# Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park offers up to £16,000 to five SMEs for three-month testbed trials of healthy-building tech



Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park has opened the fourth cycle of its Future Industries Demonstrator, launching a "Building Better" challenge that will pay five London-based small and medium-sized enterprises up to £16,000 each to test scalable design and technology solutions aimed at improving indoor environmental health in buildings. According to the original report, the initiative is focused on practical interventions to tackle problems including poor indoor air quality, damp, overheating and energy inefficiency.

The competition will narrow applicants through a staged process: organisers will invite 25 shortlisted SMEs to refine their proposals, take part in a trial-design hackathon and a series of workshops, and then select five winners to run three‑month live trials on the Park’s testbed. Each successful participant will showcase results at the 2026 Innovation Forum; applications close on 14 September and the programme is scheduled to conclude in March 2026.

Organisers stress that the demonstrator is intended not merely as grant funding but as an on‑the‑ground market‑validation opportunity. The Park and its partners say the trials will be supported by wraparound services — including workspace, expert mentoring and access to networks — designed to accelerate solutions from prototype to commercially viable offerings. The Future Industries Demonstrator operates as a living testbed within the Park’s Innovation District, where real buildings and communities provide a practical environment for measurement and iteration.

The programme is financed through a mix of local and national funding. According to the Park’s announcement, the Mayor of London and the UK Government are providing funds via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Greater London Authority material confirms that UKSPF allocations are used to back local business support and innovation activity across the capital, while the UK Government’s UKSPF prospectus sets out the fund’s remit to support place‑based local growth and skills investment.

The demonstrator’s organisers frame the challenge as a direct response to pressing social and environmental pressures in the capital. Shazia Hussain, chief executive of the London Legacy Development Corporation, said in the Park’s announcement: “With over 700,000 London households experiencing fuel poverty, and climate change increasing the risk of overheating in the capital’s buildings, the launch of this latest Future Industries Demonstrator funding couldn’t be more timely.” London’s deputy mayor for business and growth, Howard Dawber, added that the competition should help “unlock new solutions to major social and environmental challenges.” These comments underline the programme’s twin objectives of addressing immediate public‑health concerns and supporting commercial uptake of low‑carbon, health‑focused building technologies.

The Future Industries Demonstrator builds on an earlier, larger funding phase: SHIFT, the organisation managing the on‑Park programme, announced in 2023 a £1.47m package from UKSPF to back a two‑year programme intended to support scores of London SMEs across multiple themed challenges. That earlier phase set out an ambition to back up to 215 organisations with grants, workspace and mentoring — a model the current Building Better challenge follows by concentrating resources on a small number of high‑value, real‑world trials. SHIFT describes the demonstrator as mission‑led, using the Park’s testbed to accelerate innovations that can be scaled across the capital.

Applicants are being asked to demonstrate three things: innovation in concept, measurable impact on health or sustainability outcomes, and the capacity to scale beyond a single trial. The organisers emphasise that proposals must be ready for practical testing and data collection within the Park environment; the financial award covers the three‑month trial period, but success will be judged on evidence of performance, deliverable insights and market potential. The Park and SHIFT have framed these trials as a way to reduce the risks that typically prevent building‑sector innovations from reaching wider adoption.

While the programme promises an attractive route to market for early‑stage companies, organisers are careful to present the awards as tests rather than endorsements. The Park’s announcement and the managing partners describe the funding as an opportunity to validate claims under real conditions; it will be the outcomes of the three‑month trials that determine whether any given intervention can be scaled and adopted more widely across London’s building stock. Interested SMEs should note the 14 September deadline and the intention to present results at the Innovation Forum in 2026.

