

## Derbyshire Enterprise Agency: Cotton Lane Sustainable Workspace



Providing a range of support services across Derbyshire for over 25 years, Derbyshire Enterprise Agency, a subsidiary of East Midlands Chamber, helps small businesses and enterprising agencies to develop their business ideas, survive and prosper.

Starting in 2012 and finished in 2013, the Cotton Lane Sustainable Workspace capital build used £252,000 of ERDF funding, at an 80 percent intervention rate with the remainder funded by the Derbyshire Enterprise Agency's reserves, to develop the site of a former brewery and print works in Osmaston into 12 small commercial units for start-up and fledgling businesses from the Osmaston and Sinfin areas of Derby.

Eight out of the 12 units in the space, which also includes a reception area, meeting room, kitchen and storage space, are currently full, with three businesses already outgrowing the spaces and moving into other units on the Cotton Lane site. The meeting space is also available for use by other businesses on the site and local community groups.

Since the units were completed Derby City Council has taken MEPs to the site to showcase it as excellent example of an ERDF capital funded project.

Derbyshire Enterprise Agency's application for ERDF funding took over 18 months and six different versions of the application, as it changed from a capital/revenue project when the Single Programme ended to a capital only project.

Although Derbyshire Enterprise Agency had previously received ERDF funding, Cotton Lane Sustainable Workspaces was their

first capital only project and so they learnt lessons around procuring and project managing a capital build, as well as marketing business space rather than business support.

Derbyshire Enterprise Agency are looking to apply to the 2014-20 ERDF programme as they believe there is a gap in the market across the D2N2 LEP (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) area for businesses who have gone through the start-up process and require further support.

For further information on Derbyshire Enterprise Agency's Cotton Lane Sustainable Workspace visit [www.derbyshireenterpriseagency.org](http://www.derbyshireenterpriseagency.org).



