

# Small Businesses

## - a guide for constituents

November 2024



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# **Small Businesses**

## - a guide for constituents

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This guide outlines and signposts to possible sources of support available to new and existing small businesses in Wales.



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# 1. Welsh Government assistance

## Business Wales

The Welsh Government's Business Wales website and advisory service is the main source of information for businesses seeking support. It provides support through its helpline; provides online advice via the **Business Online Support Service** and through webinars; and delivers tailored support for young entrepreneurs through **Big Ideas Wales**.

The website outlines the business support the Welsh Government provides for start-up and existing businesses in Wales, as well as providing a **finance locator** to locate potential grants and loans available from the Welsh Government and other sources.

Website: <https://businesswales.gov.wales>

Telephone: 0300 060 3000

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

## Young Person's Start Up Grant

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The **Young Person's Start Up Grant** is funded by the Welsh Government, and provides a grant of up to £2,000 to eligible young entrepreneurs. It supports young people who:

- Are not in education, employment or training
- Are working less than 16 hours a week
- Intend to become self-employed within 3 months of completing their education course

Website: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/bigideas/young-persons-start-grant>

## Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief Scheme

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The **Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Rate Relief Scheme** is available to qualifying businesses who operate in the retail, leisure, and hospitality sectors. The aim is to improve the chances of recovery from recent economic challenges. Eligible businesses will receive a 40% reduction to their non-domestic rates net liability in 2024-25. The maximum cash value of the rates relief allowed, across all properties in Wales occupied by the same business, should not exceed £110,000. Local

authorities are responsible for the administration of the scheme.

Applications via local authorities: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/local-authority-application-links-retail-leisure-and-hospitality-relief-scheme-2024-25>

### **Redundancy Action Scheme (ReAct+)**

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The ReAct+ programme is funded by the Welsh Government. The programme helps people who have been affected by redundancy and disabled people to get back into work. Employers using the programme receive £4,000 paid in four instalments over 12 months to help cover the qualifying person's wages.

Website: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/skillsgateway/recruitment-support/react>

### **Redundancy SMART Flexible Innovation Support (FIS)**

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FIS is a Welsh Government funded package of support and funding for Welsh organisations. It helps Welsh businesses to increase commercialisation, improve skills and strive towards carbon-free in the future. Support is available in a range of areas including partnerships, productivity and design, intellectual property and circular economy.

Website: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/topics-and-guidance/develop-innovative-ideas-organisations-products-or-services/support-and-funding/smart-flexible-innovation-support-fis>

### **Wales Tourism Investment Fund**

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The Wales Tourism Investment Fund is delivered by the Welsh Government and Development Bank for Wales. It provides capital investment for the sector of between £100,000 and £5 million, including both grants and repayable finance. The fund can be used either to upgrade or create new high quality assets in the tourism sector. For more information contact [WTIF@gov.wales](mailto:WTIF@gov.wales) or call 0300 062 2418.

Website: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/tourism/finance>

## Brilliant Basics Fund

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Brilliant Basics is a capital fund delivering small-scale tourism infrastructure improvements across Wales. The fund is open to local authorities or national park authorities, and the purpose is to deliver improvements in basic but essential visitor infrastructure at tourism destinations. The total grant available is £300,000 with a maximum intervention rate of 80%.

Website: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/tourism/finance#guides-tabs--1>

## Development Bank of Wales

The Development Bank of Wales helps Welsh businesses by offering loans and investment from £1,000 up to £10 million. The Development Bank was established by the Welsh Government to make it easier for businesses to get the finance needed to start up, strengthen and grow. It manages a **range of funds** covering start-ups; business development and expansion; buying a business and management succession; developing a tech venture; and property development.

It also has an **eligibility checker** which businesses can use to see whether they may be able to receive assistance from the Development Bank.

