

Supporting Local Business

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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Mid Ulster Town Business Spruce Up Scheme

Mid Ulster District Council has launched a new Town Business Spruce Up Scheme, funded by the Department for Communities. Eligible businesses and commercial properties, within the town centre boundaries of the towns of Dungannon, Cookstown, Magherafelt, and Coalisland can apply for grant aid through the scheme which will provide up to 80% funding to a maximum amount of £4,000 per property.

The scheme will incorporate minor internal and external improvements to eligible properties, including external windows, doors, guttering and redecoration and reconfiguration to improve public accessibility, internal walls, floors and redecoration.

The allocation of funding is a competitive process.

The closing date for applications is 4pm on Friday 8 March 2024.

[Spruce Up Scheme: More Information](#)

Mid Ulster - International Women's Day Event

Mid Ulster District Council are proudly supporting International Women's Day 2024 and are hosting events in March 2024 with Carol Doey acting as MC; including guest speakers Vivian McKinnon, award-winning public speaker and Post Traumatic Growth Specialist and Tara Grimes, Nutritionist and Accredited Personal Trainer.

A representative from Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid, will also speak at the event, and highlight the significant challenges facing the charity with growing numbers of women coming forward for help.

Date: Wednesday 13 March 2024

Time: 6.45pm (drinks reception) event commences 7.15pm

Venue: Ryandale Inn, Moy

Cost: £5 – free goodie bag and light supper provided

[International Woman's Day Event: Book Ticket](#)

Ulster University Business School International Women's Day Event

Ulster University Business School is celebrating International Women's Day with a series of events welcoming the female thought leaders, change makers and game changers making meaningful impact across the region.

These are inclusive events, encouraging women from all sectors and at all stages in their career, to come together to share experiences and support like-minded peers.

Host Caroline O'Neill, founder of Digg Mama, The Digg Podcast and co-founder of NI Social Media awards, brings her unique flair for facilitating engaging discussion on empowerment, inspiration and connection.

Date: Tuesday 12 March 2024

Time: 3pm-4.30pm

Venue: Burnavon Auditorium, Cookstown

Cost: Free

[International Woman's Day Event: Book Ticket](#)

.ie Digital Town Awards 2024

The .ie Digital Town Awards are open to community organisations, town groups, regional or national collaboration projects and individual businesses who can demonstrate implementation and impact of digital strategies.

With a prize fund of €60,000, the awards provide an opportunity for local towns, businesses and communities to receive recognition for their innovative use of digital.

For more information contact omccutcheon@weare.ie

The closing date for applications is 5pm Friday 1 March 2024

[.ie Digital Town Awards: More Information & Application](#)

Ambition to Grow: Go Green

Invest Northern Ireland is seeking ambitious, innovative businesses in the Green Economy offering a product or tradeable service that can create new employment opportunities and grow sales outside Northern Ireland. Grant support of up to £45,000 is available for each successful application as follows:

- up to £30,000 towards new employment within the business. The level of this support will depend on the number and type of new positions, the salary levels proposed and the number of hours each new role is contracted for.
- up to £10,000 towards business development activities at a support rate of up to 50% of eligible costs which can include expenditure on market, product, or skills development.
- £5,000 on the completion of an Export Health Check, development of an Export Marketing Plan, and completion of an Innovate NI Self-Assessment.

Funding will be awarded to applicants on a competitive basis. Applications will be assessed and scored, with the highest scoring companies awarded funding following a successful project meeting with your local Invest NI team.

If businesses are not able to make an application by the deadline, they are encouraged to register their interest in any similar future programmes by emailing BusinessSupportTeam@investni.com

The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 1 March 2024

[Ambition to Grow: More Information & Application](#)

Creative Catalyst 2024

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, is investing up to £10 million in innovation projects as part of the Creative Catalyst. The competition aims to support the growth of innovative businesses across the sector by providing a package of targeted and continuous support for projects that will propel business growth plans.

Innovate UK encourages proposals that can demonstrate benefit to the wider creative industries sector, especially those that are underrepresented in innovation.

The closing date for applications is 11am Wednesday 6 March 2024

Creative Catalyst: Application

AI Futures Grants Scheme

The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) has opened its new AI Future Grants scheme for applications. The scheme will provide funding to help the next generation of artificial intelligence (AI) leaders meet the costs of relocating to the UK.

Eligible organisations can apply for funding up to £100,000 with a maximum award of £10,000 for each international hire. There is a total pot of £1million to distribute within the financial year 2024/25.

The closing date for applications is 12am Tuesday 19 March 2024

AI Futures Grants Scheme: Application

Supply Chain Solutions

Invest Northern Ireland is providing specialist advisory support for manufacturers and internationally tradeable services businesses who manage a supply chain as part of their business, or who are involved in the extended supply chain.

Supply Chain Solutions will provide a graduated framework of support. A team of supply chain professionals will provide specialist advisory support to help businesses:

- identify supply chain risks and appropriate mitigations
- reduce costs
- improve competitiveness
- identify supply chain opportunities
- develop supply chain capability

The closing date for applications is 3pm Friday 22 March 2024

[Supply Chain Solution: Application](#)

Energy Systems Scale Ups

Energy Systems Catapult has launched a new challenge call offering acceleration support for up to four energy systems SME innovators entering the scale up stage. The call aims to find the United Kingdom's most promising later-stage energy startups, to provide tailored support worth up to £75,000 that will develop and strengthen their innovations and accelerate their growth.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon Friday 8 March 2024

[Energy Systems Scale Ups: Application](#)

HM Government NI Public Appointments Talent & Outreach Event

Baroness Neville-Rolfe, the Cabinet Office Minister overseeing the UK Government public appointments system, invites those interested in applying for a public appointment role, to a networking event in partnership with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

This event is open to all professionals, business owners and entrepreneurs across Northern Ireland, and all those who are interested in finding out more about UK public appointments and forthcoming opportunities.

