where that applicant has previously submitted consecutive unsuccessful Readiness Review applications for the same project and there was not a substantial increase in the assessed level of readiness between those applications.	23, 28
Readiness Review required information	Removed reference to supporting evidence at Readiness Review stage.	28
Clarified transition pieces definition in Annex B	Clarified the definition of a transition piece within the eligible components by making	55

	reference to newer designs which do not feature a separate piece fitted over the top of the foundation, provided they include the four required items.	
Update to Deliverability scoring framework in Annex D	Updated criteria for a score of 3, 4 and 5 to better reflect variability in risks and mitigations.	62
Update to Financial Viability scoring framework in Annex D	Updated criteria for a score of 5.	65

1. Introduction

1.1 Great British Energy

Great British Energy (GBE) is a publicly owned energy company created to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy technologies and to ensure UK taxpayers, billpayers, communities and workforce reap the benefits of a sustainable and secure energy system.

Our ambition is to become a lasting national institution the British public can be proud of – a developer, constructor and owner of homegrown energy for the public good. We are building GBE not just as a company, but as a cornerstone of the UK's energy landscape: a trusted, transparent, and innovative public champion that stands shoulder to shoulder with the leading state-owned energy companies of Europe. GBE will become recognised both at home and abroad as a world-class energy institution that embodies the values, expertise and ambition of the UK.

GBE has been tasked with improving the resilience and capacity of existing and future supply chains as well as creating well paid, high-quality jobs via the [Statement of Strategic Priorities](#). Doing so is critical to our mission of public ownership with purpose.

Our [Strategic Plan](#) provides a starting point for GBE to become an enduring public institution, beginning with our aims for the next 5 years. This Plan sets out our strategic approach and position to the market, and will be updated every two years to evolve with GBE as a company.

1.2 Energy Engineered in the UK

'Energy, Engineered in the UK' (EEUK) is our flagship £1 billion supply chain programme designed to unlock industrial opportunities from the energy transition and ensure the UK develops enduring capabilities in renewable and low carbon technologies of the future. With capital, convening power and a unique position at the heart of government and industry, EEUK will help overcome structural barriers and anchor industrial capability in the UK.

GBE will deliver EEUK across three pillars:

1. **Manufacturing investment grants** to overcome market failures and address key constraints of critical components;
2. **Strategic market interventions**, delivering a combination of competitions, policy influence and partnerships to intervene in emerging markets; and
3. **Strategic investments**, injecting primarily equity finance proactively and reactively into market opportunities.

EEUK will be undertaken in partnership with industry and the public finance ecosystem, taking a 'Team UK' approach to help solve complex system-wide challenges.

Through the combination of grants and investments into the next frontier of low carbon and renewable energy technologies, GBE will unlock private investment, build

enduring manufacturing capabilities, drive down project costs, support high-quality jobs and deliver long-term economic value across the country for generations to come.

1.3 GBE Supply Chain Fund: Offshore Wind and Networks

GBE Supply Chain Fund: Offshore Wind and Networks (“the Fund”) is the first product of the EEUK programme. It [was announced](#) by the Prime Minister in April 2025, with a commitment to launch by December 2025. The Fund will award up to £300m in capital grant funding to build UK manufacturing capacity for key constrained components in offshore wind and enabling electricity networks sectors. GBE expects that this investment in additional manufacturing capacity will directly and indirectly mobilise more than one billion pounds in public and private investment and create and support thousands of jobs, including in the UK’s industrial clusters.

1.4 Rationale

GBE will play a key role in the UK Government’s mission to make Britain a clean energy superpower by achieving clean power by 2030 and by accelerating to our net zero 2050 target.¹ Clean power by 2030 means that Great Britain will generate enough renewable power by 2030 to meet our total annual electricity demand, backed up by unabated gas supply to be used only when essential. This means transitioning to an electricity system where renewable sources produce at least as much power as Great Britain consumes in total and renewable sources produce at least 95% of Great Britain’s generation.² This will be a critical step to achieving the UK’s statutory target to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.³

To meet these priorities, the UK will need to invest rapidly both in clean energy deployment to produce the required clean electricity and in related electricity network infrastructure to ensure the generated electricity can be transferred to power our homes and businesses. The offshore wind sector will play a key role in delivering on these missions, given the relative maturity of the sector in comparison to more nascent renewable technologies. In line with this, the UK Government has set a target to deliver 43-50GW of offshore wind by 2030.⁴ As of June 2025, the UK has 15.6GW of operational offshore wind capacity. Significant new investment will be required in order to develop and deploy the capacity needed to meet our 2030 target.

However, growth in demand for offshore wind and electricity networks components is outpacing supply chain capacity, resulting in bottlenecks, longer lead times, higher project costs and project delays. This risks delaying critical projects and risking the UK’s renewable energy ambitions. The Fund will target investment towards the most constrained offshore wind and electricity networks components to address critical supply chain constraints and enhance supply chain security in the UK.

¹ [Plan for Change](#) (2024)

² [Clean Power 2030 Action Plan](#) (2024)

³ [UK becomes first major economy to pass net zero emissions law - GOV.UK](#) (2019)

⁴ [Clean Power 2030 Action Plan](#) (2024)

The eligible components (referred to in the guidance as “Critical Components”) are set out in **Section 2.2 Critical Components**. These are components which are in high demand but have limited supply, and so present the greatest risk to the UK’s deployment targets. The Fund will support the delivery of new, or expansion of existing, UK based facilities that manufacture these Critical Components.

1.5 Key Dates

The table below (**Table 1**) summarises the key dates for the Fund. For the purposes of this guidance, those applying to the Fund are “applicants”.⁵ Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with these dates when planning their applications.

Table 1: Key Dates

Event	Date
Fund opens to applicants (“Opening Date”)	11 December 2025
Deadline for Round 1	31 March 2026 at 17:00 (UK BST)
Deadline for Round 2*	30 June 2026 at 17:00 (UK BST)
Deadline for Round 3*	30 September 2026 at 17:00 (UK BST)
Deadline for Round 4 and Application window closes (“Closing Date”)*	10 December 2026 at 17:00 (UK GMT)
Draw down of grant funding available for successful applicants	Between April 2026 and 31 March 2030 ⁶
Grant funding drawdown to be completed and closure of the Fund	31 March 2030

**Subject to the Fund’s budget not having been fully allocated in a previous round (please see below).*

Applicants must have submitted the Full Application form and accompanying documents by the deadline for Round 1 to be guaranteed to be considered for funding.⁷ Provided the Fund’s budget is not fully allocated during an earlier round, GBE will proceed with a second, then a third and a fourth round. If GBE is proceeding with a round, applicants must have submitted the Full Application form and accompanying documents by the Round deadline above to be considered for funding as part of that Round. Note, we expect the Fund to be oversubscribed with applications and therefore applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their Full Application form and accompanying documents by the earliest possible Round deadline. GBE will close the application window early should the Fund’s budget be allocated at either Round 1, 2 or 3 (see **Section 4 Eligibility** for more details on the Fund’s process for awarding

⁵ Where applicable, the term applicant may include a special purpose vehicle established subsequently, if approved by GBE. See Section 4 Eligibility.

⁶ Note, this is dependent on when drawdown is permitted pursuant to a successful project’s Grant Funding Agreement.

⁷ Note, for all Rounds if an applicant does not respond to GBE clarification requests on their Full Application form and accompanying documents within the deadline set by GBE, GBE reserves the right to remove them from the Round to avoid a delay to all the other projects being considered in that Round.

funding).⁸ If the application window closes early, GBE will give no further consideration to outstanding applications, even if they have completed the Full Application stage.

Should GBE extend the application window beyond Round 4, it may consider reopening applications to previously unsuccessful applicants, allowing them to update their application and reapply with the same project.

1.6 Applying to the Fund

Applications must be submitted through the application portal available [here](#). For user instructions relating to the application portal, see **Annex G – How to Apply** and **Annex H – FAQs**. GBE will only consider awarding grants under the Fund to applicants that apply (submit all the required application forms and additional information required) through our application portal. The Fund's application and assessment process consists of four stages:

- Eligibility Form
- Readiness Review
- Full Application
- Portfolio-Based Review

The first three stages will have corresponding forms and documents to be completed and submitted via the application portal. Please see **Section 3 Application Process Overview** for further details.

1.7 Public Finance Partnership

There is a broad landscape of public funding available for offshore wind and electricity network supply chains, and, together with our partners in this ecosystem, we recognise the need for a more coordinated approach. As part of this Fund, GBE is working to bring greater clarity and cohesion to the public finance ecosystem for existing and prospective supply chain manufacturers. Where appropriate, GBE will support applicants to navigate the range of available public funding and identify the most suitable routes, whether grant-based or otherwise.

In particular, GBE will seek to signpost applicants to other public finance bodies, including (but not limited to) the National Wealth Fund, the Scottish National Investment Bank, The Crown Estate and Crown Estate Scotland, where they may have relevant funding opportunities to help the project build packages of support, or where the applicant has not met the Fund's strategic or financial fit criteria but the application is aligned with GBE's broader ambitions.⁹

⁸ Note, GBE reserves the right to alter the deadline dates of each Round and the Closing Date for the Application Window.

⁹ Note, GBE would only be providing information to the applicant about other available funds, rather than offering recommendations or endorsements. It would be a matter for the applicant to consider whether other sources of funding would meet its needs and whether it might be eligible to apply for such funding. Funding from other Public Finance bodies would be awarded in accordance with their own processes. Where a project in receipt of – or seeking – other public funding is also seeking funding from

Applicants may be contacted separately to offer them the choice to Opt-In to sharing information with partnering public finance institutions, as described in **Annex G – How to Apply**.

1.8 Support and Contact Information

If applicants require any further clarification or information relating to their application not covered in this guidance document, they should email SupplyChainFund@gbe.gov.uk with the subject heading “GBE Supply Chain Fund: Offshore Wind & Networks Clarification - [Project Title]” and GBE will endeavour to respond as soon as possible. If GBE deems a clarification to be of relevance to other applicants (or potential applicants), GBE may share the anonymised question and answer with other applicants.

this Fund, GBE would take into account the aggregate value of subsidies and proposed subsidies when assessing the project’s Case for Assistance and whether their funding request is for the minimum necessary.

2. Fund Overview

2.1 Fund Objectives

The Supply Chain Fund: Offshore Wind and Networks is our first product in the EEUK Programme. Up to £300m of grant funding will be awarded to build UK manufacturing capacity of key constrained components in offshore wind and related electricity networks sectors.

The Fund has two leading objectives and a sub-objective:

- **Primary objective:** Increase UK manufacturing capacity of key constrained offshore wind and electricity network components.
- **Secondary objective:** Create and support new and existing jobs in the UK, including in industrial clusters.
- **Sub-objective:** Promote more resilient and sustainable means of production by encouraging investment in shorter or greener supply chains.

The primary objective directly supports the UK Government's clean energy superpower mission, including the Clean Power by 2030 and Net Zero 2050 targets (see **Section 1.4 Rationale** for more information). As mentioned, to meet these priorities, the UK will need to invest rapidly both in clean energy deployment to produce the required clean electricity and in related electricity network infrastructure to ensure the generated electricity can be transferred to power our homes and businesses. The offshore wind sector will play a critical role in clean energy generation, with the UK Government aiming to deliver around 43–50GW of electricity via offshore wind by 2030.¹⁰

Challengingly, demand for critical components in the offshore wind and related electricity networks sectors is outpacing supply chain investment resulting in component production becoming critically constrained, which in turn is risking the UK Government's deployment and net zero ambitions. The Fund's primary objective will directly address this challenge by providing and mobilising investment to relieve constraints on Critical Components such as blades, cables, monopiles, and transformers.

The secondary objective to create and support thousands of jobs, including in industrial clusters, not only directly supports the UK Government's mission to kickstart economic growth¹¹ but also helps develop the skilled labour force required to meet Net Zero 2050 targets. This objective will also help tackle inequalities by encouraging investment in industrial clusters including, for example, coastal communities near offshore wind deployment zones, which have some of the highest markers of deprivation in the UK and often host large parts of renewable energy and other

¹⁰ [Clean Power 2030 Action Plan](#) (2024)

¹¹ [Plan for Change](#) (2024)

enabling infrastructure, but do not necessarily feel the benefit of this investment. By investing in the UK's renewable energy supply chains and manufacturing, the Fund will support efforts to reignite our industrial heartlands and create thousands of jobs to ensure the UK is maximising the benefits of the renewable energy transition and has the skilled labour force necessary to meet our Net Zero 2050 target. To emphasise, there is no requirement on recipients to use UK inputs or labour in their supply chains.

The sub-objective is to promote more resilient and sustainable means of production by encouraging investment in shorter or greener supply chains. This is designed to strengthen the UK's energy resilience, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance the global environmental, economic, and social sustainability of offshore wind and enabling network-component supply chains. This sub-objective will also allow GBE to mitigate against potential bottlenecks resulting from constraints simply being displaced further downstream. Moreover, this sub-objective directly supports the Fund's primary objective by the resilient, continuous production of key constrained components to support our Net Zero 2050 target. For further details on this sub-objective, including eligible investments, please see **Annex E - Supporting Resilient and Sustainable Supply Chains**.

2.2 Critical Components

The Fund has a list of eligible Critical Components for the offshore wind and related electricity network sectors. Projects that manufacture components on that list will be within the scope for grant funding via the Fund. Whilst GBE is aware that there are many other key components for both sectors, we are targeting those components deemed most critical and most constrained to maximise the Fund's impact on clean energy supply chains and Net Zero deployment targets. GBE continues to work closely with the UK Government (the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and the Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade) and wider industry and industry associations to collate the latest market intelligence on key constrained components in those sectors.

Note, the Critical Components list (**Table 2**) is 'live' and GBE will regularly review the criticality of components to ensure the list remains an accurate representation of the most critically constrained offshore wind and electricity networks supply chains in the UK. GBE reserves the right to update the list of Critical Components and, if it does so, will notify the market of any updates. Stakeholders are invited to submit evidence using the Additional Critical Components submission form, which is available on the website. Completed form should be submitted by email to SupplyChainFund@gbe.gov.uk to contribute to this process, as outlined in **Annex C – Process for Including Additional Critical Components**.

To be eligible, the applicant must be primarily engaged in the manufacture of one or more of the Critical Components at the completed facility. Note, the same facility is allowed to produce other secondary components, sub-components, parts, or services.