Website: <https://developmentbank.wales/>

Telephone: 0800 587 4140

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

## Transforming Towns Programme

Projects to redevelop and improve town centres or their nearby areas may be eligible for financial help from the **Transforming Towns Programme** which includes the **Transforming Towns Loan Fund**. Examples of eligible projects include developing underused, empty or run down properties into businesses; improving the appearance of properties; and improving existing premises by introducing innovative services and connectivity, such as high speed broadband. Local authorities are responsible for the administration of the programme. Information on the available finance and application process can be found on local authority websites.

## 2. UK Government support

The **Gov.UK website** contains a '**business support finder**' function which allows businesses to find government-backed support and finance, including grants; finance and loans; business support e.g. mentoring and consultancy; and funding for small and medium-sized businesses and start-ups. The search can be customised based on business location, size and activity.

### **British Business Bank**

The British Business Bank was established by the UK Government to improve access to finance for small businesses. It has a range of open programmes that provide financial support to small businesses, either for start-ups or existing businesses.

Website: <https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/>

Telephone: 0203 772 1340

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

### **Investment fund for Wales**

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The **Investment Fund for Wales** is operated by the British Business Bank, and offers eligible businesses a range of commercial finance options with smaller loans from £25,000 to £100,000, debt finance from £100,000 to £2 million and equity investment up to £5 million.

Telephone: 0345 313 8410

Email: [enquiries@bcrs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bcrs.org.uk)

Smaller loans: [Application form](#)

Debt finance: [Application form](#)

Equity investment: [Enquiry form](#)

## Start Up Loans Company

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The Start Up Loans Company is a subsidiary of the British Business Bank. It provides government-backed loans to individuals looking to start or grow a business in the UK. Individuals can borrow between £500 and £25,000, with a maximum of £100,000 available per business. There is a fixed interest rate of 6% per annum, repayable over between 1 and 5 years.

Businesses are required to meet eligibility criteria, for example they must either be starting a new business, or have been trading for less than 36 months.

In addition to finance, successful applicants receive 12-months of free mentoring and exclusive business offers.

Website: <https://www.startuploans.co.uk/>

Telephone: 0344 264 2600

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

## UK Export Finance

UK Export Finance is the UK Government's export credit agency. It supports small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and large businesses in all sectors to export by providing a range of support including access to working capital, export insurance and buyer finance.

Website: <https://www.ukexportfinance.gov.uk/>

Telephone: 0207 271 8010

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

## 3. Support for Businesses

### Business in Focus

Business in Focus is a not-for-profit organisation that supports businesses to start-up and grow. It provides businesses with business advice, access to finance, property requirements and skills training. The free services it delivers are government funded, and include Business Wales, Focus Enterprise Hubs, Big Ideas Wales and Social Business Wales.

Website: <https://www.businessinfocus.co.uk/>

Telephone: 0165 686 8545

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

### UK Steel Enterprise (UKSE)

UKSE provides equity finance, loans and workspaces for businesses in areas associated with the steel industry, including industrial south Wales and Deeside. The website has an [eligibility checker](#) to check if a business is eligible to receive funding.

Website: <https://www.ukse.co.uk/investment/>

Telephone: 0292 047 1122

Email: [wales@ukse.co.uk](mailto:wales@ukse.co.uk)

### Robert Owen Community Banking

Robert Owen Community Banking is a not-for-profit organisation which reinvests money into the local economy. Its locally financed business loans are aimed at businesses over two years old that need additional working capital to scale and grow. Loans of £1,000 to £25,000 are available and the loan must be paid back within five years.

Website: [https://www.rocbf.co.uk/business\\_development\\_loans/](https://www.rocbf.co.uk/business_development_loans/)

Telephone: 0168 662 6234

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

## Purple Shoots

Purple Shoots is a not-for-profit micro finance organisation and a registered charity that provides loans of up to £3,000 to small businesses based in Wales. Its loans are available to start-ups and established businesses. The interest rate is 14.5% per annum and loans are repayable between one and three years. The loans can be used for purposes such as buying equipment; marketing; refurbishing premises; and running costs.