Date: Thursday 11 April 2024

Time: 2.30pm-5.30pm

Location: Lisburn City Centre (Location details given when registered)

Cost: Free

Please register no later than 5pm Thursday 29 March 2024

[Public Appointment Event: Registration](#)

Digital Innovation Fund: Lighthouse Project

The key objective of Smart Manufacturing Data Hub (SMDH) is to develop and promote SME access to key enabling Industry 4.0 technologies through a suite of Lighthouse Projects designed to stimulate the transition from legacy manufacturing solutions towards Smart Manufacturing and Industry 4.0 solutions.

This call focusses on establishing Lighthouse Projects that will enable SMEs to embark on a smart manufacturing journey, de-risking major investment yet enabling growth. This funding aims to support a range of industry partners (of any size) to develop large scale Lighthouse projects that will support and enhance manufacturing SMEs across the UK to exceed and expand. Grant funding of up to £315,000 is available per project.

The closing date for applications is 12 noon Friday 15 March 2024

[**Digital Innovation Fund: More Information & Application**](#)

UK StartUp Awards 2024

The UK StartUp Awards aim to recognise individuals who have had a great idea and taken the risk to launch a new product or service.

The Awards champion and celebrate the best and brightest start-ups from across the United Kingdom.

Whether trailblazers in tech, pioneers in retail, or an innovator in services, the UK StartUp Awards celebrate businesses passion and drive.

Additionally the awards recognise and elevate businesses in their early stages, offering exposure and networking opportunities.

UK Startup Awards: More Information

LMP Employer Toolkit

The Mid Ulster LMP is developing an Employer Toolkit that aims to be a one-stop-shop for employers and a step-by-step guide to assist with attraction, recruitment and retention. It will include everything from policy guidance, to how to take on an apprentice.

If you would like to be involved in helping to shape this resource or if you would like further information, please contact Colleen Bell via telephone **07919496306** or colleen.bell@midulstercouncil.org.

Mid Ulster LMP

City & Growth Deal Digital Skills Assessment Employer Engagement Survey

The Northern Ireland City and Growth Deals aim to harness additional investment, create new and higher-paid jobs, attract and retain talent, and speed up inclusive economic growth at a local level.

As part of the commitment to fostering local economic growth and innovation, they are inviting organisations to participate in a Digital Skills Survey related to the City and Growth Deals initiatives to help identify digital skills gaps and making relevant recommendations to ensuring that employers have access to a skilled workforce throughout the duration of these Deals. Please see the link below to take part.

The closing date to complete the survey is 12 noon Monday 11th March 2024

Employer Engagement Survey

Free Energy Insights For NI Manufacturers

Smart Manufacturing Data Hub (SMDH) is offering a suite of free energy insights to Northern Ireland manufacturers

The insights aim to help businesses understand, optimise and harness the full potential of their energy usage.

Within this offering, there are three dashboards manufacturers can access to unlock insights from their half-hourly energy data, and make informed decisions to reduce costs and enhance sustainability.

Energy Insights Dashboard

Go Succeed

Northern Ireland's 11 local councils, in partnership with the UK Government through the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), have launched the new NI Business Support Service, Go Succeed.

As part of the programme, there are a number of upcoming events for businesses:

[Small Food Producer Programme](#)

The Go Succeed Small Food Producer Programme is for small food manufacturing businesses who want to grow their business through improved sales, marketing or brand development.

Through one-to-one mentoring support, businesses will be matched with an experienced mentor and will receive up to 21 hours of highly practical business support focused on addressing the specific sales/marketing/brand development needs of their business. There will be three online group workshops taking place during March 2024. These are

tailored to the food industry and designed to enhance skills and improve knowledge in key ideas.

Businesses should register for this programme by 3pm on Friday 1 March 2024

[Tourism & Hospitality Marketing Programme](#)

The Go Succeed Tourism & Hospitality Marketing Programme is for businesses including cafés, coffee shops, restaurants, guest houses, hotels, tourist amenities and other tourism or hospitality businesses, who want to improve their marketing activities and grow.

You will be matched with an experienced mentor and will receive up to 21 hours of highly practical business support focused on addressing the specific marketing needs of their business.

There will be three online group workshops during March 2024 that will be tailored to the tourism and hospitality industry. These are designed to enhance skills and improve knowledge in key marketing ideas.

Businesses should register for this programme by 3pm on Friday 1 March 2024

[Get Set To Thrive](#)

This Go Succeed workshop is open to women entrepreneurs in the early stages of their business, located in the Mid Ulster Council area and neighbouring Council areas, and facilitated by Enterprise Northern Ireland.

This session will explore how you can adopt a growth mindset in your new business, overcome fears and deal with setbacks and challenges and how to be resilient, embracing and enjoying the journey.

Date: Thursday 21 March 2024

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: Workspace (Draperstown) Limited, Community Hub, 5 Tobermore Rd, Magherafelt, BT45 7AG

[Protect your Business Online: Cyber Security Webinar](#)

Cyber Security is a business critical issue for businesses of all sizes but it can be confusing for a small business to know where to start. This highly relevant 1 hour webinar delivered by the Northern Ireland Cyber Security Centre (NICSC) and the PSNI Cyber Protect Officer on behalf of Go Succeed is designed to help you learn more about protecting your small

business online.

Date: Thursday 7 March 2024

Time: 1pm-2pm

Location: Online webinar

Please see the link below for a range of further business events.

[Go Succeed: Further Events](#)