



# Supporting Local Business

[www.midulstercouncil.org/business](http://www.midulstercouncil.org/business)

## Mid Ulster Business News and Events

As a business in Mid Ulster District Council area, we would like to make you aware of current business programmes, events and awards that may be of interest to you.

Please note that Mid Ulster District Council have a dedicated Business Support Section established on its website providing up to date information to our business community.

[Visit our Business Support page](#)

1. Digital Transformation Flexible Fund
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## Digital Transformation Flexible Fund

The Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) aims to help small and micro businesses in Northern Ireland to invest in advanced digital technologies. It establishes a grant fund to support eligible businesses with investments in capital equipment that is critical to achieving their digital transformation ambitions.

The focus of the fund is on innovative and emerging technologies, such as:

- Smart environments and the Internet of Things (sensors)
- Simulation, process automation (Robotics) and additive manufacturing
- Big data and analytics
- Immersive technologies (AR, VR, MR, Haptics)
- Artificial intelligence and machine learning
- Blockchain technologies and more

Funding is available between £5,000 and £20,000 ex VAT for an investment project. If eligible, the grant can fund up to 70% of the cost of the total value of a project. Applicants must match-fund a minimum of 30% of the overall project costs.

**Expressions of Interest will be closing at 12 noon on Friday 12th July 2024.**

[DTFF: More Information](#)

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As part of the BridgeAI programme, Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) Hartree Centre are offering Innovation Vouchers worth £5,000 and £15,000 for businesses in the construction, transport, agriculture, and creative industries.

These vouchers can be used to access expert technical support in data science and artificial technology (AI).

#### **BridgeAI Innovation Vouchers - £5,000**

The £5,000 voucher facilitates 8 to 10 days from technical experts in data science and AI technologies.

#### **BridgeAI Innovation Vouchers - £15,000**

The £15,000 voucher facilitates between 24 and 31 days of support from technical experts in data science and artificial intelligence technologies.

**The closing date for expressions of interest is 5pm on Friday 26 July 2024**

[STFC Hartree Centre Innovation Vouchers: More Information](#)

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## Digital Innovation Fund

Made Smarter Innovation - Smart Manufacturing Data Hub (SMDH) offers three different funding opportunities to support manufacturing small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) on their smart manufacturing journey.

#### **Rapid Demonstrators**

Rapid Demonstrators aim to support SMEs with sensor installation, data analysis or similar to enable levelling-up the opportunities for SMEs to exceed and expand. Grant funding of up to £50,000 per project is available.

#### **Lighthouse Projects**

Lighthouses aim to develop already proven digital products and processes into readily accessible solutions which meet the needs of manufacturing SMEs. Grant funding of up to £150,000 is available per project.

[Digital Innovation Fund: More Information](#)

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## MSW Net Zero Programme Opportunity

businesses across the region to help businesses understand, calculate and manage their carbon emissions, become more cost effective and more competitive.

There is still an opportunity to avail of support via an online webinar series and potential 1:1 mentoring support – both free to participate in.

1:1 support will be provided in 3 business cohorts; the first of which will start in August.

**The closing date for applications for Cohort 1 will be 5pm on Wednesday 31st July 2024**

If you have any queries contact Paul Clancy:

[paul.clancy@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk](mailto:paul.clancy@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk)

## Net Zero Programme Opportunity

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### European Prize for Women Innovators 2025

The applications for the 2025 edition of the European Prize for Women Innovators are now open.

This initiative, which is supported by the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, celebrates women entrepreneurs who are driving positive change for society and the environment through innovative businesses.

**The closing date for applications is 4pm on Wednesday 25 September 2024**

## Women Innovators Prize 2025

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### Travel Support for UK Businesses

The travel awards support businesses who want to expand their networks across Europe and make an impact in collaborative international research and development (R&D) projects.

The awards encourage UK participation, engagement and visibility at international events and aim to accelerate UK involvement in European research programmes (including Horizon Europe and EUREKA).

To be eligible for support, you need to be a for-profit UK-based R&D performing SME according to the EU definition.