The Critical Components are listed in the table below (**Table 2**).

Table 2: Critical Components

Our 'live' List has been expanded from 12 to 29 eligible Critical Components to (i) reflect the latest evidence and market intelligence on critical and constrained components in the offshore wind and networks sectors; and (ii) to drive the ambition of GBE's EEUK programme to support deeper levels of the supply chain.

Offshore Wind Sector	
Component Family	Critical Components
Mooring and Anchoring	Mooring and Anchoring
Blades	Blades
Nacelles	Nacelles Generators Gearboxes Power Converters
Towers	Towers
Monopiles	Monopiles
Transition Pieces	Transition Pieces
Jackets	Jackets
Electricity Networks Sector	
Component Family	Critical Components
High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Cables	HVDC Cables
High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) Cables (including Dynamic)	HVAC Cables (including Dynamic)
Power Transformers (AC & DC)	Power Transformers (AC & DC) HV Bushings Tap Changers & Selectors
HVDC Converter Stations	HVDC Converter Stations DC Capacitors Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistors (IGBTs) Converter Valves Protection Relay Panels & Control Cabinets HVDC Converter Station Jacket Foundations
Switchgear	Switchgear HV Circuit Breakers
Reactive Power Management & Control systems	Reactive Power Management & Control systems Flexible AC Transmission System (FACTS) devices
HVAC Substations	HVAC Substations HVAC Substation Topsides Protection Relay Panels & Control Cabinets HVAC Substation Jacket Foundations

Please note all eligible Critical Components must be purposed for the relevant Component Family and Sector listed in Table 2 to be eligible under the Fund (for example, a gearbox is only eligible if it is purposed for a nacelle deployed in the offshore wind sector, as opposed to a gearbox purposed for a vehicle in the automotive sector).

Note, in order to be defined as Critical Components, all of the above related electricity networks components must be compatible with the Great British transmission network ($\geq 132\text{kV}$) and compliant with all standards for use therein, except for HVAC cables, which may be rated at 66kV.

Please see **Annex B – Critical Components** for a more detailed description of each Critical Component, including any further eligibility requirements.

2.3 Eligible Locations

All areas of the UK will be eligible for funding, meaning projects can be located anywhere in the UK.

However, projects which are in scope of Article 10(1) of the Windsor Framework will not be eligible for funding, unless the funding could be awarded under the European Union's General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER). A project can be expected to be in scope of Article 10(1) of the Windsor Framework if the provision of funding would have a genuine, material effect on trade in goods or electricity between Northern Ireland and the European Union. This is most likely to be the case in respect of applicants located in Northern Ireland. For further information on the Windsor Framework, please see [here](#). GBER is the European Union's State aid regulation which permits certain subsidies to be granted without prior notification to the European Commission, provided the subsidy satisfies certain conditions. For further information on GBER, including those conditions, please see [here](#).

The Full Application contains questions which allow GBE to determine whether the project is in scope of Article 10(1) of the Windsor Framework. The questionnaire has a yes / no format and applicants should consider the activities of their business in its entirety when answering.

2.4 Case for Assistance & Minimum Necessary

The Fund is designed to support projects that enable additional impact that would not otherwise occur without grant funding. Projects that are already viable without grant support, or that would proceed at the same scale and timings in the UK regardless of funding, fall outside the scope of this Fund.

Whilst GBE has not set a minimum or maximum funding amount or grant intensity that can be requested from this Fund, any funding awarded must represent the minimum necessary for the project to proceed in the UK, in line with the strategic objectives of the Fund and also subsidy control principles.

Grant intensity refers to the proportion of a project's eligible costs that would be funded by the grant. GBE expects to mobilise over one billion pounds of public and private investment through £300m of grant funding, and anticipates an average grant intensity of around 15% across the Fund. This means public funding from this Fund may represent only a small amount of total eligible costs for many projects, with applicants demonstrating substantial private investment.

GBE will assess the value for money as part of the Economic Assessment, including the extent of benefits in relation to the level of public funding requested. Projects requesting a higher grant intensity may therefore find it more difficult to score strongly on this element. Applicants requesting low levels of grant support (e.g. $\leq 15\%$ grant intensity) may be likely to score more strongly in this respect. However, GBE recognises that some applications, including those led by small and medium-sized enterprises, may require higher levels of grant support. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to help ensure that the amount of grant requested is the minimum necessary for the project to proceed.

2.5 Industrial Clusters

Industrial clusters are geographically concentrated networks of businesses, research capabilities, skilled talent, and support structures in related industries. Their proximity supports collaboration, knowledge exchange, innovation spillovers, and access to deep labour markets. Clusters of clean power infrastructure are often concentrated in legacy manufacturing, shipping, or industrial areas (e.g. coastal towns and communities). Further information on industrial clusters can be found in [The UK's Modern Industrial Strategy](#).

Including consideration of industrial clusters can help ensure that economic benefits and new employment opportunities are shared across a broader range of UK regions, supporting innovation, resilience, and inclusive growth.

2.6 Social Value

Social value refers to the additional benefits generated by commercial activity that goes beyond addressing core sustainability risks and opportunities. Promoting and implementing fair work practices and investment in skills are key drivers of inclusive and resilient economic growth. Projects awarded grants through this Fund will be expected to embed core social value principles and commitments into their project plans. For example, this may include:

- Fair work commitments to safe, secure, and inclusive roles with good working conditions, including plans for workforce diversity, fair pay (e.g. the national living wage or gender pay parity), and a proactive approach to trade union access and recognition.
- Financial or non-financial commitments to investment in skills, including training, apprenticeships, outreach, and partnering with placement programmes.

- Ethical supply chain commitments to proactively identify and manage human rights risks within the organisation and supply chains, including plans to conduct supply chain risk mapping, transparent reporting, training and awareness activities, and partnering with credible third parties (e.g. NGOs, social auditors and multi-stakeholder initiatives).

Note the Fund's strategic assessment criteria will evaluate the strength of a project's social value commitments. Successful applicants should be open to working collaboratively with GBE on social value and will be expected to share information in relation to their performance against commitments. Applicants may be asked to engage on social value with other organisations, where relevant.

Please see **Annex F – Example Social Value Commitments** for further details on the type of commitments that could be considered and included in applications for this funding. Note, applications that do not meaningfully consider social value will likely score below the minimum threshold to be considered for funding.

2.7 Supporting the Energy Transition

Through the [Strategic Plan](#), GBE has provided a clear pathway of activities to ensure the UK seizes the full scale of opportunities presented by the energy transition. A fundamental part of delivering this ambition will include creating opportunities for oil and gas supply chain companies and workers to transition into low carbon and renewable energy sectors.

The Fund encourages projects to consider how they might support oil and gas workers and supply chains to transition to low carbon and renewable energy, including a) prioritising oil and gas workers when hiring via a job interview guarantee and b) repurposing oil and gas supply chains where viable for the project.

Applicants are encouraged to consider support for the objectives of the [Clean Energy Jobs Plan](#), including engaging and working with the North Sea Jobs Service, where appropriate. The North Sea Jobs Service, announced in the [North Sea Energy Futures Consultation Government Response](#), is an end-to-end career transition support for oil and gas workers looking to move into secure jobs in growing industries. It will work closely with industry to identify vacancies, match eligible workers to prospective employers, and identify ways to close any qualification gaps, ensuring that workers are supported into jobs in critical sectors.

While applicants are encouraged to consider these aspects, they will not be evaluated as part of the assessment process.

2.8 Conditions of Funding

In order to be awarded a grant, the applicant must accept our conditions of funding (these will be further outlined in the Grant Funding Agreement (GFA)), which will include (but not be limited to):

- Utilising grant funding on eligible costs only,
- Following our payment rules and processes,
- Adhering to our reporting, monitoring and evaluation requirements, and
- Complying with grant clawback terms (where applicable).

The terms of the GFA are not negotiable. GBE reserves the right to adapt the standard terms of the GFA as it deems necessary in light of its assessment of a particular project. If the terms of the GFA are not acceptable to an applicant, GBE will reject their application and not issue them a GFA.

GBE published the draft GFA Terms and Conditions in March 2026 which are available on the [GBE website](#).

Eligible costs

Eligible Costs must be capital expenditure (CapEx) directly related to the project¹² with a limited scope including:

- a) buildings, production equipment and machinery;
- b) any associated infrastructure that facilitates delivery and is linked to the specific product being manufactured; and/or
- c) research and development costs associated with the manufacturing facility (provided that the grant must also be for construction of those relevant facilities).

Eligible Costs should be able to be capitalised in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

Eligible Costs do not include:

- Operating expenditure (OpEx)
- Costs related to land purchase or property transactions
- Associated service and maintenance agreements
- Embedded warranty costs
- Interest costs

Payment rules and processes

Grant payments under the GFA will only be made in arrears and only after a claim has been submitted by the project of defrayed expenditure against agreed eligible costs and deliverables, and after GBE has verified the claim and evidence. For expenditure to have been defrayed, liabilities must have been both incurred and discharged by payment. Grant claims will be on a quarterly basis. Grant recipients will be required to provide independent assurance in the form of an annual Independent Accountant's

¹² These must be related to the manufacture of the eligible Critical Component(s).

Report verifying that the grant has been used for the delivery of the funded activities and eligible expenditure as specified in the GFA.

Reporting, monitoring and evaluation

To be awarded grant funding, applicants must accept our reporting requirements, which will support the Fund's monitoring and evaluation activities. This includes (but is not limited to) ongoing regular reporting on Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for a period of 5-10 years (depending on the KPI) after grant closure once the project is fully operational. Monitoring data is likely to include but not be limited to: output of Critical Component(s) per annum; delivery against social value commitments, number and salary of jobs created and supported by the project; and low carbon manufacturing commitments.

Projects may also be approached to participate in Fund evaluation activities to help GBE learn about and assess the impact of its activities. All monitoring and evaluation requirements will be set out in the GFA.

Project meetings

Grant recipients are expected to submit quarterly monitoring reports, alongside a financial claim, and monitoring officers shall convene regular project review meetings with grant recipients to assess delivery progress, review financial forecasts and identify risks. This may include site visits. Meeting frequency and/or data submissions may increase based on project risk assessments.

Clawback provisions

In order to comply with HM Treasury's *Managing Public Money* guidance, GBE needs to ensure that grants are used for permissible purposes and reflect the minimum level of support required for a project to go ahead and deliver its intended outcomes. These are standard requirements that are a normal part of administering public funding and the Fund's GFA will contain provisions of this nature. In line with this, GBE will include clawback provisions in the GFA that allow for the recovery of grant funding including (but not limited to) the following circumstances: default, non-performance, breach, fraud and insolvency. GBE reserves the right to apply clawback provisions where the project's actual performance materially exceeds the assumptions underlying the original award. Finally, applicants will be required to provide adequate and appropriate security, such as a Parent Company Guarantee, to ensure that, in the event that a clawback is required, the funds would be recoverable.

2.9 Delivery Partner

GBE is accountable for the delivery of the Fund. GBE has appointed the Central Grants and Loans (CGL) team within DESNZ as its delivery partner to support GBE in administering the Fund. Applicants (and grant recipients) must collaborate with CGL and/or any other delivery partners appointed during the lifespan of the Fund.

2.10 Subsidy Control

All awards of funding will be subject to applicable laws relating to subsidy control. The UK's subsidy control regime is primarily set out in the [Subsidy Control Act 2022](#), but other regimes including, in some limited circumstances, European Union State aid rules and the UK's wider international obligations may give rise to additional requirements.

GBE will reject any application where it considers that a grant cannot be issued in compliance with relevant subsidy control rules. Additionally, as outlined above in **Section 2.3 Eligible Locations**, projects which are in scope of Article 10(1) of the Windsor Framework will not be eligible for funding unless the funding could be awarded under the European Union's General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER).

Please note that the UK's subsidy control regime requires granting authorities, in this case GBE, to publish certain information in respect of businesses receiving subsidies (if worth £100,000 or more) for transparency purposes.

2.11 Ethical Supply Chains

GBE is committed to ethical supply chains and will not tolerate human rights abuses, including modern slavery, forced labour, and human trafficking. We have ambitions to become a sector leader in ethical supply chains, and are embedding ethical standards across GBE, at the board and operational levels, and through the delivery of EEUK. As part of this work, we will engage with industry and civil society to raise standards, explore UK-based alternatives to diversify high-risk supply chains, and work internationally to align with progressive global partners, including the EU.

If there is evidence of unethical labour practices within an applicant's operations and/or supply chains, appropriate action will be taken. This may include measures ranging from remediation of identified breaches to suspension, or, where necessary, termination of agreements.

GBE expects applicants to comply with internationally recognised minimum standards for workers' welfare and employment conditions as set by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and operate in accordance with the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

2.12 Wider Funding Opportunities

In addition to the GBE Supply Chain Fund: Offshore Wind & Networks' grant funding of £300m, there are separate and individual funding offers available to offshore wind supply chains:

- The Crown Estate has two investment funds totalling £400m:
 - [The Supply Chain Accelerator](#) (£50 million) is specifically aimed at catalysing early-stage development work, providing DevEx support to

projects pre-financial investment decision (FID). It is live and operational, with the first funding awarded in December 2024.

- [The Supply Chain Investment Programme](#) (£350 million) will invest in offshore wind supply chain projects at a later stage, funding large-scale construction post-FID. This scheme was launched at Global Offshore Wind on 17 June 2025.
- Both programmes are available for ports and port infrastructure, in addition to supply chain manufacturing.
- The [Offshore Wind Growth Partnership](#) (OWGP) will deliver £300m of funding through its role as the Industrial Growth Partnership Delivery Body:
 - Aimed at supporting the development and expansion of UK facilities for offshore wind, including Clean Industry Bonus (CIB) compliant and non-CIB compliant projects.
 - Funding requests must be between £300,000 and £25,000,000.
 - Pre-FID investments may be eligible as part of the total expenditure, and all funding proposals must cover the full project lifecycle from pre-FID to commissioning.
 - Note, GBE and the OWGP collaborate closely, aligning on fund design where possible to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach across these initiatives.

Applicants are reminded that the Fund operates on the basis of providing the minimum amount of funding required for the project to proceed. In doing so, to ensure compliance with subsidy control principles, we will consider any other public funding sought or already received by the applicant.