Website: <https://purpleshoots.org/>

Telephone: 0772 659 9267

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

## Young people: Prince's Trust

The Prince's Trust entrepreneur programme is eligible to new young entrepreneurs aged 18-30 years old. The programme provides access to interactive workshops, business mentoring and the opportunity to apply for start-up grant and loan funding totalling up to £30,000.

Website: <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/how-we-can-help/explore-all-support>

Telephone: 0800 842 842

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

## Female entrepreneurs: NatWest

With over 1,000 'Women in Business Accredited Specialists' throughout the UK, NatWest delivers expertise and offers tangible support for female entrepreneurs. There are a variety of loan and finance options as well as free courses available.

Website: <https://www.business.natwest.com/business/business-services/women-in-business.html>

Telephone: 0345 711 4477



## 4. Support for Social Businesses

### Funding Wales

Funding Wales is a funding search platform created by Third Sector Support Wales. It can be used to find funding for charities, community groups or social enterprises using the free online search engine.

Website: <https://funding.cymru/en/>

Telephone: 0300 111 0124

Email: [fundingwales@wcva.cymru](mailto:fundingwales@wcva.cymru)

### Social Business Wales

Social Business Wales is delivered by [Cwmpas](#), and is a Welsh Government-funded team of specialist business advisors focused on supporting social enterprises. It provides help on starting, running and growing a business as well as financing.

Website: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/socialbusinesswales/>

Telephone: 0300 060 3000

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

### UnLtd

UnLtd finds, funds and supports social entrepreneurs. New ventures may be eligible for awards of up to £8,000. Social ventures looking to grow may be able to apply for up to £18,000. Grant winners will also have access to the advice, guidance and expertise needed to build on the foundations of the social venture. At least 50% of awards go to support social entrepreneurs who are disabled and/or from Black, Asian or minority ethnic backgrounds.

Website: <https://www.unltd.org.uk/>

Telephone: 0207 566 1100

Email: [awardapplications@unltd.org.uk](mailto:awardapplications@unltd.org.uk)

## Cwmpas

Formerly known as the Wales Co-operative Centre, Cwmpas is a registered society offering help across a range of areas. The Social Business Wales project provides advice and support to people considering starting up or operating a social business, and can provide intensive one-to-one support to social businesses across Wales which are looking to expand or create jobs. Social businesses include social enterprises, co-operatives, mutuals and employee-owned businesses.

Website: <https://cwmpas.coop/>

Telephone: 0300 111 5050

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

## Wales Council for Voluntary Action

The Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) runs Social Investment Cymru, which supports social enterprises in Wales with a range of financial products, including those operated jointly with organisations such as the Development Bank of Wales.

- [Communities Investment Fund](#);
- [Community Asset Loan Fund](#);
- [The Wales Micro Loan Fund](#); and
- [The Walter Dickie Leadership Bursary](#)

Website: <https://www.wcva.org.uk/funding/social-investment-cymru>

Telephone: 0300 111 0124

Email: [sic@wcva.org.uk](mailto:sic@wcva.org.uk)

## 5. Regional Support

### Cardiff Capital Region

Cardiff Capital Region is a regional body made up of the 10 councils across South East Wales. A number of investment funds are available for businesses in the region.

Website: <https://www.cardiffcapitalregion.wales/>

Email: [info@cardiffcapitalregion.wales](mailto:info@cardiffcapitalregion.wales)

### Wider Investment Fund

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The **Wider Investment Fund** is a general £495 million fund with innovation, infrastructure and challenge as the investment priorities. To arrange an initial discussion contact [invest@cardiffcapitalregion.wales](mailto:invest@cardiffcapitalregion.wales).

### Innovation Investment Capital

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**Innovation Investment Capital** is a £50 million equity fund created by Cardiff Capital Region and powered by **PwC**. It is for scale-up businesses with investment proposals between £2 million and £7 million, and aims to support high-growth, technology-focused companies located in the Cardiff Capital Region.