### 📌 Reference Map:

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/olympic-park-invites-funding-bids-for-innovations-in-healthy-building-design/5137475.article), [[2]](https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-stories/building-better-queen-elizabeth-olympic-park-launches-innovation-challenge-rethink-3), [[3]](https://shiftlondon.co.uk/building-better-queen-elizabeth-olympic-park-launches-innovation-challenge-to-rethink-buildings-for-health-and-wellbeing/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/olympic-park-invites-funding-bids-for-innovations-in-healthy-building-design/5137475.article), [[2]](https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-stories/building-better-queen-elizabeth-olympic-park-launches-innovation-challenge-rethink-3), [[3]](https://shiftlondon.co.uk/building-better-queen-elizabeth-olympic-park-launches-innovation-challenge-to-rethink-buildings-for-health-and-wellbeing/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-stories/building-better-queen-elizabeth-olympic-park-launches-innovation-challenge-rethink-3), [[4]](https://shiftlondon.co.uk/future-industries-demonstrator/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/olympic-park-invites-funding-bids-for-innovations-in-healthy-building-design/5137475.article), [[2]](https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-stories/building-better-queen-elizabeth-olympic-park-launches-innovation-challenge-rethink-3), [[6]](https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/business-and-economy/support-your-business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-supporting-local-business), [[7]](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/olympic-park-invites-funding-bids-for-innovations-in-healthy-building-design/5137475.article)
* Paragraph 6 – [[5]](https://shiftlondon.co.uk/shift-launches-new-1-47m-innovation-programme-for-london-smes-tackling-the-climate-emergency/), [[4]](https://shiftlondon.co.uk/future-industries-demonstrator/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[2]](https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-stories/building-better-queen-elizabeth-olympic-park-launches-innovation-challenge-rethink-3), [[4]](https://shiftlondon.co.uk/future-industries-demonstrator/)
* Paragraph 8 – [[1]](https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/olympic-park-invites-funding-bids-for-innovations-in-healthy-building-design/5137475.article), [[2]](https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-stories/building-better-queen-elizabeth-olympic-park-launches-innovation-challenge-rethink-3)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/olympic-park-invites-funding-bids-for-innovations-in-healthy-building-design/5137475.article> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk/our-stories/building-better-queen-elizabeth-olympic-park-launches-innovation-challenge-rethink-3> - This Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park press release announces the fourth Future Industries Demonstrator (FID) challenge, titled Building Better, which invites London-based SMEs to trial innovations that improve health and sustainability within buildings. It states that five SMEs will each receive up to £16,000 to test solutions addressing poor indoor air quality, damp, overheating and energy inefficiency. The page explains selection stages — a 25-strong shortlist, a trial-design hackathon, four workshops, a three-month trial and a showcase at the 2026 Innovation Forum — and confirms funding comes via the Mayor of London and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
3. <https://shiftlondon.co.uk/building-better-queen-elizabeth-olympic-park-launches-innovation-challenge-to-rethink-buildings-for-health-and-wellbeing/> - SHIFT’s dedicated announcement for the Building Better challenge outlines the Future Industries Demonstrator’s fourth innovation cycle based at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The page describes the programme mechanics — application window, selection of 25 participants for a trial design hackathon, then five SMEs awarded up to £16,000 each to run three-month trials on the Park’s testbed. It highlights the programme’s focus on practical, scalable solutions for indoor environmental health (air quality, damp, overheating, energy efficiency), the partnership model within the Innovation District, and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as a core financier.
4. <https://shiftlondon.co.uk/future-industries-demonstrator/> - This SHIFT programme page explains the Future Industries Demonstrator (FID) as an on‑Park initiative to support and scale London-based climate and health innovations. It summarises the programme structure across multiple innovation challenges, the offer of funding, trial support, workspace and networks, and its role as a real-world testbed within the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park Innovation District. The page notes the FID is part‑funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and describes the ambition to accelerate market‑ready SME solutions that tackle local urban challenges, with an emphasis on impact, scalability and practical trialling.
5. <https://shiftlondon.co.uk/shift-launches-new-1-47m-innovation-programme-for-london-smes-tackling-the-climate-emergency/> - This SHIFT press post from October 2023 describes the original launch of the Future Industries Demonstrator, announcing a £1.47m part‑funding package from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to back a two‑year programme for London SMEs. It sets out the programme’s intent to support up to 215 organisations across several themed challenges, explains the nature of the grants and wraparound support (including workspace and expert mentoring), and lists early thematic priorities such as Natural Cities and urban greening. The article frames FID as a mission‑led accelerator using the Park as a living testbed for climate‑focussed innovation.
6. <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/business-and-economy/support-your-business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-supporting-local-business> - The Greater London Authority’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund page summarises how UKSPF money is used in London to support local businesses, skills and place‑based projects. It specifically references SHIFT: Future Industries Demonstrator as a funded initiative, detailing grant awards and the GLA’s role in allocating UKSPF monies across business support activity. The page explains London’s UKSPF allocation and how funds are targeted to boost productivity, back innovation and support SMEs, providing an authoritative underpinning for statements that FID is financed via the Mayor’s UKSPF allocations to London.
7. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus> - The UK Government’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus sets out the design, aims and delivery parameters of UKSPF, explaining the fund’s purpose to support local growth, skills and community projects. It details eligible investment priorities, delivery arrangements, timelines and the overall funding envelope for the fund’s initial period, providing the national context for UKSPF‑backed projects. The prospectus is an authoritative source explaining what UKSPF can fund and how local authorities and delivery bodies — such as the GLA and its partners — may use allocations to support initiatives like the Future Industries Demonstrator.