

# 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](#)

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### Becoming an Employer of Choice in Mid Ulster

The Mid Ulster LMP is hosting an event which aims to equip employers with actionable information and tools that will help them attract and retain top talent, to move towards becoming an employer of choice. Kicking off with a networking breakfast and compered by Paul Clark (UTV), two panel discussions will take place on Creating a Positive and Healthy Workplace and Removing Barriers. There will also be a breakout session offering a choice

of two workshops, on either Managing Change or Leadership Style and Communication Skills.

Panelists will include local successful businesses: Bloc Blinds, Edge Innovate, Linden Foods and Translink, as well as organisations including, the Department for Economy, Condition Management Programme, Disability Action and the Employer Services Branch. Employers will also have the chance to meet a wide range of local support organisations face to face, for further questions, advice and support.

**Date:** Thursday 13 June 2024

**Time:** 8:30am-11:30am

**Location:** The Royal Hotel, 64-72 Old Coagh Road, Cookstown, BT80 8NG

**Cost:** Free

For full details and to register [click here](#). If you have any additional queries, contact LMP Project Delivery Officer, Colleen Bell via email [colleen.bell@midulstercouncil.org](mailto:colleen.bell@midulstercouncil.org), or via telephone: **07919 496306**

## **Invest NI Ambition to Grow Competition**

Invest NI is offering a chance to receive up to £45,000 in funding as part of the Ambition to Grow competition, which includes the opportunity to become part of Invest Northern Ireland's client portfolio.

The competition is designed to specifically help micro, small and medium sized local enterprises. Ambition to Grow supports businesses to create good jobs and increase sales of innovative products or services outside Northern Ireland. Funding will be awarded to applicants on a competitive basis. A maximum of £45,000 is available for each successful application.

\*Eligibility criteria does apply\*

**The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 7 June 2024**

### **[Ambition To Grow Application](#)**

## **Digital Innovation Fund**

### **[Rapid Demonstrators](#)**

Rapid Demonstrators aim to support SMEs to enable them to level up, exceed and expand in areas of sensor installation, data analysis etc. Grant funding is up to £50,000 per project.

The fourth call of the Rapid Demonstrators funding is currently open for applications until 10am on Monday 27 May 2024.

### [Lighthouse Projects](#)

Lighthouse aims to develop already proven digital products and processes into readily accessible solutions which meet the needs of manufacturing SMEs. Grant funding of up to £315,000 is available per project.

The second call of the Lighthouse Projects funding is currently open for applications until 10am on Monday 27 May 2024.

\*Click title bars above for applicable funding opportunities\*

## **International Supply Chain Accelerator**

The International Supply Chain Accelerator welcome applications from local startups and technology innovators seeking to revolutionise UK trade processes with grant funding available up to £85,000, along with support to address key supply chain challenges.

**The closing date for applications is 11:59pm on Friday 14 June 2024**

[International Supply Chain Accelerator: More Information](#)

## **Scaling the Edge Net Zero Programme**

This unique programme encourages rapid business strategy development and dramatically de-risks new product/market exploration through a data driven digital testing methodology. This 8-week programme will enable businesses to innovate faster, maintain a competitive position in global markets and increase productivity.

This is a programme suitable for companies that are seeking to validate their Net Zero products or services with potential customers. The Net Zero focus areas include energy, water, transport, decarbonisation, agriculture, circular economy, building and infrastructure, supply chain, climate solutions and any related fields.

**The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 22 May 2024**

[Scaling The Edge: Application](#)

## The King's Awards for Enterprise 2025

The King's Awards for Enterprise recognise and encourage the outstanding achievements of UK businesses in the fields of, international trade, innovation, sustainable development, and promoting opportunities through social mobility.

Businesses of all sizes and from all sectors can apply. The awards are free to enter and you can apply for more than one award.

**The closing date for applications is 1pm on Thursday 12 September 2024**

### The Kings Awards: Registration

#### Go Succeed Business Events

Please see below for some upcoming business support events being hosted by Go Succeed.

##### [Building Your Start Up Business Plan](#)

This workshop is designed for entrepreneurs, start-ups, and small business owners either in the early stages of their business journey or looking to enhance their existing business plans.

**Date:** Tuesday 21 May 2024

**Time:** 10am - 12pm

**Location:** Online

##### [Business Planning for Early-Stage Growth](#)

The session delves into the core principles and practical applications of strategic planning, in which participants will gain insights into analysing internal and external environments, setting clear objectives, and crafting actionable strategies to drive organisational growth and resilience.

