

Greater Manchester Production Fund - FAQs

June 2026

Version Control

Date	Notable Changes	Initial
6.8.26	Additional FAQs added	RS (GMCA)

What is the Production Fund?

A £10.5 million investment fund supporting film and TV production in Greater Manchester.

It's designed to help get more productions made here, create jobs, and grow the local industry.

What kind of funding is available?

- Typically £50,000 to £750,000
- Applicants may request up to 20% of the total project budget from the Production Fund.
- Grant funding will normally be considered for eligible Greater Manchester-based companies requesting up to £500,000. Recoupable investment will normally apply to Greater Manchester-based companies requesting more than £500,000 and to eligible companies based outside Greater Manchester.

What does “recoupable” mean?

In simple terms, a recoupable investment means that the Fund may receive a share of returns if a project is commercially successful.

The exact approach will vary depending on the project and will be agreed as part of the application and contracting process. We will work with you to ensure the structure is appropriate to the scale and nature of the production and fits with your overall finance plan.

In practice, this could include one or more of the following:

- A share of net profits
- A return on investment based on agreed thresholds
- Other forms of participation in the project's financial success

For larger awards, the Fund may take a more structured recoupment position to support the long-term sustainability of the fund and help recycle money into future projects.

Where appropriate, other forms of participation, such as rights or profit participation mechanisms, may also be considered. The aim is to ensure that successful projects can contribute back into future investment.

Overall, our approach is intended to be:

- Flexible – tailored to each project
- Proportionate – reflecting the level of investment
- Supportive – enabling projects to proceed while helping the fund grow over time.

Who can apply?

- UK-based production companies with a relevant track record, including broadcast credits
- Both Greater Manchester-based and external companies

You don't have to be based here, but your project must deliver clear benefits in Greater Manchester (spend, jobs, use of local crew and facilities).

What types of projects are eligible?

- Feature films, including animation and documentary, and scripted or unscripted television productions are eligible for consideration.
- If your project is a film or television production:
 - Television can include series (any length), single programmes, or multi-part formats
 - Broadcast pilots will be considered
 - Film projects must be feature length

- Projects can be live action or animation

Your project must:

- Have a clear production timeline, including delivery or release targets
- Have a clear route to market:
 - For television: a broadcaster must be attached, either through a greenlight or a strong expression of interest
 - For film: key financiers must be in place, supported by a robust finance plan
- Deliver substantial activity in Greater Manchester (e.g. spend, filming, jobs, or facilities use)

What the Fund Does Not Support:

- Early-stage development
- Non-commercial projects
- Student or amateur productions

What do you mean by “advanced” or “greenlit”?

- **Greenlit** – you have a commissioning offer from a UK Broadcaster
- **Advanced Stage/Broadcaster Interest** – this **cannot** be speculative interest. This must be a **clear** intent for a broadcaster to take your project forward, whereby additional investment will favourably move the piece into commission.

We will take a **practical, case-by-case view** depending on the project and how the funding helps unlock delivery.

What costs can the Fund cover?

Funding is expected to support the **overall production budget**.

Our aim is to support production, so we will consider your budget as a whole. We would prefer the money supports Below The Line costs. The aim to keep this simple and avoid unnecessary restrictions. If there are any limits, these will be clearly set out at application and contracting stage.

Definitions

Above The Line costs, are the creative costs typically incurred before Principal Photography. These might include: story rights, access agreements, producers, directors, writers, contributors and principal cast members.

Below The Line costs, are the technical and logistical costs typically incurred from the preparatory or pre-production period. They might cover: crew, equipment, construction, locations, costume, VFX, CG and post-production.

What are ‘indigenous’ and ‘incoming’ productions?

- **Indigenous** = Greater Manchester-based companies
- **Incoming** = companies based elsewhere

Both are eligible.

We’re looking for strong local impact in all cases, but the way that impact is delivered may differ.

What about co-productions?

Co-productions are welcome.

We’ll assess these on a case-by-case basis, focusing on the **overall benefit to Greater Manchester**.

How do I apply?

The process is straightforward:

1. Submit an Expression of Interest via the [Website](#)
2. If invited, submit a full application along with supporting material (budget, schedule, finance plan and creative materials etc.)
3. Applications will be scored alongside required due diligence
4. Recommendations will be taken to quarterly Investment Panels where decisions will be made by the board.

How long does it take?

As a guide, the process usually takes around **8–11 weeks from initial enquiry to decision.**

This timeframe will depend on how ready the project is, the quality and completeness of the information provided, and when the project enters the assessment process. GMCA will aim to move applications forward as efficiently as possible but cannot guarantee specific timelines.

When are decisions made?

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with decisions made at regular points throughout the year.

We will confirm the expected timeline with you as your application progresses, including when your project is likely to be considered for decision.

What are you looking for in projects?

We want to support projects that:

- Spend money in Greater Manchester
- Create jobs and opportunities

- Use local crew, talent and facilities
- Are creatively strong and deliverable

What happens if my project is successful?

- If approved, you will receive a formal funding offer letter, work with GMCA to enter into a funding agreement, and agree investment, recoupment and reporting terms where applicable.
- Applicants should note that where the basis of the award changes, including any material change to the proposed financial impact, Greater Manchester qualifying spend, wider benefit to Greater Manchester or deliverability of the project, GMCA may review the funding offer and this may affect whether a funding agreement is entered into or the terms on which any agreement is made.

We aim to keep reporting and monitoring **proportionate and manageable**, and will work with you to ensure requirements are clear and not overly burdensome.

What support comes with the Fund?

The fund is part of a wider approach to growing the screen sector.

Additional support is developing over time, including work on locations, crew and coordination across Greater Manchester.

Is the Fund fixed or will it evolve?

The fund will **develop over time**.

We are starting by getting investment into the sector quickly, and will refine processes and support based on what we learn.

That means we'll continue to be **open, flexible and responsive** as the fund grows.

Are BBC productions excluded from the Fund?

No. BBC commissions are not excluded from applying to the GM Production Fund. Although BBC commissions may already include public funding, excluding them would limit the creative pipeline too significantly. Applications will therefore be considered on their merits and assessed against the Fund's eligibility criteria and expected benefits to Greater Manchester.

Are YouTube productions excluded from the Fund?

No. YouTube productions are not automatically excluded from the GM Production Fund, as YouTube is now recognised as a legitimate route to audiences and distribution. However, user-generated content remains non-qualifying and will not be supported.

Applications will be considered where the project meets the Fund's eligibility criteria, including evidence of a clear route to market and appropriate financial backing. This may include investment or support from a broadcaster, distributor, platform, or other majority financier. GMCA considers this to provide sufficient mitigation and assurance around deliverability and commercial viability.

Is it possible to have more than one application over the lifetime of the Fund?

Yes. During the lifespan of the Production Fund's initial three-year funding allocation, there is no limit on the number of submissions a production company may make, whether or not previous submissions have been successful.

However, only one application from each production company will be processed at any one time. For example, if a production company has been invited to submit a full application, any other Expressions of Interest associated with that company will not be progressed until a final Assessment Panel decision has been made.

While we do not restrict the number of awards a production company may receive, any prior awards will be disclosed to the Assessment Panel as part of the assessment process.

Will there be any costs for legal support in contracting?

No. For successful applicants awarded funding following the Investment Panel, GMCA will manage and pay for associated legal fees relating to the funding contract only.