### Strategic Premises Fund

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The **Strategic Premises Fund** is a £50 million fund set up to support the delivery of Cardiff Capital Region's Industrial and Economic Plan through development of new sites and modern floorspace that allows new and existing businesses to scale up and then invest for the good of the region.

### Northern Valleys Initiative

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The **Northern Valleys Initiative** is a £50 million fund set up by Cardiff Capital Region and supported by Local Authority Teams in six Northern Valleys local authorities. The fund supports businesses and projects that offer high-growth potential in the infrastructure, digital connectivity and tourism sectors. Typical grants and investments available range from £100,000 to £2 million. For more information contact [NVI@cardiffcapitalregion.gov.uk](mailto:NVI@cardiffcapitalregion.gov.uk).

## Challenge Fund

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The **Challenge Fund** is a £10 million fund based around accelerating decarbonisation, improving the health and wellbeing of the region's citizens, and supporting, enhancing and transforming communities.

## The Cluster Development and Growth Programme

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**The Cluster Development and Growth Programme** is a £6.6 million programme jointly funded by the Cardiff Capital Region and the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund. The programme includes three targeted projects: a Skills Programme, a series of Academic-Industry Partnerships, and a Business Growth Programme targeted at businesses with high growth potential.

## The ARFOR 2 Programme

ARFOR 2 is a joint venture by Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils, funded by the Welsh Government, which seeks to use entrepreneurship and economic development to support the heartlands of the Welsh language. The **Llwyddo'n Lleol** project provides support of up to £12,000 per person for employers within the area to employ or train local people, and also provides mentoring to people looking to set up their own business.

Website: <https://www.rhaglenarfor.cymru/index.en.html>

Email: [gwybodaeth@rhaglenarfor.cymru](mailto:gwybodaeth@rhaglenarfor.cymru)

## North West Business Growth Loans Fund

Delivered by River Capital, the North West Business Growth Loans Fund provides loans between £100,000 - £500,000 for SMEs across north-west England and north Wales. The fund looks to support businesses at various stages of development and can consider working capital, capital expenditure, acquisitions, management buyouts and other growth related activities.

Website: <https://rivercapitaluk.com/funds/north-west-business-loans-growth-fund/>

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

## 6. Local Authority Support

Each of the 22 Local Authorities in Wales has a business support section on its website to help identify and locate the different types of support available to businesses in that locality.

Relevant contact details and examples of specific schemes are included below.

### Blaenau Gwent

#### General support

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The Economic Development Unit at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is dedicated to helping businesses to start, grow and prosper within Blaenau Gwent, and to building relationships with new inward investors and developers that may be looking to locate projects within the area.

The team offers guidance, support and signposting in relation to financial support, tendering, marketing and supply-chain development.

The Council has also created the **Blaenau Gwent Business Hub**, which provides businesses with online business advice and support on finance; property and land; investment opportunities; and local business events.

Website: <https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/business/>

Telephone: 0149 535 5700

Email: [business@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk](mailto:business@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk)

#### Kick Start Plus

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**Kick Start Plus** is a joint initiative funded by UK Steel Enterprise and administered by the Council. The initiative provides grants of up to £2,500 for new businesses from six months to three years to help them develop and expand. Eligible costs include those associated with marketing; ICT; websites; and training and accreditations. To apply use this **[application form](#)**.

## Business Development Grant

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The **Business Development Grant** is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and provides financial assistance for new and existing SMEs in Blaenau Gwent to drive employment growth. Grant support between £2,500 and £25,000 can be awarded. Eligible expenditure includes machinery and equipment; IT hardware; marketing materials; website and commerce site; training; consultancy fees; and social media support. To apply use this **[application form](#)**.

## Social Enterprise Grant

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The **Social Enterprise Grant** is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and aims to support the growth and development of new and existing social enterprises in Blaenau Gwent. There is a maximum grant award of £2,500. Eligible expenditure includes ICT; marketing; website development, training; and accreditation costs. To apply use this **[application form](#)**.