3. Application Process Overview

The application and assessment process will consist of four stages:

- Eligibility
- Readiness Review
- Full Application
- Portfolio-Based Review

The application process requires applicants to progress through each of the four stages in order. The first three stages will have corresponding forms that must be completed and submitted via the application portal. For user instructions relating to the application portal, see **Annex G – How to Apply** and **Annex H – FAQs**. Note, applicants must pass each stage before they will be invited to complete the next stage. Applicants cannot reapply with the same application (or project) if they are unsuccessful at any given stage, with the exception of the Readiness Review, where an application deemed 'Not Ready' can be resubmitted later in the application window once all identified issues have been addressed. Note, should GBE extend the application window beyond Round 4, it may consider reopening applications to previously unsuccessful applicants, allowing them to update their application and reapply with the same project.

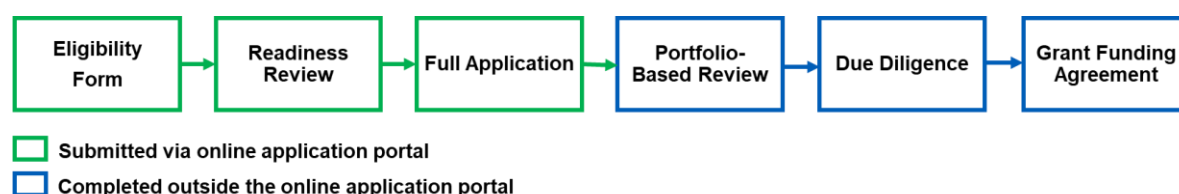


Figure 1: Application and Assessment Process

The process overview is outlined below:

1. **Eligibility** – To begin the application process, applicants must complete the Eligibility form which will assess whether applications meet the Eligibility Criteria for the Fund, as set out in **Section 4 Eligibility**. Applications must meet all the Eligibility Criteria to pass to the next stage; otherwise, the application will be rejected.
2. **Readiness Review** – If successful at Eligibility, and provided the application window is still open (see above **Section 1.5 Key Dates**), applicants will be invited to complete the Readiness Review. “Readiness” refers to how well developed a project is. Applications will be assessed against eight criteria, as described in **Section 5 Readiness Review**. If an application is deemed ‘Ready’ for all eight criteria, it will be deemed Ready (Pass) and will progress to the Full Application. If an application is deemed ‘Not Ready’ (Fail), it will remain in the Readiness Review

stage, rather than being rejected. The applicant will have the opportunity to update and resubmit the Readiness Review form later in the application window once all identified issues have been addressed.¹³ Note, all applicants assessed as 'Not Ready' will, where appropriate, be signposted (contact details shared) to the Department of Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (BIST) who may be able to offer support. Note, applicants should prepare for the Readiness Review to take around 2 weeks, and should give themselves sufficient time after the Readiness Review to submit their Full Application and accompanying documents ahead of the relevant Round deadline for Portfolio-Based Review.

3. **Full Application** – Provided the application window is still open (see **Section 1.5 Key Dates**), applicants that pass the Readiness Review will then be invited to complete the Full Application. Applications will be assessed across four areas – Strategic, Technical, Economic and Financial Assessment – and scored from 1 to 5 for six individual criteria spanning those areas. To progress to Portfolio-Based Review, the Full Application form and accompanying documents must be submitted while the application window is open and must achieve a minimum score of 3 for each criterion and a weighted average score of 3.5 or higher. Please see **Section 6. Full Application** for further details.
4. **Portfolio-Based Review** – Applications that are successful at Full Assessment will progress to the Portfolio-Based Review to be considered against four Portfolio Factors, described in **Section 7. Portfolio-Based Review**, designed to ensure a coherent, balanced portfolio aligned with the Fund's policy objectives. These reviews will happen quarterly, after each Round deadline, and no further submission is required for this stage.
5. **Due Diligence** – Applications that are successful at the Portfolio-Based Review will progress through the Due Diligence process, as explained in **Section 8. Due Diligence**.
6. **GFA** – Subject to the satisfactory outcome of Due Diligence, including that the grant is compliant with subsidy control rules, GBE may make a grant award offer, confirming the final grant amount and any bespoke terms and conditions. Grant recipients will be required to sign the GFA in order to be eligible to receive any funding.

Applications that pass the Eligibility Form, Readiness Review, and Full Application stages are considered in principle to be suitable candidates for grant funding under the Fund. However, an application may still be unsuccessful in certain circumstances including (but not limited to):

¹³ GBE reserves the right not to consider further Readiness Review applications from an applicant where that applicant has previously submitted consecutive unsuccessful Readiness Review applications for the same project and there was not a substantial increase in the assessed level of readiness between those applications.

1. Portfolio-Based Review: The aim of the Fund is to deliver the best strategic outcome across the UK. We have therefore introduced Portfolio-Based Reviews, which will be held after each Round deadline (please see above **Section 1.5 Key Dates**). The Round deadlines will be quarterly throughout the 12-month application window. The Portfolio-Based Review may determine that a project should not be funded where this is necessary to preserve a balanced and strategically coherent portfolio. This may include considerations such as diversity of components funded, geographical distribution of projects and changing market needs (the full set of Portfolio Factors is set out in **Table 10**).
2. Other disqualifying factors: An application may still be rejected for a range of additional reasons, e.g., if material issues arise during due diligence or if the parties are unable to finalise a Grant Funding Agreement, which is non-negotiable.
3. Funding exhaustion: Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their Full Application form and accompanying documents to the earliest Round deadline possible for the application during the application window as GBE will close the application window early should the Fund's budget be fully allocated at the Portfolio-Based Review for any of Round 1, 2 or 3 (please see above **Section 1.5 Key Dates**). Where multiple applications reach the Portfolio-Based Review for a Round, and where awarding funding to all of those applications would exceed the available budget (after excluding any applications which do not progress due to consideration of Portfolio-Based Review factors), the highest scoring applications will progress past the Portfolio-Based Review first, followed by the next highest, until the budget is fully allocated. The outcome of the Portfolio-Based Review for any remaining applications will be a determination that the project should not be funded and those applications will not progress past the Portfolio-Based Review. Applications already approved for funding by Portfolio-Based Reviews for previous Rounds will not be part of this funding prioritisation process.

4. Eligibility

To be eligible for funding and proceed to the next stage in the application process, applications must meet all the Eligibility Criteria listed in **Table 3** below. Applications which do not meet the Eligibility Criteria will be rejected. The criteria will be assessed as Pass or Fail.

Table 3: Eligibility Criteria

Category	Essential Criteria (Requirement to Pass)
Applicant	The applicant must be a company registered under the Companies Act 2006 at the point of submitting a Full Application. ¹⁴
Project	The grant funding must be used to construct new or extend existing manufacturing facilities in the UK. The funded activities must take place in the UK.
Applicant asset ownership, employment contracts and project activity	The applicant ¹⁵ must be the entity that will own the constructed assets comprising the project, hold the contracts of employment for jobs classed as direct jobs under the GFA ¹⁶ and carry out the agreed project activity that will result from the GFA.
Component	The project (when completed) must manufacture one or more of the Critical Components (as set out in Section 2.2 Critical Components). Note, the same facility is allowed to produce other secondary components, sub-components, parts, or services. However, it must primarily produce one or more Critical Components and the greater the emphasis a project has on manufacturing a Critical Component, the higher scores it will receive in the assessment. ¹⁷
Eligible Costs	Grant funding can only be spent on “ Eligible Costs ”. Please see Section 2.8 Conditions of Funding for more details.

¹⁴ The applicant need not necessarily be a company registered under the Companies Act 2006 at the point of submitting the Eligibility form. Applicants that are not a company registered under the Companies Act 2006 at the point of submitting the Eligibility form must confirm that they will meet this requirement at the point of submitting a Full Application. This will be an essential requirement for the submission of a Full Application. This information will therefore be requested and assessed at both the Eligibility and Full Assessment stages. Where the applicant proposes using a special purpose vehicle, this requirement also applies to that entity.

¹⁵ Or the applicant's special purpose vehicle, noting GBE would assess the proposal to use a special purpose vehicle at the due diligence stage. GBE may reject the use of a special purpose vehicle at its discretion, for example where in GBE's judgement the proposed security arrangements are unsatisfactory.

¹⁶ See Section 6.6 Accompanying Documents – Jobs Spreadsheet subheading for definitions of direct, created and safeguarded jobs.

¹⁷ This will be assessed as part of the Economic Assessment (value for money) – see Section 6.4 Economic Assessment, and the Portfolio-Based Review (component coverage) – see Section 7. Portfolio-Based Review.

Category	Essential Criteria (Requirement to Pass)
Non-relocation	The applicant must confirm that Eligible Costs will not facilitate the relocation of existing production activities within the UK. ¹⁸
Ailing and Insolvency	GBE must be content that the applicant is not seeking the grant funding for the purposes of rescuing the applicant from an ailing or insolvent position. ¹⁹
Case for Assistance	A project is only eligible for grant funding via this Fund if the grant funding is necessary for the project to proceed – i.e. the project has a genuine Case for Assistance (in the view of GBE). Applicants will be asked to specify what would happen if the company does not receive grant funding through this Fund (the counterfactual). Applicants will be asked to indicate if the project would go ahead but be significantly reduced in scale, delayed, moved abroad, or abandoned – or that it will still go ahead as planned in the UK. Applicants that indicate that the project would go ahead as planned in the UK without a grant will be rejected.
Exclusion Criteria	Any entity or individual on the UK Sanctions List published by gov.uk and maintained by the UK government will be excluded. Applicants will be excluded if, within the last 5 years, the organisation or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation, has been convicted of participation in a criminal organisation, corruption, fraud, terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, money laundering or terrorist financing, child labour and/or other forms of human trafficking. Applicants will be excluded if it has been established that the organisation is in breach of obligations related to the payment of tax or social security contributions. Applicants may be excluded if, within the last 3 years, the organisation or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation has been involved in the breach of environmental, social or labour law obligations, has been declared bankrupt or is the subject of insolvency or winding-up proceedings, where the organisation's assets are being administered by a liquidator or by the court, where it is in an arrangement with creditors,

¹⁸ This requirement does not exclude a project that involves relocation plus expansion from applying to the Fund. Costs which facilitate the relocation of existing production activities within the UK will not be eligible for grant funding. Eligible Costs must only relate to the expansion of production.

¹⁹ For the purposes of the above "ailing and insolvent" in the context of an applicant means one of the following:

- a) it would almost certainly go out of business in the short to medium term without subsidies;
- b) it is unable to pay its debts as they fall due; and/or
- c) the value of its assets is less than the amount of its liabilities, taking into account its contingent and prospective liabilities.

Category	Essential Criteria (Requirement to Pass)
	where its business activities are suspended, or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure under the laws and regulations of any State, or has entered into agreements with other organisations aimed at distorting competition, or where there is a perceived or actual conflict of interest through receiving grant funding from GBE that is not appropriately mitigated. ²⁰

²⁰ Although part of the Eligibility Criteria, the information relating to the Exclusion Criteria will only be requested and assessed at the Full Application stage.

5. Readiness Review

The Readiness Review will assess how well developed a project is. Applications will be assessed against a set of eight criteria, as described in **Table 4**, based on responses to questions asked in the Readiness Review form. Applicants will be asked to confirm that they will be able to provide supporting evidence in relation to the Readiness Criteria at Full Application (see **Section 6.6 Accompanying Documents** for further details).

If an application meets all eight criteria, it will be deemed 'Ready' and, provided the application window is still open (see **Section 1.5 Key Dates**), it will be eligible to progress to Full Application. If an application is assessed as 'Not Ready' for one or more of the eight criteria, it will be deemed 'Not Ready'. Provided the application window is still open, it will remain in the Readiness Review stage and the applicant will have the opportunity to progress towards Readiness and resubmit an updated Readiness Review form and supporting evidence once they have resolved all identified gaps or issues.²¹

During Readiness Review, all applicants assessed as 'Not Ready' will, where appropriate, be signposted (contact details shared) to BIST who may be able to offer support.

Table 4: Readiness Criteria

Criteria	Readiness Conditions
Proximity to Final Investment Decision (FID)	Expected FID date is within a timeframe that provides confidence that the project can be fully delivered (or all grant funding can be drawn down) by March 2030, and any identified dependencies or risks to the timeline (or relevant wider risks) are appropriately mitigated. ²²
Project team	The project team has experience or proven capability delivering projects of similar scale and complexity or has relevant transferable experience.
Project plan	The applicant presents a credible project plan summary which covers construction timelines, procurement strategy for design and build activities, and dates for first production. On the basis of the plan, the project will be in a strong position to draw down all of their total grant funding by March 2030.

²¹ There is no limit to the number of times an applicant can resubmit the Readiness Review form, provided the application window is still open, however applicants must have resolved all identified gaps or issues before resubmitting. GBE reserves the right not to consider further Readiness Review applications from an applicant where that applicant has previously submitted consecutive unsuccessful Readiness Review applications for the same project and there was not a substantial increase in the assessed level of readiness between those applications.

²² Final Investment Decision being the date at which capital is committed to the project and the project is ready to commence construction.

Criteria	Readiness Conditions
Project financing	All project funding has been satisfactorily planned (excluding the grant amount), with a clear supporting rationale provided for all expected sources of private and public funding, including detail of any other grant/concessional finance support the applicant is in discussions about, or expects to receive, clearly distinguishing between private and public finance/HMG sources. This rationale may include a credible plan to source funding.
Market interest	The applicant presents a credible case that there is sufficient market interest, supported by a commitment to provide evidence of the following at full assessment: a) Orders aligned with planned factory output, OR b) a credible plan to secure market interest in the time necessary to make FID and draw down funding.
Technology viability	There is a high confidence in the technology's viability, which may include readiness for commercialisation, readiness for manufacturing, evidence of testing, and certification from a credible standards body. This may be supported by credible market interest for this product.
Location, land and planning	The applicant has a confirmed project location and outlines a credible strategy for planning, land acquisition, and securing consents (including special regulatory approvals).²³ The status and timelines for any consenting requirements supports the strategy's credibility.
Workforce and skills	The applicant presents a credible workforce and skills plan summary for both the construction and operational phases of delivery. The summary demonstrates the availability of the skills required to deliver the project (including the team/company leading the construction and skill types and number of staff for operations) and identifies how any anticipated skills gaps will be addressed with planned actions to address potential shortages.