**Please note: Deadlines vary for the range of European Events – see link below for more information**

## [Travel Support for UK Businesses: More Information](#)

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## **Rural Engagement Arts Programme 2024**

The Arts Council of Northern Ireland (Arts Council NI) is welcoming applications to the third round of the Rural Engagement Arts Programme (REAP).

The programme aims to increase access and participation in the arts in rural areas of Northern Ireland, as a way of combatting isolation and loneliness and promoting social inclusion.

Arts organisations, community groups, and local authorities can apply for grants from £500 to £10,000 to deliver arts projects benefitting rural-based communities.

**The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 21 August 2024.**

## [Rural Engagement Arts Programme: More Information](#)

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## **Beginners Guide to AI Business Transformation**

Artificial Intelligence is no longer a futuristic concept; it's a present reality with the power to transform businesses across various sectors. To support early-stage businesses on their AI adoption journey, the Innovate UK BridgeAI programme has launched an insightful guide: A beginner's guide to AI for business transformation.

This free guide can be found at the link below for download.

## [Beginners Guide to AI Transformation](#)

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## **Digital Supply Chain Hub**

The Hub aims to:

- provide educational resources to enhance digital technology skills
- foster community and discussions among members
- help manufacturers optimise supply chain processes to boost competitiveness

Digital Catapult is hosting a Launch and Connect event to tell businesses more about the new Hub.

**Date: Tuesday 16 July 2024**

**Time: 1pm-2.30pm**

**Location: Online**

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## Digital Supply Chain Hub: Registration

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## Social Enterprise Awards 2024

Northern Ireland Social Enterprise, in partnership with Go Succeed, is hosting its annual Awards to celebrate the achievements and contributions of social enterprises across the region. The Awards recognise individuals, teams and organisations that contribute to building communities, supporting people, and positively impacting the environment and wellbeing.

**Applications deadline has been extended until midnight on Wednesday 31 July 2024.**

If you have queries on the awards, contact [awards@socialenterpriseni.org](mailto:awards@socialenterpriseni.org) or Tel 028 9046 1810

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## Social Enterprise Awards: More Information

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## Festival of Business 2024

Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry is hosting its annual Festival of Business, offering local entrepreneurs and businesses the chance to:

- listen to expert speakers discussing topics such as sales, marketing, business growth
- network with over 800 attendees during facilitated sessions
- learn from exhibitors and delegates representing different industries

**Date: Wednesday 18 September 2024**

**Time: 8:30am to 1:00pm**

**Venue: St. George's Market, Belfast**

**Cost: Free**

**The registration closing date is 12 noon on Wednesday 11 September 2024**

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## Festival of Business 2024: More Information

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### Go Succeed Events

Click on the links below to view some of the free upcoming business events being hosted by Go Succeed, the council support service for Northern Ireland businesses.