## Tourism Development Grant

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The **Tourism Development Grant** is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and aims to support the growth and development of new and existing businesses and social enterprises in Blaenau Gwent within the hospitality and tourism sectors. Grant support between £1,000 and £50,000 can be awarded. Eligible expenditure includes IT hardware; EV charging points; marketing materials; website and ecommerce site; increased capacity; training; consultancy fees; and social media support. To apply use this **[application form](#)**.

## Bridgend

### General support

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Bridgend County Borough Council aims to provide new and existing businesses in the Bridgend area with support, free advice and information. This covers financial support; sites and premises; training initiatives; and local events.

Website: **<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/business/>**

Telephone: 0165 681 5315

Email: **[Enquiry Form](#)**

## Business Development Grant

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The **Business Development Grant** is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and provides financial assistance for new and existing SMEs in Bridgend to diversify, decarbonise and grow. Grant support between £2,500 and £25,000 can be awarded. Eligible expenditure includes capital equipment; computer equipment; development of websites; and small buildings works. For more information contact [businessfunds@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:businessfunds@bridgend.gov.uk).

## Business Feasibility Grant

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The **Business Feasibility Grant** is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and provides support for businesses to explore feasibility of longer-term options. Grant support between £5,000 and £25,000 can be awarded. Eligible expenditure includes a study to determine the financial viability of a new product; exploring the use of space; and a cost benefit analysis to introduce green procurement. For more information contact [businessfunds@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:businessfunds@bridgend.gov.uk).

## Business Start Up Fund

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The **Business Start Up Fund** is delivered through partnership with UK Steel Enterprise and Bridgend County Borough Council. It provides financial assistance to new or existing micro-businesses in Bridgend County Borough. Grant support between £250 and £4,000 can be awarded. Eligible expenditure includes capital equipment; computer equipment; development of websites; and building works to business premises. To apply use this [application form](#).

## Caerphilly

### General support

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Caerphilly County Borough's Business Enterprise Support Team can give new and existing businesses detailed advice and guidance on a wide range of topics to suit their individual needs.

Website: <https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Business/Support,-promotion-and-advice/Business-Enterprise-Support-Team>

Telephone: 0144 386 6220

Email: [Business@Caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:Business@Caerphilly.gov.uk)

## Business Development Grant

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The **Business Development Grant** funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and provides financial assistance for new and existing SMEs in Caerphilly to diversify, decarbonise and grow. The maximum grant support is £25,000. A mixture of revenue and capital business development and support can be provided. For more information and application forms contact [business@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:business@caerphilly.gov.uk).

## Business Start Up Grant

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The **Business Start Up Grant** is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and provides financial assistance to new enterprises in Caerphilly. Grant support up to £5,000 can be awarded for capital and revenue support. For more information and application forms contact [business@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:business@caerphilly.gov.uk).

## IT Development grant

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The **IT Development Grant** is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and provides financial assistance to new and existing SMEs in Caerphilly. Grant support up to £7,500 can be awarded. Eligible expenditure includes software; app design; and IT services and infrastructure. For more information and application forms contact [business@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:business@caerphilly.gov.uk).

## Tourism Grant

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The **Tourism Grant** is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and provides financial assistance to new and existing tourism attractions or accommodation enterprises in Caerphilly. The maximum grant support is £25,000 and eligible costs include websites and e-commerce sites; marketing; property refurbishment and enhancement; and capital equipment. For more information and application forms contact [business@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:business@caerphilly.gov.uk).

## Caerphilly Enterprise Fund

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The **Caerphilly Enterprise Fund** supports new and established businesses and community enterprises. Start-ups or enterprises with less than 250 employees can apply. Grants are available for capital costs of up to £10,000, at a 50% intervention rate. Grants of up to £2,000 are available for revenue costs, at a 45% intervention rate.