²³ As per Section 2.8 Conditions of Funding, Eligible Costs do not include costs related to land purchase or property transactions.

6. Full Application

6.1 Assessment Areas

Applications will be assessed across four areas – Strategic, Technical, Economic and Financial Assessment. Each assessment area will have a weighting of 25% (see below, **Table 5**).

Table 5 sets out the criteria for each assessment area and how the criteria are weighted. The Strategic and Economic Assessment each have one criterion weighted at 25% of the overall score. The Technical and Financial Assessment each have two criteria weighted at 12.5% of the overall score. This means that there are six criteria in total. Criteria will be scored from 1 to 5, reflecting the overall strength of the application and supporting documentation. Applications which score a 2 or below in any criterion will be rejected. Applications will receive an overall score which will be the weighted average score. Please see **Annex D – Full Assessment Framework** for the 1 to 5 assessment framework for the criteria.

To progress to Portfolio-Based Review, applications must achieve a score of at least 3 in every individual criterion (i.e., a score of 1 or 2 in any individual criterion will disqualify the applicant from further consideration) and an overall weighted average score of 3.5 or higher. GBE reserves the right to raise or lower the threshold for the overall score required to proceed to the Portfolio-Based Review, in the event there are indications that the Fund is likely to be oversubscribed or undersubscribed. Please note that we expect the Fund to be oversubscribed, so we strongly encourage projects to aim for the highest scores possible for each assessment area.

The bulk of the assessment for this stage is based on the accompanying documents provided by the applicant, as set out in **Section 6.6 Accompanying Documents**, which are complemented by application form questions.

Table 5: Full Assessment Areas and Weighting

Full Assessment Area	Area Weighting (% of overall score)	Criteria	Score	Criteria Weighting (% of overall score)
Strategic	25%	Alignment with the Fund objectives	1 – 5 for all criteria	25%
Technical	25%	Deliverability of the project as proposed		12.5%
		Market viability		12.5%
Economic	25%	Value for money		25%
Financial	25%	Financial viability		12.5%
		Case for assistance		12.5%

6.2 Strategic Assessment

The Strategic Assessment evaluates the strength to which the applicant demonstrates alignment with the Fund objectives. A single score of 1-5 will be given for this criterion (please see **Annex D – Full Assessment Framework**), with the assessment considering five elements as set out below.

Table 6: Strategic Assessment Summary

Elements	Description	Supporting Evidence ²⁴
Increased UK manufacturing capacity of key constrained components	Whether the project will enable new or additional UK production capacity of the Critical Component(s), helping to address the anticipated supply gap.	<u>Full application form</u> questions; and <u>Business case</u> (required accompanying document) – this plan should include the strategic rationale for the project.
Create and support new and existing jobs in the UK, including in industrial clusters	- Whether the project will create new direct jobs and/or support existing jobs within the applicant company in the UK (including safeguarding roles that would otherwise be lost within 12 months of the GFA taking effect). - Where relevant, applicants demonstrate how the project connects to or is located within networks of related business, infrastructure, and talent (e.g., contributes to, proximity to, or location within an industrial cluster).	<u>Full application form</u> questions; and <u>Jobs spreadsheet</u> (required accompanying document)

²⁴ The supporting evidence refers to the main sources of evidence that assessors will use to assess the elements of the criteria. Note, the application will be considered in the round during assessment.

Promote more resilient and sustainable means of production by encouraging investment in shorter or greener supply chains	Whether the applicant has taken or committed to specific steps to make an eligible investment in shorter or greener supply chains (see Annex E - Supporting Resilient and Sustainable Supply Chains for details).	<u>Full application form</u> questions; and <u>Supply Chain Investment Plan</u> (optional accompanying document)
Social value	- Whether the applicant demonstrates consideration of core social value principles, including: - Fair work: ensuring fair wages, good working conditions, safe, secure, and inclusive roles where individuals have an effective voice, opportunity, security, fulfilment, and respect. - Skills investment (financial and non-financial): building the UK's future workforce through upskilling, reskilling, and inclusive development. - Ethical supply chains: respecting human rights within the organisation and the supply chain, promoting transparency and ethical practices. - See Annex F – Example Social Value Commitments for a non-exhaustive list of example demonstration of consideration of these principles.	<u>Full application form</u> questions; and <u>Social Value Commitments Plan</u> (required accompanying document)
Reputational risks	Whether and to what extent the project poses risk to the credibility of GBE and the UK Government, including environmental, social, reputational, and geopolitical concerns.	<u>Background checks</u> by GBE team <u>Application form</u> questions

6.3 Technical Assessment

This assessment is divided into two criteria: (1) deliverability of the project and (2) market viability of the product that will be manufactured. A score of 1-5 will be assigned separately to each of these criteria (please see **Annex D – Full Assessment Framework**), based on consideration of the elements listed in the below table, with each criteria carrying a weighting of 12.5%.

Table 7: Technical Assessment

Criteria	Elements	Description	Supporting Evidence
Deliverability	Project plans	- Whether the applicant has the capability and experience in delivering projects of this type and scale. - Whether applicant resource plans include appropriately skilled people and resources that are in or will be in place to manage the project. - Project and risk management strategies in place, which set out the tools and mechanisms to control the project and risks, including risks associated with FID. - Whether project estimates (such as production volumes and construction timescales) are realistic, technically feasible and supported by comprehensive evidence.	<u>Full Application form</u> questions <u>Required accompanying documents</u>: - Business case - Project plan - Project team structure - CVs for key personnel - Project risk register
Deliverability	Procurement strategy	- Whether the procurement strategy demonstrates an understanding of all the goods and services required for development, construction and operation of the project. - Whether the applicant has considered supply chain risks, market constraints and how these could impact project timelines and deliverability.	<u>Procurement strategy</u> (required accompanying document)

	Workforce and skills plan	- Whether the applicant has considered the availability of required skills to support delivery of the project (including both construction and operation phases). - Whether the applicant has outlined credible plans to address any areas where skills shortages may exist.	<u>Workforce and skills plan</u> (required accompanying document)
Deliverability	Land, location and planning	- Credibility of the strategy for planning approvals, and securing necessary consents, with any associated risks appropriately managed. - This includes evidence of the terms or agreement being place for the lease or ownership of the proposed location.	<u>Full Application form</u> questions; and <u>Required accompanying documents:</u> - Planning and consenting documentation - land purchase/leasing evidence (where relevant)
Market viability	Market interest	- The strength and credibility of market interest, including agreements or commitments from future users of the product being in place. - Whether the project evidences a clear supply-demand gap which the project is addressing. - Whether the applicant evidences sufficient commercial traction to support progression towards FID.	<u>Full Application form</u> questions; and <u>Evidence of market interest</u> (required accompanying document) <u>Supply-demand gap analysis</u> (optional accompanying document)
Market viability	Technology viability	Whether the technology is proven and credible, and ready for commercialisation with minimal risk.	<u>Full Application form</u> questions; and <u>Technical specification</u> (required accompanying document)

6.4 Economic Assessment

The aim of this assessment is to understand whether the total benefits of the project are expected to be greater than the cost of the grant funding request, and therefore whether the project represents good value for money. This assessment is divided into two criteria: (1) quantitative economic assessment, and (2) qualitative economic assessment.

The quantitative assessment will be the primary method of determining the likely value for money of the project. The qualitative benefits can be used to supplement the calculated net benefit-cost ratio (BCR) to increase the perceived value for money of the project if they are judged to be significant, noting this is a subjective process and depends on both the significance of the benefits and the strength of the evidence. Please see **Annex D – Full Assessment Framework** for the 1-5 assessment framework detailing how the value for money scores are allocated.

Table 8: Economic Assessment

Criteria	Elements	Description	Supporting Evidence
Quantitative Economic Assessment	Net benefit-cost ratio (BCR)	• The ratio of total monetisable benefits to the amount of grant funding requested, to be calculated by GBE analysts. • Projects will be judged on the extent of monetisable benefits in relation to the amount of grant funding requested, using information from the full application form and jobs spreadsheet. • Benefits quantified in the BCR will account for the additionality of the project, which is the extent to which the absence of grant funding from the Fund will alter the project's size, scope, location, timeline or overall viability in a way that would impact its ability to meet the Fund's two main objectives. • Additionality will be judged based on the proportion of benefits that would occur without GBE funding and the strength of the evidence provided to support the Case for Assistance.	• <u>Full Application form</u> questions; and • <u>Required accompanying documents:</u> ○ Workforce & skills plan ○ Jobs spreadsheet ○ Business plan • <u>Financial information</u>

Quantitative Economic Assessment	Quality of evidence	- The quality of the evidence provided to support the qualitative assessment, including job numbers and wages. - Projects will be judged on the strength of evidence provided, such as the workforce plan.	
Qualitative Economic Assessment	Increased UK manufacturing capacity of key constrained components	- Whether the project demonstrates that it will help to address the supply gap of a constrained component through creating new UK manufacturing capacity. - Projects will be judged on the level of constraint for the component, the annual output of the facility and the extent to which this closes the supply-demand gap.	<u>Full Application form</u> questions <u>Supply-demand gap analysis</u> (optional accompanying document)
Qualitative Economic Assessment	Promote more resilient and sustainable means of production by encouraging investment in shorter or greener supply chains	- Whether the applicant has taken or committed to specific steps to make an eligible investment in shorter or greener supply chains (see Annex E - Supporting Resilient and Sustainable Supply Chains for details). - Projects will be judged on the scale and impact of eligible investments into shorter or greener supply chains.	<u>Full application form</u> questions <u>Supply Chain Investment Plan</u> (optional accompanying document) <u>Jobs spreadsheet</u> (Required accompanying documents)
Qualitative Economic Assessment	Strategic fit within the UK market	- Whether the project is a good strategic fit within the UK market. - Projects will be judged on whether available evidence suggests that they are a good strategic fit within the UK market, for example, by increasing choice for consumers, reducing concentration of market power and/or encouraging innovation or fair pricing.	<u>Full Application form</u> questions <u>Supply-demand gap analysis</u> (optional accompanying document) <u>Financial information</u> (required

		Projects will be assumed to have good strategic fit within the UK market unless there is significant evidence to the contrary.²⁵	accompanying documents)
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²⁵ A project may be judged to not have a good strategic fit within the UK market, for example, if available evidence strongly suggests that there is a high risk of the project capturing the entire UK market and crowding out existing UK industry in situations such as annual output more than filling the supply-demand gap or through an unfair advantage.

6.5 Financial Assessment

The Financial Assessment is divided into two criteria: (1) financial viability and (2) Case for Assistance. A score of 1-5 will be assigned separately to each of these criteria (please see **Annex D – Full Assessment Framework**), based on consideration of the elements listed in the below table, with each criteria carrying a weighting of 12.5%. Applications that progress to the Due Diligence stage will be subject to a more detailed assessment, proportionate to the grant amount, as set out in **Section 7. Portfolio-Based Review**. Both the Case for Assistance and the evidence supporting the amount requested will be further tested and confirmed at this stage.

Table 9: Financial Assessment Summary

Criteria	Elements	Description	Supporting Evidence
Financial Viability	Business planning	- The quality of the Business and Financing Plan submitted. - The financial sustainability of the business model for the project. - The revenue model (whether it is clearly defined). - Evidence to show long-term viability (e.g., break-even analysis, market validation, supply-demand gap analysis).	<u>Business and financing plan</u> (required accompanying document)
Financial Viability	Financial standing and guarantees	- The financial standing of the applicant, along with any parent company (if applicable), and the financial capacity to undertake the project. - The capacity to provide appropriate security, such as a Parent Company Guarantee, and whether, in GBE's judgement, the proposed security arrangements are satisfactory for the grant requested.²⁶	<u>Financial information</u> (required accompanying documents)
Case for Assistance	Case for Assistance	Whether there is a credible need for public funding (and whether this is supported by evidence to show what would likely happen to the project in the absence of support). Note,	<u>Full Application form</u> questions; and

²⁶ Alternative security arrangements may include a bank guarantee, use of an escrow account, or security over assets (the applicant would be required to commission a valuation of assets). Where, in GBE's judgement, the proposed security arrangement is inadequate, the application will fail. See Annex D – Full Assessment Framework.

		projects that do not have a credible Case for Assistance will not receive funding.	• <u>Financial information</u> (required accompanying documents)
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6.6 Accompanying Documents

Alongside the Full Application form responses, a complete Full Application must include the required documents, described in this section.

Note, a significant part of the assessment of an application (outlined above) will be based on the below documents, and where possible GBE has sought to avoid duplication between application form questions and the information provided by the accompanying documents. We welcome the compiling together of individual documents within the same category into a single accompanying document.

The evidence requirements set out in this section will be applied proportionately. While all applicants must provide appropriate evidence to support their application, including all of the required documents, the level of detail should be proportionate to the size, complexity and nature of the project, with assessors taking this into account when utilising the Full Assessment Framework to evaluate applications.

See **Annex G – How to Apply** for information on how to apply (including instructions relating to file formats and sizes) and disclosure of information.

Required Documents

The required documents are as follows:

Project plan

This should include:

- Key milestones and dependent activities (evidenced as a Gantt chart, with a timeline detailing the critical path or other supporting analysis, and an overview sheet of project milestones and a dependency log).

A procurement strategy for the project

The procurement strategy should outline the approach to procurement and construction, including information relating to any existing contracts. This should include information as to the ways in which the applicant will seek to develop and manage their supply chain.

Project team structure

A diagram outlining the organisational structure of the project team and the decision-making structure.

CVs for key personnel

CVs should be up to two sides of A4 each. Key personnel will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the senior management team, Project Director and Project Manager. CVs should be compiled together into one accompanying document.

This should also include evidence of in-house engineering and compliance capability.

Workforce and skills plan

The plan should demonstrate consideration of:

- The availability of the skills required to deliver the project (including the team/company leading the construction and skill types and number of staff for operations)
- Any anticipated skills gaps
- Planned actions to address potential shortages

A project risk register

This should include detail of all project risks, including detailed information relating to technical construction and planning risks, pre- and post-mitigation analysis, and plans to manage identified risks. Any reputational, environmental and social risks should also be considered.