**Date:** Tuesday 21 May 2024

**Time:** 6pm - 8pm

**Location:** Online

### [Writing a Winning Bid](#)

This session will cover some of the myths around writing tenders, ensuring you have the capacity, resources and know how to bid successfully. The course will also cover building a bidding library and a creating a successful bidding team. Other important points include how to price effectively, understanding the scoring criteria, panels, clarification questions, and more.

**Date:** Thursday 23 May 2024

**Time:** 10am - 12:30pm

**Location:** Online

### [Introduction to Key Tools for Social Media Marketing - Canva and ChatGPT](#)

This session will introduce Canva and ChatGPT and indicate how they can transform social media marketing, and engage target audiences effectively.

**Date:** Thursday 23 May 2024

**Time:** 11am - 1pm

**Location:** Workspace Enterprise Community Hub, 50 High St, Draperstown, Magherafelt, BT45 7AD

### [Meet the Buyer in Advanced Manufacturing](#)

This “Meet the Buyer” event is an opportunity to meet with the buyers directly within Northern Ireland’s Advanced Manufacturing Industry. The event will provide insights and relevant knowledge into the scale of the opportunities in the Advanced Manufacturing Industry in NI

Individuals will have the ability to network with some key players in this industry, ask specific, relevant questions, and hear directly from the buyers on how their buying process works.

**Date:** Tuesday 4 June 2024

**Time:** 10am - 12:30pm

**Location:** Glenavon Hotel, 52 Drum Road, Cookstown, BT80 8QS

**[Go Succeed: More Information](#)**

## **Integrate AI Into Your Business Event**

This event will explore the potential of data science and artificial intelligence (AI) for business growth. It is open to start-up businesses and SMEs from all sectors. Learn how AI can benefit your business, discovering the Hartree Centre's fully funded programme, and first-hand success stories from businesses.

**Date:** Friday 24 May 2024

**Time:** 10am to 2pm

**Location:** The Innovation Centre, Queens Road, Belfast, BT3 9DT

### **Integrate AI Business Event: Registration**

## **Invest NI Navigating Growth- Support for Business Success**

Information sessions designed to raise awareness of Invest NI's products and services. The event will be of particular interest to business owners and entrepreneurs who are not currently Invest NI clients.

**Date:** Thursday 30 May 2024

**Time:** 10am - 11:30am

**Location:** The Junction, 12 Beechvalley Way, Dungannon, BT70 1BS

### **Invest NI Dungannon Information Session: Registration**

## **Access to Finance Conference 2024**

The British Business Bank, InterTradeIreland and Invest Northern Ireland are hosting the 2024 edition of their annual Access to Finance Conference on Wednesday 12 June 2024. This edition aims to demystify external finance for smaller businesses, raising awareness of 'alternative' finance options and how they complement traditional bank finance to accelerate growth.

This event will be beneficial for local businesses that are interested in learning more about available funding options and the positive role of external finance when it comes to successfully growing a business.

**Date:** Wednesday 12 June 2024

**Time:** 8:30am - 1pm

**Location:** Central Hall, South West College, Enniskillen, BT74 6DU

### **Access to Finance Conference: Registration**

## **South West College Business Breakfast Event**

South West College is inviting business leaders, independent, small and medium sized enterprise operators to attend a special breakfast seminar on Thursday 30th May at its Dungannon Campus. The event is part of a wider sectoral initiative being delivered by Northern Ireland's six further education colleges to showcase and celebrate the work being doing to champion local industry.

Senior staff members from the college's Business Support and Curriculum teams will present on training opportunities, apprenticeships, higher level apprenticeships, traineeships and funding opportunities

## **South West College Business Breakfast Event**

### **Windsor Framework: New GB to NI Parcel Delivery Scheme**

The UK Carrier (UKC) Scheme is an authorisation that enables businesses to move eligible consumer parcels, from Great Britain to Northern Ireland, in line with Windsor Framework arrangements.

UKC Scheme authorisation will allow your business to send these parcels without completing any customs, or safety and security declarations.

#### **Check if you can apply for the UK Carrier Scheme**

Senior staff members from the college's Business Support and Curriculum teams will present on training opportunities, apprenticeships, higher level apprenticeships, traineeships and funding opportunities

### **Deadline Approaching For Move To CDS**

Businesses exporting goods have less than one month left to move across to the Customs Declaration Service (CDS).

Export declarations must be submitted through CDS from 4 June 2024. Please note, this replaces the Customs Handling Import and Export Freight (CHIEF) system for all trade declarations

## **Customs Declaration Service: More Information**