#### [Establishing Your Social Enterprise](#)

Date: Tue 16 July 2024

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Location: Online

#### [Business Set Up and Financial Planning Fundamentals](#)

Date: Wed 17 July 2024

Time: 1pm-3pm

Location: Online

#### [Generating Impactful Content for Start Up Success](#)

Date: Tue 23 July 2024

Time: 9am-11am

Location: Online

#### [Bolstering Your Start Up - Women Founders Networking Series](#)

Date: Wed 24 July 2024

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: Online

#### [Strategy for Small Business](#)

Date: Thurs 1 August 2024

Time: 10am-12:30pm

Location: Online

Time: 1pm-2pm

Location: Online

### [Meta Thematic Workshop 1 - Foundations of Meta](#)

Date: Wed 7 August 2024

Time: 10am-12:30pm

Location: Online

### [Introduction to Selling to the Public Sector](#)

Date: Thurs 8 August 2024

Time: 10am-12:30pm

Location: Online

### [10 Chat GPT Prompts to Save 10 hours per week](#)

Date: Wed 24 August 2024

Time: 1pm-2pm

Location: Online

### [Meta Thematic Workshop 2 - Content Creation](#)

Date: Wed 14 August 2024

Time: 10am-12:30pm

Location: Online

### [Using LinkedIn to Grow your Sales](#)

Date: Thurs 15 August 2024

Time: 10am-12:30pm

Location: Online

### [Growing your Sales in the Republic of Ireland](#)

Date: Wed 21 August 2024

Time: 1pm-2pm

Location: Online

### [Meta Thematic Workshop 3 - Keywords, Hashtags & Ads](#)

Date: Wed 21 August 2024

Time: 10am-12:£0pm

Location: Online

### [Selling Skills for the Apprehensive](#)

Date: Thur 22 August 2024

Time: 10am-12:£0pm



[Google Ads for your Business](#)

Date: Wed 28 August 2024

Time: 1pm-2pm

Location: Online

[Access to Finance](#)

Date: Thurs 29 August 2024

Time: 10am-12:30pm

Location: Online

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## Latest HMRC Tax Webinars

### Webinars for the self-employed

[VAT - using the Flat Rate Scheme](#)

Fri 2 Aug at 11:45am

[VAT - the basics and the VAT return](#)

Min 29 Jul at 1:45pm

[Additional information form for creative industries reliefs and credits](#)

Thu 18 Jul at 3:45pm

[Car expenses for the self-employed](#)

Wed 24 Jul at 9:45am

[How to apply the VAT reverse charge for construction services](#)

Wed 24 Jul at 1:45pm

[Business expenses for the self-employed](#)

Fri 26 Jul at 9:45am

[VAT accounting schemes](#)

Tue 30 Jul at 11:45am

[Residential property income for individuals - expenses and deductions](#)

Thu 8 Aug at 11:45am

[Residential property income for individuals - an introduction](#)

Fri 9 Aug at 9:45am

[Company directors - payroll and you](#)

Fri 9 Aug at 1:45pm

[Record keeping for the self-employed](#)

Wed 28 Aug at 9:45am

[How to risk assess your business for Anti-Money Laundering Supervision](#)

Wed 25 Sep at 1:45pm

[How to document your risk assessment for Anti-Money Laundering Supervision](#)

Thu 26 Sep at 9:45am

[What to do when you have carried out your risk assessment for Anti-Money Laundering Supervision](#)

Fri 27 Sep at 9:45am

### **Self Assessment tax returns**

[The UK property section of your online tax return](#)

Thu 12 Sep at 9:45am

[Other income and tax reliefs on your online tax return](#)

Fri 13 Sep at 1:45pm

[Finishing your online tax return](#)

Thu 19 Sep at 11:45am

[Your Self Assessment calculation and payments](#)

Thu 11 Jul at 1:45pm

Wed 18 Sep at 9:45am

[Starting your online tax return](#)

Thu 5 Sep at 1:45pm

[The employment section of your online tax return](#)

Fri 6 Sep 11:45am

[The self-employment section of your online tax return](#)

Wed 11 Sep at 1:45pm

### **Employer webinars**

[Expenses and benefits for your employees - travel](#)

Thu 11 Jul at 11:45am

[Expenses and benefits for your employees - phones, internet and homeworking](#)

Tue 16 Jul at 1:45pm

[Expenses and benefits for your employees - social functions and parties](#)

Thu 18 Jul at 11:45am

[Expenses and benefits for your employees - company cars, vans and fuel](#)

Fri 19 Jul at 1:45pm

[Statutory Sick Pay](#)

Mon 29 Jul at 11:45am

[Statutory Maternity and Paternity Pay](#)

Tue 30 Jul at 9:45am

[Taxing employees' benefits and expenses through your payroll](#)

Wed 7 Aug at 11:45am

[Employer filing obligations](#)

Thu 22 Aug at 11:45am

[Getting payroll information right](#)

Fri 23 Aug at 9:45am

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**Our mailing address is:**

Economic Development Department, Mid Ulster District Council, Circular Road, Dungannon BT71 6DT  
Telephone: 03000 132 132 Email: [business@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:business@midulstercouncil.org)

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