Evidence of market interest

Evidence should consist of either:

- a) Orders aligned with planned factory output (evidence could include, but is not limited to, memoranda of understanding, heads of terms agreements, full contractual arrangements, capacity reservation agreements), **or**
- b) A credible plan to secure market interest in the time necessary to make FID and draw down funding (evidence could include, but is not limited to, evidence of being in advanced discussions or the buyer's demonstration of intent).

Commercial agreements which are evidenced need not be legally binding, but this would be welcomed.

Please note, GBE will not accept non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) as evidence unless sufficient detail can be provided to the satisfaction of the assessment team.

Applicants are also strongly encouraged to submit supply-demand analysis, should they have this. See the optional documents section below.

Technical specification

The technical specification for the Critical Component(s) relating to the application should be provided to support assessment of technology viability.

Planning and consenting documentation (and where relevant land purchase/leasing evidence)

This should include but not necessarily be limited to:

- Evidence of planning consents.
- The status of any planning/consents not yet secured.

- The position of statutory agencies on proposals (issues, current position, etc.). Design documentation.²⁷
- Process flow diagrams.
- Implementation/construction methodology.
- Any other permits and approvals.
- If the project involves the purchasing of land or building(s), third party evidence to demonstrate the cost of purchase or if the project involves leasing land or building(s), evidence for the costs of leasing/renting the proposed land/building as part of the capital investment. Note, Eligible Costs do not include costs related to land purchase or property transactions.

Jobs Spreadsheet

Complete the template available to download [here](#) and upload the completed template as part of the full application. Applicants should use the document to describe the employment impacts the applicant expects the project to generate.

Jobs should be recorded in the spreadsheet and should be broken down by category. For each job title, the following information should be provided:

- The location of the role,
- The proposed number of workers performing each role in each year,
- The NVQ (skills / qualification) level of the role, and
- The weighted average salary provided to employees in the role.

The salaries provided should be the weighted average total of the workers' base wage, employer-paid National Insurance contributions, and employers' pension contributions, all in 2026 prices. Expected additional payments for overtime and performance-related bonuses can be included as applicable.

Where expected salaries of newly created roles have been included, the assumptions used to estimate these salaries must be provided, demonstrating the estimates are in line with expected hiring activity. If the exact salaries are currently unknown, applicants should explain how the salaries provided have been estimated by providing all relevant assumptions and analysis. The salaries and NVQ data are verified at the Due Diligence stage of the application and monitored across the life of the project.

Applicants should ensure that any figures provided are consistent with additional answers within this section and within the business case.

Definitions of the jobs that will be evaluated:

²⁷ If design documentation is larger than the maximum file size for the portal (30MB), less detailed designs may be provided.

- Direct, contractable jobs: A job created or safeguarded as a result of the funded project and permanently employed directly by the grant recipient. These are the only type of jobs to be reported in the jobs spreadsheet.
- Created jobs (Full Time Equivalent -FTE*): These are jobs created as a direct result of receiving grant funding from the Fund for the proposed project and permanently employed directly by the grant recipient. These must be new workers that are hired specifically for the project in question who would not be hired without funding.
- Safeguarded jobs (Full Time Equivalent -FTE*): These are existing jobs which in the absence of grant funding from the Fund would be lost within 12 months from the commencement date of the GFA and which are safeguarded as a direct result of the project and permanently employed directly by the grant recipient.

* A full-time equivalent job is one of 30 or more hours a week. If the role requires any additional hours this still only counts as one direct full-time equivalent. Two part time jobs of 15 hours or more count as equivalent to one full time job. Any part time job of 15 hours up to 30 hours should be stated as 0.5 of an FTE. Jobs below 15 hours do not count.

Business case (also known as a 'business plan' or 'business and financing plan')

This should clearly demonstrate:

- The applicant's strategic rationale for the project – an explanation of the rationale behind the applicant's strategic decision to develop the project.
- The case for investment in the project: evidence of investment decision which could include discounted cash flow, internal rate of return, net present value or payback calculations. Any calculations provided should be exact replicas of those that are used internally to make the decision to proceed with the project. In addition, the calculations provided should follow the applicant's standard investment appraisal criteria utilised by the applicant in their capital investment decision making (e.g., if the applicant has set a precedent of using discounted cash flow calculations over 15 years for their capital investment decision making, they should use the same for this application).
- Business (and financing) plan including financial projections, and a business model for the project.

Financial information

Financial information must include:

- The most recent two sets of statutory accounts (covering three financial years of results) for the applicant company and consolidated accounts for the ultimate parent company where applicable.
- Financial forecasts including this project, i.e. profit and loss, cash flow and balance sheets for the applicant company to cover the remainder of the current financial year and a further four years. These should also be provided for the ultimate parent where applicable.
- The total budget for the project overall, including both capital and revenue budget lines and provide a quarterly expenditure profile for each line covering the whole project lifespan.
- Financial forecasting for the project.²⁸ Forecasts should show the calculated return on investment and financial viability of the project. Please note that the forecasts should also include the evidence supporting the Case for Assistance depending on the reason grant funding is required. For example, evidence that there would be a gap in funding or in reaching the required and reasonable return on investment for the project without a grant and evidence that issues regarding the gap in funding or lack of return on investment as noted above are resolved by the amount of grant being requested.
- Evidence of all other sources of funding expected to be used for the project and sufficient to demonstrate the project is or is likely to be fully financed.

Modern Slavery Statement

All applicants that meet the criteria of section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, will be required to have a compliant Modern Slavery Statement, published within 6-months of the end of their financial year. Failure to provide evidence of compliance with the Modern Slavery Act will result in rejection of an application.

Social value commitments plan

A document detailing the applicant's social value commitments, as assessed as part of the Strategic Assessment – see **Section 6.2 Strategic Assessment** and **Annex F – Example Social Value Commitments**.

²⁸ Extracts from the business case are not sufficient. Applicants are expected to show detailed underlying assumptions and provide evidence to support assumptions.

Optional Documents

The following documents are optional:

Supply-demand gap analysis

Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit supply-demand analysis for the specific Critical Component(s) covered by the project (if available) to show how the project will address the anticipated supply gap and demonstrate market demand.

Supply chain investment plan

Where applicable, applicants are requested to provide evidence of investment(s) made in shorter or greener supply chains, as further described in **Annex E - Supporting Resilient and Sustainable Supply Chains**.

Sustainability and Business Ethics policies

Applicants are encouraged to share Sustainability Policies, (e.g. Carbon Reduction Plan, Circular Economy and Waste Management Plan, evidence of Environmental Management Systems); as well as Business Ethics Policies and associated grievance mechanisms.

Health and Safety Management Systems

Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate evidence of compliance against relevant health and safety standards to ensure safe working conditions.

Inclusion and Diversity Policies

A document outlining the approach to equality, fairness, respect and inclusivity across the applicant's organisation and supply chain.

Any additional information which may be pertinent to an application.

7. Portfolio-Based Review

7.1 Introduction

Applications which have passed the Full Assessment will progress to the Portfolio-Based Review. The aim of the Portfolio-Based Review is to ensure that the Fund supports a coherent, balanced portfolio of projects aligned with the Fund's objectives. Ensuring a balanced portfolio is important because funding is finite, and supporting a diverse range of projects across technologies, supply chain segments and locations helps to maximise overall impact and better deliver the Fund's policy objectives. This means that grant funding may not be awarded to the highest scoring project if a lower scoring project represents a greater portfolio fit for the Fund.

The Portfolio-Based Review will take place quarterly, after each Round deadline, and will use the Portfolio Factors set out in **Table 10** below to assess the portfolio fit of projects for the Fund. Applicants will be informed of when the review takes place, but no further information will be required from applicants (as the review will be based on the information submitted as part of the previous assessment stages).

7.2 Portfolio Factors

As set out above, the Portfolio-Based Review will use the Portfolio Factors below to ensure that the projects taken forward form a coherent and balanced set of investments aligned with the Fund's policy objectives.

Table 10: Portfolio Factors

Factor	Description
Market Assessment - Constraints	This factor will consider the current level of constraint of the component in question, including a review (where deemed necessary) of any significant changes in the relevant market by reason of, for example, a factory closing, expanding or opening (whether as a result of this Fund or independently). If there are no significant changes in the relevant market, it will be assumed the previously identified constraints continue to exist and funding additional manufacturing capacity is desirable. If there have been changes in the market, GBE may undertake further analysis on the extent of the remaining supply-demand gap to test whether funding additional manufacturing capacity is desirable. If not, or the applicant project's manufacturing capacity would result in oversupply, GBE may decide not to proceed with the applicant project. Moreover, where multiple applications for the same component are being considered as part of the same Portfolio-Based Review, GBE will consider whether there is sufficient demand to justify funding multiple projects. If there is insufficient demand justifying funding multiple projects, GBE may decide to only take one project forward.

	In such a case, GBE will take forward the project with the highest Full Assessment score. Where it is found that a component is no longer constrained or only minimally constrained, GBE reserves the right to remove it from the list of eligible components and update the Guidance accordingly. By reviewing the latest market analysis, GBE will ensure funding is only allocated to constrained components throughout the duration of the Fund.
Component Coverage	This factor will consider the level of coverage GBE is achieving for its eligible list of key constrained components. The starting assumption is that the first project to be funded for any given component will have a greater marginal impact on lead times and therefore energy security and project costs. Subsequent projects for the same component are less likely to have a similar impact. However, GBE recognises that there may be good reasons for funding multiple projects producing the same component, including but not limited to very high levels of constraints, the additional capacity being accompanied by advancements in technology or innovation, or where the facility produces more than one constrained component or supplies a subcomponent, composite or material critical to the markets targeted by the Fund. Where funding has been previously allocated to a project producing the same component, or multiple applications for the same component are being considered as part of the same Portfolio-Based Review, then GBE will also make a comparison between the amount of grant funding requested and anticipated performance of each project to assess the relative attractiveness of the proposal. This will help ensure funding supports a diverse range of projects covering multiple constrained components, including coverage across both offshore wind and electricity networks sectors. It will also ensure that funding is spent on projects which are most effective at addressing the identified demand gap.
Geographical Spread & Investment Co-location	This factor will consider the geographical distribution of projects supported under the Fund as well as any synergies arising as a result of the project's location (e.g., co-located near enabling infrastructure or industrial clusters) and/or project-specific limitations on location. The starting assumption is that the first projects to be funded in any given region are more likely to have a greater marginal impact on economic growth than subsequent projects will do. However, as above, co-location of projects can be desirable due to shared infrastructure reducing investment required or proximity to projects/facilities reducing logistic costs for example. Applicant projects will, therefore, not be rejected on this basis unless >70% of the total funding available pursuant to the Fund has been allocated to projects located in a very small number of regions (unless there is a good reason, including but not limited to demonstrable

	synergies with existing or planned infrastructure (such as ports); co-location with established industrial clusters (defined above); significant cost, efficiency or emission benefits arising from shared facilities or logistics; or absence of viable alternative locations). This will help ensure the Fund supports projects in multiple different regions of the UK where possible, whilst also taking into account the positive impact of co-locating projects with enabling infrastructure and industrial clusters.
Portfolio-level – Fund Objectives	This factor will consider the Fund’s total portfolio (including successful projects (if any) and projects currently under consideration in the Portfolio-Based Review) against key metrics of success, i.e., primarily (1) amount of investment in new manufacturing capability mobilised; and (2) number of jobs supported and created. The proportion of funding spent, committed, and requested across the programme will be considered to understand whether the portfolio is broadly on track to meet the Fund’s core metrics. Whilst these metrics are important factors in determining the Fund’s overall impact and success, GBE is aware that they do not necessarily account for natural variations in project specifics. To counter this, the portfolio of projects will be considered to be performing as intended where progress falls within a defined range around these objectives. If projects proposed in the current round would lead the portfolio away from the desired trajectory, the projects which contribute the least to jobs and/or investment metrics may be rejected or placed on the reserve list in order to enable a more suitable portfolio of projects to be taken forward. However, there may be circumstances where this approach is not desirable including, for example, where it would result in the rejection of a project that would manufacture a constrained component which has not yet received funding or a project that has demonstrated particularly strong performance in the Full Assessment stage. In such cases, the assessor may recommend a project that puts the portfolio’s trajectory ‘off track’ but still sets the Fund on the right path toward its broader strategic objectives. This approach ensures the Fund continues to support a balanced and effective mix of projects that collectively contribute to its core objectives, as outlined in 2.1 Fund Objectives.

7.3 Outcome of Portfolio-Based Review

Applicant projects which have successfully progressed through the Portfolio-Based Review will then proceed to the Due Diligence stage (note, an offer of grant is discretionary and subject to a satisfactory outcome of this stage).

Applicant projects which have not successfully progressed through the Portfolio-Based Review will either be (1) rejected (with potential for GBE to signpost the project to an alternative public finance partner as outlined in **Section 1.7 Public Finance Partnership**) or (2) invited to join a voluntary reserve list.

Projects on the reserve list may be subsequently invited to re-enter the application process at the next Portfolio-Based Review stage if the circumstances that led to their earlier rejection change. For example, if a project was not selected because the Fund had already committed support to several facilities producing the same constrained component, but one or more of those projects later fails to progress (e.g., as a result of delays or issues arising during Due Diligence), a reserve-list project may be offered the opportunity to continue its application.

In the event that more than one project is placed on the reserve list for the same reason (e.g., multiple projects manufacturing the same constrained component for which funding has already been committed), and the circumstances that led to their earlier rejection change, both projects will be invited to re-enter the Portfolio-Based Review. The portfolio factors will then be applied to both projects and their scores at Full Assessment will be considered to determine which, if any, are appropriate to take forward. If a project's funding requirement exceeds the remaining budget, the next highest-scoring project will be considered, and so on. If the remaining budget is insufficient for any reserve-list project, GBE will not invite any projects to re-enter the application process (on the basis of the identified change in circumstances).

Notably, participation on the reserve list is entirely voluntary, and applicants may withdraw at any time. Further, if an application is on the reserve list and there is any material change in circumstances that affects the information originally submitted, the applicant must inform GBE as soon as possible so that records remain accurate and up to date.

8. Due Diligence

Applications which are successful at Portfolio-Based Review will need to complete Due Diligence of numerous matters to the satisfaction of GBE before any offer of grant funding. It is not possible to list these matters in this Guidance as they will be project dependent, but due diligence will likely include (without limitation) verification of several aspects of the project as well as further technical, financial, and legal due diligence. Applicants may be asked to provide further details to enable completion of these checks. If further information is requested, applicants will need to return this information promptly, within the deadline set by GBE.

The purpose of these Due Diligence checks includes, but is not limited to, confirmation of the factual accuracy of the application, including:

- The reason why the applicant needs public support to proceed with the project and why it could not proceed in the absence of public support
- All public monies and funding provided to an applicant
- The credibility of the counterfactual option
- The project costs meeting the definition of eligible costs as set out in the Eligibility Criteria
- The final amount of the award, which must be the minimum necessary for the project to proceed
- The satisfactory financial standing of the applicant company and the parent company (if applicable) and the ability to finance the project

Additional information which will be requested during Due Diligence will vary depending on the case set out in the application, and may include (but is not limited to):

- Evidence to confirm the stated reason why a grant is needed – such as evidence of the Group's investment policy and criteria
- Evidence of Applicant's Board approval for the project e.g. Board Minutes
- Evidence to confirm the availability of project funding
- Detailed project forecasts/model together with detailed underlying assumptions
- Evidence to support assumptions used in the models presented, e.g. what projected volumes, sales prices and expenses based on
- Evidence confirming the basis of CAPEX costs e.g. supplier quotations / estimates
- Evidence to demonstrate the credibility of the counterfactual e.g. detailed plans and costings for the alternative option

- Cashflow forecasts
- Information on historical forecasting accuracy
- Management accounts (including balance sheets) for the applicant company (and ultimate parent company where applicable) if the annual accounts supplied at the application date are more than 6 months old
- Draft accounts for the applicant company (and ultimate parent company where applicable) where the year-end has passed, and the statutory accounts are not yet available

Applicants should be aware that further environmental, social and reputational Due Diligence checks may apply. This could include applicants being asked to carry out a modern slavery assessment, environmental impact review, and any other compliance checks deemed necessary by GBE.

Completion of Due Diligence will not (of itself) release funding or entitle an Applicant to funding. Any offer of funding will be at GBE's absolute discretion and will be subject to the applicant's agreement to the Grant Funding Agreement presented by GBE.

The amount of any offer of funding will also be at GBE's absolute discretion. GBE may re-assess the appropriate grant amount during the Due Diligence stage. If, through Due Diligence, GBE concludes that the amount of funding sought is not the minimum necessary to enable the Application to proceed, it will adjust the grant amount for the Project to an amount that it considers (in its absolute discretion) necessary to achieve these objectives.

Note, all funding awards are subject to approvals from the Fund's Project Board and Grant Committee.

9. Glossary

Term	Definition
Additionality	The requirement that a project would not proceed, or would proceed at a reduced scale, without grant funding.
Applicant	For the purposes of this guidance, those applying to the Fund are applicants. Where applicable, this may include a special purpose vehicle, if approved by GBE.
Application portal	The online system through which applications and supporting documents are submitted.
Benefit-Cost Ratio (BCR)	A measure comparing the monetisable benefits of a project to its costs.
Capital expenditure (CapEx)	Spending on long-term assets such as buildings, plant and equipment which are expected to have a useful life of more than one year.
Case for Assistance	The reason why public funding is needed.
Clawback	Provisions allowing GBE to recover grant funds.
Critical Components	The list of eligible components for this Fund. These are components which are in high demand but have limited accessible supply, and so present the greatest risk to the UK's deployment targets. The Fund will support the delivery, or expansion, of UK based facilities that can manufacture these Critical Components.
Due Diligence	A process of verification and analysis to ensure that all the relevant facts are confirmed prior to awarding grant funding.
Eligibility	The first stage of the application process which assesses applications against the Eligibility Criteria.
Eligible Costs	Costs which meet the Eligibility Criteria and are eligible for grant funding.
Final Investment Decision (FID)	The date at which capital is committed to the project and the project is ready to commence construction.
Full Application	The final submission through the online portal which includes accompanying documents.
Full Assessment	The assessment of Full Applications across four areas – Strategic, Technical, Economic and Financial Assessment.
Grant Funding Agreement (GFA)	The agreement setting out the terms and conditions for grant recipients, including eligible costs, reporting, and clawback provisions.
Industrial Clusters	Geographically concentrated networks of businesses, research capabilities, skilled talent, and support structures in related industries.
Minimum necessary	The minimum amount of public funding necessary for the project to proceed.
Operating expenditure (OpEx)	The costs of day-to-day operations which are fully expensed as incurred.
Portfolio-Based Review	The stage where applications will be considered against four Portfolio Factors, designed to ensure a coherent, balanced portfolio aligned with the Fund's policy objectives.
Readiness Review	The stage of the application process which assesses how well developed a project is, using a set of eight Readiness criteria.
Social Value	The additional benefits generated by commercial activity that goes beyond addressing core sustainability risks and opportunities, such as promoting and implementing fair work practices and investment in skills

10. Version Control

Version No.

3

Publication Date

1st October 2026

This Guidance may be revised throughout the application window and applicants are advised to refer to the latest version of the Guidance available [here](#). Key updates will be summarised at the start of the Guidance.

Annex A - Important Information Regarding the Process

- The size of the Fund is discretionary and is finite in size. GBE reserves the right to increase or decrease the size of the Fund at any time and for any reason.
- GBE reserves the right to extend the years of allocation at any time and for any reason.
- The Closing Date may occur earlier in the event that all available funding has been allocated or for other reasons as GBE may (at its absolute discretion) determine. GBE will reserve the right to open further application windows until funding is exhausted.
- GBE reserves the right to reject an application if an applicant refuses to disclose any information requested or does not provide information in a timely manner as requested.
- The Fund is likely to result in multiple funding awards, but GBE has absolute discretion to make one single award or any number of awards it considers appropriate.
- GBE reserves the right to offer an applicant a lower grant amount than that applied for.
- The Fund and grant funding awards from it are discretionary. There is no automatic entitlement to an award of funding or funding in the amount asked for.
- GBE reserves the right not to accept any application and not to make any grant and reserves the right to cancel the Fund before it has completed (whether in whole or in part) or at any time before any GFA is agreed and executed.
- Until a GFA is agreed and executed, GBE will not be responsible for, nor will GBE make any commitment in respect of, costs that applicants may incur. Applicants are advised that they should not make any irrevocable commitments to incur project expenditure in reliance on funding by GBE at any point prior to finally executing a GFA.
- GBE is under no obligation to provide feedback to any unsuccessful applicant. However, applicants that are rejected at any step of the process outlined in this Guidance may request feedback and GBE may (at its discretion) provide feedback to the applicant based on summary comments from its assessment. There is no set appeals process and GBE is not responsible for any costs associated with any application.
- Applicants will remain responsible for all costs and expenses incurred by them, their staff, and their advisers or by any third party acting under their instructions in connection with this competition. For the avoidance of doubt, GBE is not liable for any costs or expenditure resulting from any cancellation or amendment of this competition.
- Reasons for decisions in respect of applications will be recorded at all stages for the purposes of good administration and to ensure that there is a clear audit trail for all decisions. Administrative records will be maintained for all applications irrespective of whether they are successful or not.

Annex B – Critical Components

Offshore Wind Sector

Component	Description
Mooring and Anchoring	Mooring and anchoring are used to secure a floating structure to the seabed, helping maintain its position and contributing to the stability of both the substructure and the turbine. These systems include anchors, mooring lines, and any connectors or tensioning devices.
Blades	The rotor consists of three blades, a central hub, blade system, bearings, and pitch system. A rotor blade is a shaped component that captures wind and causes the rotor to spin.
Nacelles	A nacelle is the housing positioned on the top of a wind turbine tower that contains key components like the main bearing, gearbox, generator, yaw system, and control systems. Its primary function is to support the rotor and convert its rotational energy into electrical energy.
Generators	A generator converts the rotational mechanical energy from the turbine rotor and drivetrain into electrical energy. It is housed within the nacelle and is connected to the gearbox or directly to the main shaft, depending on the turbine design. Generators belong to the Nacelle component family.
Gearboxes	A gearbox increases the rotational speed from the turbine rotor to a speed suitable for the generator. It converts the low-speed, high-torque input from the rotor into high-speed, low-torque output, while transferring mechanical power from the main shaft to the generator and accommodating the variable operating conditions experienced by the turbine. Gearboxes belong to the Nacelle component family.
Power Converters	A power converter converts and conditions the electrical power produced by the generator so that it meets the required voltage, frequency, and grid-connection requirements. It also enables control of the generator and helps manage variable wind speeds and turbine operating conditions. Power Converters belong to the Nacelle component family.
Towers	The tower is a tubular steel structure that supports and provides internal access to the nacelle, houses electrical and control equipment, and provides shelter and storage for safety equipment.
Monopiles	A monopile is a large cylindrical steel structure that is driven into the seabed by bearing both static and dynamic loads. It also helps resist wave forces and allows for cable entry into the structure.
Transition pieces	A transition piece connects the turbine tower with the main foundation element e.g., monopile, jacket, gravity base, other and holds essential

	components to enable repair and maintenance (boat landing systems, etc.). Transition pieces include newer designs, where the package of essential components to enable repair and maintenance is supplied as a single integrated unit, even if they do not include a separate piece fitted over the top of the foundation, provided they include all of the following items (or equivalents): • boat landing systems (including access ladders and intermediate rest platforms) • internal platforms (typically airtight platform and switchgear platform) • external platform and davit crane • anode cage
Jackets	A jacket is a lattice steel foundation structure used to support offshore wind turbines in deeper waters. The structure transfers loads from the turbine to the seabed through multiple foundation legs and is typically secured using piles.

Related Electricity Networks Sector

Component	Description
HVDC Cables	These cables transmit electrical power from offshore wind turbines to shore using direct current, between nations in subsea links, as long distance offshore reinforcements (“bootstraps”), or across long distances on land.
HVAC Cables (incl. Dynamic cables)	These cables transmit electrical power either from offshore wind turbines to shore, or between turbines, using alternating current, or across land. Dynamic HVAC cables are engineered to endure motion between a floating offshore structure and the seabed or for fixed structures in turbulent conditions. This category would not cover only producing Ancillary Systems in isolation.
Power Transformers (AC & DC)	A power transformer is used to change the voltage level of electricity for onward transmission and/or provide other active services such as power flow control.
HV Bushings	HV bushings provide an insulated passage for high-voltage conductors through the grounded walls of electrical equipment such as transformers, switchgear, and converter equipment. They maintain electrical insulation while allowing the safe connection of internal and external high-voltage circuits. HV Bushings belong to the Power Transformers component family.
Tap Changers & Selectors	Transformer tap changers and their associated selector mechanisms adjust the effective turns ratio of a power transformer to regulate and

	maintain the required voltage level under varying load and network conditions. Tap changers can either operate while the transformer is energised or when it is de-energised, depending on the design. Tap Changers belong to the Power Transformers component family.
HVDC Converter Stations	A HVDC Converter station is a specialist type of substation that converts direct current to alternating current or vice versa, for onward transmission. This typically contains individual components such as converter valves and harmonic filters for blocking voltage distortion. These can be located onshore or offshore.
DC Capacitors	DC capacitors are used within HVDC converter systems to store electrical energy, smooth and stabilise the DC voltage, and reduce voltage fluctuations and ripple. They form an important part of the DC-side electrical system and support the reliable operation of power conversion equipment. DC Capacitors belong to the HVDC Converter Stations component family.
Insulated Gate Bipolar Transistors (IGBTs)	IGBTs are semiconductor switching devices used in power electronic converters to control the flow of electrical power. They enable rapid and precise switching between electrical states and are used in applications such as HVDC converters. IGBTs belong to the HVDC Converter Stations component family.
Converter Valves	Converter valves are high-power semiconductor assemblies within an HVDC converter station that control the conversion of electricity between alternating current and direct current. They are typically made up of multiple semiconductor switching devices and associated cooling, insulation, and protection systems. Converter Valves belong to the HVDC Converter Stations component family.
HVDC Converter Station Jacket Foundations	HVDC converter station jacket foundations are lattice steel structures used to support offshore HVDC converter station topsides and transfer their static, dynamic, and environmental loads to the seabed. The foundations mainly consist of multiple steel legs and bracing members and are typically secured to the seabed using piles. HVDC Converter Stations Jacket Foundations belong to the HVDC Converter Stations component family.
Protection Relay Panels & Control Cabinets	Protection relay panels and control cabinets contain electrical protection, monitoring, automation, and control equipment used to operate and safeguard transmission substation assets. They detect abnormal electrical conditions and initiate appropriate actions, such as isolating faulty equipment, while also supporting remote and local control of the network. Protection Relay Panels & Control Cabinets belong to the HVDC Converter Stations component family and the HVAC Substation component family.
Switchgear	HV switchgear sets to isolate and protect each wind turbine array and export connections for onshore and offshore to the substations.

	Both air and SF-6 free gas insulated switchgear are included, and these typically contain individual components such as circuit breakers and disconnectors.
Reactive Power Management & Control systems	A reactive power management and control system used in a transmission substation helps keep voltage levels stable when dealing with variable wind power, ensuring reliable electricity flow. They include individual components such as series reactors and static-synchronous compensators.
Flexible AC Transmission System (FACTS) devices	FACTS devices are power-electronic or power-electromechanical systems used to control voltage, power flow, and other electrical characteristics of AC transmission networks. They improve grid stability, increase transmission capacity, and help manage the variable output associated with renewable generation. FACTS belong to the Reactive Power Management & Control Systems component family.
HVAC Substations	An HVAC substation collects, transforms, switches, and manages electrical power generated by offshore wind turbines or transmitted through the electricity network before onward transmission. It typically incorporates transformers, switchgear, protection and control equipment, reactive power compensation, and other electrical systems required for the safe, reliable, and efficient transmission of electricity. HVAC substations can be located either offshore or onshore.
HVAC Substation Topside	An HVAC substation topside is the structure that provides structural support and environmental protection for the electrical, mechanical, control, protection, and auxiliary equipment required to collect, transform, and transmit electricity. It provides access and working areas for operation and maintenance and may be located onshore or offshore. HVAC Substation Topside belong to the HVAC Substations component family.
HVAC Substation Jacket Foundations	HVAC substation jacket foundations are lattice steel structures used to support a substation topside and transfer its structural and environmental loads to the seabed. The jacket is typically secured using piles driven into the seabed and provides the structural interface between the seabed and the substation topside. HVAC Substation Jacket Foundations belong to the HVAC Substations component family.

Annex C – Process for Including Additional Critical Components

Reviewing the list: The Critical Component list is intended to be dynamic and will be reviewed periodically by GBE, including when new research emerges. This will allow the Fund to be responsive to emerging market needs. GBE may decide to review the list in the case of compelling updated evidence or a routine review to ensure the continued accuracy of the list. Only GBE may initiate a review of the Critical Components list.

Opportunity to provide evidence on critical components: Stakeholders are welcome to submit evidence to contribute to any future reviews that GBE may run, including evidence that supports the inclusion of additional components within the general scope of the Fund, where they can demonstrate them to be critical and constrained.

Review: Where GBE decides to run a review, analysis will be carried out to determine whether market failures or inequities are present in the specific segment of the relevant supply chain under review. A component will only be considered for inclusion if market failures or inequities exist that are comparable to those that justified intervention in the Critical Component markets at the time of launch. In these cases, GBE would consider whether the Fund, as designed, would effectively address these market failures and/or inequities and achieve the objectives of the Fund.

GBE will then consider the likely impact of amending the component list on the relevant market (e.g., consider the no-subsidy scenario, additionality assessment as well as the market's size, growth and relative size of the subsidy). GBE will only expand the component list if:

- the market failures or inequities which the Fund is designed to address are present in the market of the proposed component;
- GBE has determined that the Fund would effectively address these and achieve the Fund' objectives;
- the distortive impacts of adding the component market to the list is kept as minimal as possible; and
- on balance, the benefit of adding the component market outweighs any potential harms of its inclusion in the components list.

Final decision: Only GBE can initiate a review, and GBE retains the authority to decide if and when to do this. GBE also retains the authority to make the final decision on component eligibility, based on a robust, evidence-based assessment as outlined above, and when to do this too.

Annex D – Full Assessment Framework

Strategic Assessment

Score	Description
5 – Very Strong Alignment	The project must meet all the following criteria: 1) It delivers additional UK manufacturing capacity for key constrained components, helping to address the anticipated supply gap. 2) It creates net new direct jobs and/or supports existing jobs within the applicant company in the UK (including safeguarding roles that would otherwise be lost within 12 months from the commencement date of the GFA). 3) Any reputational risks associated with the project are effectively mitigated to avoid becoming a barrier to GBE funding. 4) It demonstrates strong consideration of all the following core social value principles: fair work, skills development, and ethical supply chains. In addition, the project must meet at least one of the following: 1) Is located within an industrial cluster. 2) Is making an eligible investment in shorter supply chains. 3) Is making an eligible investment in greener supply chains.
4 – Strong Alignment	The project must meet all the following criteria: 1) It delivers additional UK manufacturing capacity for key constrained components, helping to address the anticipated supply gap. 2) It creates net new direct jobs and/or supports existing jobs within the applicant company in the UK (including safeguarding roles that would otherwise be lost within 12 months from the commencement date of the GFA) 3) Any reputational risks associated with the project are effectively mitigated to avoid becoming a barrier to GBE funding. 4) It demonstrates at minimum some consideration of core social value principles, including fair work, skills development and ethical supply chains (some gaps are acceptable). In addition, the project must meet at least one of the following: 1) Is located within an industrial cluster. 2) Is making an eligible investment in shorter supply chains. 3) Is making an eligible investment in greener supply chains.

3 – Moderate Alignment (Minimum score)	The project must meet all the following criteria, though the extent of evidence or demonstration may be limited in any of the following areas and will need to be addressed prior to offer of funding: 1) It delivers additional UK manufacturing capacity for key constrained components, helping to address the anticipated supply gap. 2) It creates net new direct jobs and/or supports existing jobs within the applicant company in the UK (including safeguarding roles that would otherwise be lost within 12 months from the commencement date of the GFA) 3) Any reputational risks associated with the project are effectively mitigated to avoid becoming a barrier to GBE funding. 4) Demonstrates at minimum some consideration of core social value principles, including fair work, skills development and ethical supply chains (some gaps are acceptable). Any areas of limited evidence or demonstration are considered addressable and must be resolved before funding can be offered.
2 – Weak Alignment	One or more of the following apply because the applicant has provided limited or insufficient evidence, or the justification is weak and does not adequately address the requirement: 1) The project does not provide additional UK manufacturing capacity for key constrained components and so does not help to address the anticipated supply gap (e.g. it may simply be a relocation of an existing factory). 2) The project does not create net new direct jobs and/or support existing jobs within the applicant company in the UK (including safeguarding roles that would otherwise be lost within 12 months from the commencement date of the GFA). 3) The project has significant reputational risks which are not sufficiently mitigated, and this is a red line for GBE offering funding. 4) The project has no or minimal consideration of core social value principles, including fair work, skills development and ethical supply chains (some gaps are acceptable).
1 – Little/No Alignment	The project is ineligible (e.g., it is not included on the fund's eligible components list or is only a sub-component of a component on this list).

Technical Assessment - Deliverability

Score	Description
5 – Very Strong	The application presents comprehensive and well evidenced plans for delivery of the project, underpinned by proven delivery capability and proactive risk management. Risks are minimal and effectively managed. Procurement, workforce, and land and consent strategies are fully developed and aligned with the project's needs. The delivery approach outlined in the application supports a high level of confidence in successful delivery.
4 – Strong	The application presents clear and credible evidence across all major delivery areas. Most aspects are well-developed and demonstrate readiness for implementation. There may be areas that require further refinement or additional detail, but these do not materially affect the overall deliverability of the project. While there may be risks associated with the project, these are well understood with appropriate and proportionate controls and mitigation strategies in place.
3 – Moderate (Minimum score)	The application demonstrates a reasonable level of preparation across key delivery areas. While there are risks associated with the project, the applicant has put in place controls and mitigation strategies that are generally appropriate and proportionate, although these may be less developed.
2 – Weak	There are major gaps evident in planning, procurement, workforce capability, and/or land and consent strategy. The current level of preparation and detail does not demonstrate that the applicant is equipped to effectively deliver the project.
1 – Very Weak	The application provides little to no relevant evidence across key delivery areas. There is a fundamental lack of planning or understanding in critical aspects such as project execution, procurement, workforce readiness, and land use.

Technical Assessment - Market Viability

Score	Description
5 – Very Strong	Clear market demand supported and a credible route to market, supported by evidence of commitments or agreements with future users of the product. The project is well-positioned to progress to FID. The technology is proven, certified, commercially ready, and aligned with market expectations.
4 – Strong	The route to market is credible and well-developed, with early-stage agreements, expressions of interest, or other signs of commercial engagement. There may be elements may require further detail or confirmation, but the project is commercially sound to support FID targets. The technology is proven, certified, commercially ready, and aligned with market expectations.
3 – Moderate (Minimum score)	The route to market is clear and mostly developed, with some early-stage agreements or expressions of interest in place. While there are risks, the applicant has outlined reasonable mitigation strategies, and the commercial case is broadly viable. The technology is proven, commercially ready, and aligned with market expectations.
2 – Weak	Market is defined, but one or both of the following apply: evidence of demand is limited; the technology requires further development, testing, or certification before it can be considered commercially viable.
1 - Very Weak	Market interest appears speculative or lacks evidence, the technology is at a low readiness level, or both, creating significant challenges for large-scale manufacturing and commercial deployment within the committed timelines.

Economic Assessment

Score	Description
5 – Very good value for money	Overall assessment suggests very high value for money when accounting for all evidence. Project meets one of two criteria: 1) High net quantified BCR supported by evidence supplemented by significant qualitative benefits (such as significant production of a highly constrained component or significant investment in shorter or greener supply chains). Available evidence suggests the project would have good UK market fit as described in Table 8. OR 2) Very high net quantified BCR, regardless of the strength of the qualitative benefits. Available evidence suggests the project would have good UK market fit as described in Table 8.
4 – Good value for money	Overall assessment suggests high value for money when accounting for all evidence. Project meets the following criteria: High net quantified BCR supported by evidence and weak qualitative benefits (such as lower annual output of the facility in relation to grant funding requested, production of a less constrained components, or no investment in shorter or greener supply chains). Available evidence suggests the project would have good UK market fit as described in Table 8.
3 – Moderate value for money (Minimum score)	Overall assessment suggests moderate value for money when accounting for all evidence. Project meets the following criteria: Low or moderate net quantified BCR supported by evidence supplemented by significant qualitative benefits (such as significant production of a highly constrained component or significant investment in shorter or greener supply chains). Available evidence suggests the project would have good UK market fit as described in Table 8.
2 – Low value for money	Overall assessment suggests a low BCR when accounting for all evidence. Project meets the following criteria: Low or moderate net quantified BCR supported by evidence and weak qualitative benefits (such as smaller component production, production of a less constrained components, or no investment in shorter or greener supply chains). Available evidence suggests the project would have good UK market fit as described in Table 8.
1 – Very low value for money	Overall assessment suggests a very low BCR. Project meets one of the following criteria: 1) Applicant does not provide evidence to support figures required for the quantitative assessment. 2) There's significant evidence which suggests that the project would not be a good strategic fit within the UK market, for example if it were judged to have a high risk of capturing the entire market through

	more than filling the supply-demand gap or crowding out other players through an unfair advantage. 3) Evidence provided by the applicant suggests that the project would proceed as planned without GBE support, signalling that there is zero additionality.
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Financial Assessment - Financial Viability

Score	Description
5 – Very Low Risk	The applicant demonstrates a robust business and financing plan, with realistic financial projections, a clear revenue model, and credible indicators of long-term viability. Financial statements of the applicant and/or its group show strong liquidity, solvency, profitability, and compliance. The applicant is not reliant on subsidies and can offer satisfactory guarantees. Where the applicant is part of a wider group, strong financial viability may be demonstrated through the committed support of a substantial parent entity. There is clear evidence of financial flexibility (of the applicant and/or its parent where relevant) to manage cost overruns.
4 – Low Risk	The applicant has a sound business and financing plan, with reasonably based projections and a defined revenue model. Financial standing is generally strong, with adequate liquidity and solvency, though there may be minor weaknesses. Satisfactory guarantees are available.
3 – Moderate Risk (Minimum score)	There are concerns with the applicant's business and financing plan that can and must be addressed before a grant award can be made. Financial standing is satisfactory, with adequate liquidity and solvency, though there may be minor weaknesses. Satisfactory guarantees are available.
2 – High Risk	One or more of the following apply: 1) The applicant shows a weak business and financing plan, with unrealistic or unsupported projections, and/or unclear revenue model. 2) Financial statements reveal liquidity or solvency issues, dependency on subsidies, and/or non-compliance. 3) Guarantees are insufficient or absent. 4) The applicant does not appear to have capacity and financial flexibility to manage cost overruns should they arise.
1 - Very High Risk	Irremediable major concern(s) which would prevent the award of a grant i.e. strong concerns on the financial viability of the applicant to develop and operate their project successfully in the UK from a financial point of view.

Financial Assessment - Case for Assistance

Score	Description
5 – Very Strong	Applicant clearly demonstrates, with strong supporting evidence, what would likely happen to the project benefits in the absence of support. ²⁹ Evidence suggests that the project is very unlikely to proceed at all in the absence of support or would be very significantly scaled back, delayed or reconfigured in a way which delivers lower economic value or proceed outside of the UK.
4 – Strong	Applicant demonstrates, with reasonably good supporting evidence, what would likely happen to the project in the absence of support. Evidence suggests that the project is unlikely to proceed in the absence of support or would be scaled back, delayed, reconfigured in a way which delivers lower economic value or proceed outside of the UK.
3 – Moderate (Minimum score)	Applicant provides limited evidence to suggest that the project would not progress or would continue but would be scaled back, delayed, reconfigured in a way which delivers lower economic value, or would take place abroad.
2 – Weak	Applicant provides little or weak evidence to support their assertions around what would happen in the absence of funding.
1 - Very Weak (or No Case)	The information provided by the applicant strongly suggests that the project, as proposed, will go ahead without any funding.

²⁹ Evidence requirements will be applied proportionately to the size and risk of the grant. Low-risk and low-value grant requests (typically under £1m) may require less supporting documentation, provided the application presents a credible and well-reasoned rationale, supported by appropriate evidence.

Annex E - Supporting Resilient and Sustainable Supply Chains

1. Introduction

To promote more resilient and sustainable means of production, the Fund strongly encourages investment in shorter or greener supply chains. This sub-objective is designed to strengthen the UK's energy resilience, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance the broader environmental, economic, and social sustainability of offshore wind and enabling network-component supply chains. This approach also allows GBE to take a holistic view across the supply chain, helping to avoid bottlenecks or constraints being displaced further downstream.

Making an eligible investment is one of the ways in which applicants can demonstrate a strong strategic and economic fit for the Fund and may therefore strengthen the overall competitiveness of their application. In particular, and as further outlined in **Section 6. Full Application**, eligible investments in shorter or greener supply chains will be considered during the Full Assessment Stage as part of both the Strategic Assessment and the Qualitative Economic Assessment.

2. Eligible Investments

To be eligible, the investment must be above the minimum standard set out below, and must be in:

- (1) a facility or firm manufacturing, assembling or supplying subcomponents, composites, or raw materials utilised in the manufacturing of one or more key constrained components targeted by the Fund;
- (2) a facility or firm that own assets or infrastructure necessary for installation activities or a facility or firm that conducts installation activities utilised in the manufacturing of one or more key constrained components targeted by the Fund; or
- (3) a port³⁰ supplying services relevant for the manufacturing of one or more key constrained components targeted by the Fund.

For the purposes of the Fund, an investment is defined as any transfer of money between an applicant³¹ and the recipient of the investment or provision of financial

³⁰ For the purposes of this Fund, a 'port' is defined as a harbour or access to navigable water where ships load or unload. 'Wet storage areas' outside of Statutory Harbour Authority are nonetheless deemed to be part of the broader 'port' that services the wet storage area.

³¹ Including the applicant's parent company, subsidiaries, shareholders of the applicant, any members of a (corporated or unincorporated), joint venture of which the applicant is part, or a third-party acting on behalf of the applicant so long as there is clear documentary evidence that they are acting on behalf of the applicant. Any investment delivered by any third party will need to meet all of the rules outlined in this Guidance.

support by the applicant to the recipient.³² An eligible investment must have been made after December 2025 and before commencement of operations of the project.³³ Moreover, any investment must be aimed at using, building, acquiring, or improving tangible assets in pursuit of the 'shorter' or 'greener' objectives (defined below) or be investments in intangible assets, e.g. skills programmes, process improvement and R&D programmes etc, again in pursuit of the 'shorter' or 'greener' objectives.

The minimum standard of investment depends on the size and maturity of the applicant. In general, larger and more established applicants are expected to make more significant investments, while smaller or less mature applicants are expected to make proportionately lower levels of investment. Where the applicant is a joint venture or special-purpose vehicle established specifically for the project and has minimal or no turnover, GBE will consider the consolidated turnover of the parent entities or shareholders providing financial backing to the applicant. This is designed to ensure proportionality and reflects the expectation that applicants contribute in line with their capacity and scale. Importantly, GBE will not impose a numerical minimum threshold for eligible investments. Instead, to be considered an eligible investment, applicants should demonstrate that their investment is sufficiently material to strengthen the downstream supply chain by increasing the resilience and environmental sustainability of the recipient.

Importantly, an applicant does not need to make an investment in both shorter and greener supply chains; investment in either shorter **or** greener supply chain suffices. No additional points will be awarded for investing in both shorter and greener. Finally, for clarity, it is not necessary for an applicant to source any component, subcomponent, raw material or service from a company operating in the UK in order to make an eligible investment in greener supply chains.

3. Definition of Shorter Supply Chains

In the context of this Fund, 'shorter supply chains' are defined as:

- a. A manufacturing facility or firm as defined in (1) above that is located in a UK deprived area.
- b. An installation firm as defined in (2) above that is located in a UK deprived area.
- c. A port as defined in (3) above that is located in a UK deprived area.

For the purposes of this Fund, GBE has defined a 'UK deprived area' to include only:

³² For example, whether a direct investment, a loan, an equity stake, etc.

³³ For investments which have not completed at the date of application, the applicant must evidence both commitment and specific steps taken to pursue the investment.

- a. Local authorities in England with between 1 and 4 measures of deprivation in the bottom quartile of Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' 'Levelling Up the United Kingdom' dataset.³⁴
- b. Data zones in Northern Ireland in deciles 1 – 5 on overall deprivation, as defined within the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017.³⁵
- c. Data zones in Scotland in deciles 1 – 5 on overall deprivation, or data zones in deciles 1-2 on the geographic access to services indicator³⁶, as defined within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020.³⁷
- d. Data zones in Wales in deciles 1 – 5 on overall deprivation, as defined within the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019.³⁸

'Shorter supply chains' focusses specifically on deprived areas in order to tackle inequities. The Fund has a focus on these areas, supporting the renewal and long-term prosperity of the UK's industrial heartlands through the opportunities created by the renewable energy transition. This is particularly true for our coastal towns near offshore wind deployment zones, which not only have some of the highest markers of deprivation in the UK, but also host large parts of renewable energy and other enabling infrastructure without necessarily feeling the benefit of this investment. As such, by promoting and rewarding investment in deprived areas through, for example, boosting manufacturing capacity and skills programmes, the Fund will help address this inequality.

4. Definition of Greener Supply Chains

In the context of this Fund, 'greener supply chains' are defined as:

- a. A manufacturing facility as defined in (1) above that is owned or operated by a manufacturer that can evidence having set, committed, validated and communicated a Science Based Target to the Science Based Target Initiative³⁹ by the date of the applicant's application.
- b. An installation firm as defined in (2) above that is owned or operated by firms that can evidence having set, committed, validated and communicated a Science Based Target to the Science Based Target Initiative by the date of the applicant's application;
- c. A manufacturing facility as defined in (1) above that is owned or operated by a manufacturer that can evidence both commitment and specific steps taken to implement sustainable and low carbon manufacturing, carbon footprint

³⁴ [Levelling Up the United Kingdom - GOV.UK](#), p. 18

³⁵ [Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017](#)

³⁶ Data zones in deciles 1-2 on the "geographic access to services" indicator in Scotland have been included as deprived to help capture its most sparsely populated regions.

³⁷ [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020](#)

³⁸ [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014](#)

³⁹ [Ambitious corporate climate action - Science Based Targets Initiative](#)

reduction measures, recyclable and environmentally friendly materials, energy efficiency measures or other decarbonisation measures by the date of the applicant's application.

- d. An installation firm as defined in (2) above that are owned or operated by firms that can evidence both commitment and specific steps taken to implement carbon footprint reduction measures, recyclable and environmentally friendly materials, energy efficiency measures or other decarbonisation measures by the date of the applicant's application.

Annex F – Example Social Value Commitments

A strong consideration of core social value principles (fair work, skills, and ethical supply chains) may be evidenced by demonstrating action and making commitments to further each principle. See below a non-exhaustive list of example commitments:

Fair work commitments:

- Signed trade union access agreement in place with commitment to a proactive approach
- Union recognition with collective bargaining agreement in place
- Meeting the standards of relevant sectoral pay agreements (e.g. NAECI agreement for construction) where relevant
- Paying at least the living wage
- Paying the living wage throughout the supply chain
- Provides opportunities for upskilling/training for under-represented groups
- Strategy to help drive gender parity in pay and headcount
- Signing up to 'fair work charters'
- Individual fair work plans (to drive e.g. improving worker's voice and representation in the workplace; fair pay practices; ensuring the workplace is inclusive and accessible)

Skills investment commitments:

- to invest a certain amount into skills/skills training,
- ambitious apprenticeship targets,
- high-quality apprenticeships,
- community outreach and support,
- partnering with a training and placement programme, opportunities for upskilling and on-the-job training

Ethical supply chains commitments:

- Percentage of the supply chain for which supply chain risk mapping has been completed to the appropriate tier or to source
- Commitment to transparently reporting on supply chain (e.g. on Open Supply Hub).
- Number of staff employed in the supply chain trained about modern slavery and exploitation.
- Partnering with credible third parties (NGOs, independent social auditors, and multi-stakeholder initiatives).

Annex G – How to Apply

1. Online Portal

Applications must be submitted via the online application portal, available [here](#).

When completing the first stage of the application (the Eligibility form), organisations will be able to create a login and an application reference which will be used throughout all stages of the application.

The person who submits the first stage of the application must be the person submitting all stages of the application as their email address will be used to access the site. The online application allows for collaborators to be added by selecting 'invite collaborators' under the 'manage application' heading. The email address of the person who submits the first stage of the application should be monitored for communications related to the application.

GBE is fully committed to ensuring applicants are supported throughout the application process, and that applicants' questions are answered at each stage. If applicants require any further clarification or information relating to their application, please email SupplyChainFund@gbe.gov.uk and GBE will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

2. Eligibility

Overview

The Eligibility form will request information relating to the applicant, the project, and the Eligibility Criteria (see **Table 3**). Evidence will be requested during the application process confirming that the responses provided at this stage are correct. Notwithstanding the conclusion of the Eligibility check, if at any time during the assessment process it is determined that an application does not pass the Eligibility Criteria, GBE reserves the right to discontinue the assessment and notify the applicant that their application is rejected.

The 'Check and Submit' section of the Eligibility form will consist of declaration questions confirming that the information provided is correct to the best of the organisation's knowledge and that the person submitting the Eligibility form has the authority to do so. Once completed, the option to submit becomes available. Unless all sections of the Eligibility form are showing as completed, the option to submit will not be available.

After submitting the Eligibility form, applicants that are successful at Eligibility will automatically be able to access the next stage on the portal (Readiness Review). Applicants that are unsuccessful will receive an automated email to the email address used to submit the form, confirming that they are ineligible, and will be unable to proceed.

Privacy Notice

The Eligibility form includes a link to the Privacy Notice. The Privacy Notice sets out how personal data will be processed. To continue with the application, the applicant must confirm that they have read the Privacy Notice.

Data Sharing Agreement

Applicants may be contacted separately to offer them the choice to Opt-In to sharing information with partnering public finance institutions. Where applicants Opt-In they will be consenting to share information with relevant public finance institution partners which GBE enters into data sharing agreements with, to help the partner institution to understand the project and consider financing needs ahead of any engagement.

Please note that the assessment of project proposals for additional funding from public finance partners will be considered independently from applications to the Fund. This means that GBE will take decisions based on its own criteria as set out in this Guidance. Public finance partners will not score applications for this process, nor will GBE be responsible for, or have any liability to applicants for, any information GBE shares with public finance partners (or the consequences of such sharing of information) where an applicant has elected to Opt-In.

Disclosure of Information

This section provides information relating to DESNZ and/or GBE's obligations (including the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)) in the event that a request for information is received. More information on the FOIA and EIR (including information on exemptions) can be found at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/>

Applicants are required to co-operate with GBE in the provision of such information relating to GBE's mandatory reporting obligations.

To help GBE deal with information requests and without prejudice to the paragraph above, in the Disclosure of Information question in the Eligibility form, applicants should set out the reasons they consider any specific information should not be disclosed, including (if possible) by reference to the specific exemption contained in the relevant legislation (for example, because disclosure of the information would prejudice commercial interests under section 43 of the FOIA), explaining why this is the case.

Where appropriate, applicants should also state whether they consider the reasons for non-disclosure only apply for a particular time period. If GBE receives an information request, GBE will consider the applicant's views as stated in the Eligibility form. However, GBE will ultimately decide how to respond to an information request and whether any information should be withheld, subject to the Information Commissioner's Office decision in the event of the requestor appealing that decision.

Failure to complete this declaration will prevent the submission of the application. Applicants should enter “N/A” if there is no information which should not be disclosed.

3. Readiness Review

Provided the application window is still open, applicants that are successful at Eligibility will automatically be able to access the next stage on the portal (Readiness Review).

Before submitting, applicants will be asked to confirm they have completed all parts of the application correctly. The ‘Check and Submit’ section will allow applicants to check that all sections have been completed.

4. Full Application

Provided the application window is still open, applicants successful at Readiness Review will be invited to submit a Full Application. Applicants will be required to provide detailed information and accompanying documents to demonstrate how the application meets the assessment criteria of the Fund. The Full Application will contain questions relating to the Exclusion Criteria set out in **Table 3** and questions to determine whether the project is in scope of Article 10(1) of the Windsor Framework as set out in **Section 2.3 Eligible Locations**.

Before submitting, applicants will be asked to confirm they have completed all parts of the application correctly. The ‘Check and Submit’ section will allow applicants to check that all sections have been completed. The application cannot be submitted until all sections are showing as completed.

5. Document Uploads

Documents must be provided in the following formats:

- Microsoft Office document formats (.doc, .ppt, .xls, etc.);
- Adobe Acrobat .pdfs; and
- Images in .jpg where appropriate.

Each file must be less than 30MB.

Annex H – FAQs

1. Fund

When will the funding be available?

The application window will be open for an initial 12-month period or until the fund's budget is fully allocated, whichever is earlier. Funding must be drawn down by successful projects during the delivery period of April 2026 to March 2030. Grant payments will only be made in arrears and only after a claim has been submitted by the project of defrayed expenditure against agreed eligible costs and deliverables, which has been verified by GBE.

Is there a maximum grant intensity that can be requested?

Grant intensity refers to the proportion of a project's eligible costs that would be funded by the grant. There is no minimum – and, subject to the availability of funding – no maximum grant amount that can be awarded. However, any funding awarded must represent the minimum amount necessary for the project to proceed and must demonstrate sound value for money.

GBE expects to mobilise over one billion pounds of public and private investment through £300m of grant funding, and anticipates an average grant intensity of around 15% across the Fund. This means public funding from this Fund may represent only a small amount of total eligible costs for many projects, with applicants demonstrating substantial private investment.

GBE will assess the value for money of projects as part of the Economic Assessment, including the extent of benefits in relation to the level of public funding requested. It may be more difficult for projects requesting a higher grant intensity to score strongly in this element and therefore go on to receive an offer of funding. Applicants requesting low levels of grant support (e.g. $\leq 15\%$ grant intensity) may be likely to score more strongly in this respect. However, GBE recognises that some applications, including those led by small and medium-sized enterprises, may require higher levels of grant support. This will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to help ensure that the amount of grant requested is the minimum necessary for the project to proceed.

Can we apply if we have received other public funding?

Yes, but applicants must disclose all sources of public funding. Any subsidy control analysis will take into account not just any proposed grant funding arising from the Fund but all public monies and funding provided to or proposed to be provided to an applicant.

2. Application Portal

Can I save the application as I go?

Yes, you can save the application responses as you work on the application. You can view progress against different sections of the application form which will show as completed, in progress or not started.

I haven't received the account confirmation email

Check your spam folder.

Add the portal email address to your safe senders list. The address is noreply@gbesupplychainfund.energysecurity.gov.uk.

You can then get the confirmation email to be resent by logging in again.

If you think you may have mistyped your email address when creating your account, contact SupplyChainFund@gbe.gov.uk.

I have forgotten my password

Use the forgotten password link on the login page.

My account is locked out

You may have entered an incorrect password too many times. If you know your password, wait for 10 minutes then try logging in again.

You may not have an account associated with the email address you are trying to login with. Use the forgotten password link on the login page.

I am unable to create an account

You may already have an account, possibly from another scheme. Log in using the details you used to create the account originally. If you have forgotten your password, use the forgotten password link on the login page.

I am unable to log in

The email address you are entering on the login page may not match the email you used to create an account. Create an account via the link on the login page.

I am unable to complete the two-factor authentication stage when logging in

Log in using a recovery code:

1. Log in using your usual email address and password
2. When asked for a two-factor authentication code, click the link to "log in with a recovery code" instead of entering a code in the box
3. Enter a recovery code when asked. You should now be logged in to your account

If you did not make a note of your recovery codes when you first created your account, or you have lost them, contact SupplyChainFund@gbe.gov.uk.

After logging in with a recovery code, reset your authentication method:

1. Click on the “Account details” link in the top right corner
2. Click the “Two-factor authentication” link on the left side
3. Click the “Reset authentication method” link
4. Click the “Reset authentication” button and follow the instructions to set up an account for the portal in your authenticator app (as you did when you first created your account). When complete, you will be able to use your authenticator app codes to log in as before

If you did not make a note of your recovery codes when you originally created your account, or you have lost them, it is recommended that you generate and make a note of new codes after logging in as above. You can do this by going to the “Account details” link, then going to “Two-factor authentication”, then “Reset recovery codes”.