Applicants need to show the grant funding can help contribute to the economic,

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social, cultural and environmental well-being of the county borough. Eligible project costs include websites and e-commerce sites; feasibility studies; marketing costs; IT hardware and software; and property and infrastructure improvements. For more information and application forms contact [business@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:business@caerphilly.gov.uk).

### **International Trade Development Grant**

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The **International Trade Development Grant** provides targeted financial assistance to new and existing enterprises throughout the county borough to help SMEs relaunch and develop their import/export capabilities. The maximum grant available is £2,000. Eligible costs include training; publications and subscriptions; certifications; overseas marketing; and visit to trade fairs and exhibitions. For more information and application forms contact [gazesl@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:gazesl@caerphilly.gov.uk).

### **Caerphilly Business Start-up Grant**

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The **Business Start-up Grant** is a flexible grant scheme delivered through a partnership with UK Steel Enterprise and Caerphilly County Borough Council. It is designed to help residents of Caerphilly County Borough who are not able to access any other sources of funding to set up a full-time business for the first time. The business must not have started prior to application and approval.

It is a discretionary grant and can provide up to 50% of eligible project costs to a maximum of £500. Eligible costs could include capital equipment; ICT equipment; website development; marketing; and building works to premises.

For more information on this grant or any of the above use this [Enquiry Form](#).

## **Cardiff**

### **General support**

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The Economic Development Team of Cardiff Council can provide existing or new businesses looking to set up in the city with advice on identifying and securing loans, grants and equity from a range of organisations.

It also publishes details of workshop and business starter units which are aimed at encouraging new and expanding local businesses by offering business units with easy-in easy-out terms.

Website: <https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Business/Support-and-Finance-for-Business/Business-Advice/Pages/Business-Advice.aspx>

Phone: 0292 087 2087

Email: [businessadvice@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:businessadvice@cardiff.gov.uk)

### **Cardiff Grassroots Venue Fund**

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The **Cardiff Grassroots Venue Fund** is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and provides investment to existing venues. The venue must be a limited company, registered social enterprise, community interest company or charity with less than 250 employees and must be based in Cardiff. Capital grants from £1,000 to £10,000 are available and will be 50% of the total project spend. For more information email [cardiffvenuefund@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:cardiffvenuefund@cardiff.gov.uk).

### **Cardiff Growth Fund**

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The **Cardiff Growth Fund** is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and supports established businesses in Cardiff to relaunch, develop and grow. Sole traders are not eligible and the business must have less than 250 employees. Grants from £2,500-£10,000 are available and will be 50% of the total project spend. For more information email: [cardiffgrowthfund@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:cardiffgrowthfund@cardiff.gov.uk).

## **Carmarthenshire**

### **General support**

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The Carmarthenshire County Council website has a dedicated section for businesses to source information on aspects such as business rates, business support and business waste.

The business team provide direct business support to many new and existing business owners in Carmarthenshire. They handle all aspects of business enquiries and provide a gateway to business support for ratepayers. They also offer direct advice and investment support to growing companies.

Website: <https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/business/>

Telephone: 0155 474 8813

Email: [businessfund@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:businessfund@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

## **Business Launchpad Bursary**

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The **Business Launchpad Bursary** is funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and creates the opportunity for local entrepreneurs to test their business ideas before the formal creation of a new business. A fully funded payment up to £1,500 is available and a 'Start-up Workshop' will be provided for applicants. For more information email: [businessengagement@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:businessengagement@carmarthenshire.gov.uk).

## **Ten Towns Programme Revitalising Rural Town Centre Fund**

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The aim of the **Ten Towns Programme** is to support the economic recovery and growth of the following rural towns across the county: Cross Hands, Cwmaman, Kidwelly, Laugharne, Llandeilo, Llandovery, Llanybydder, Newcastle Emlyn, St Clears and Whitland. Freeholders and leaseholders are eligible and the maximum grant award is £2,000 based on 80% of the total project costs. Eligible expenditure includes decoration of a building; lighting; canopies; and new bilingual signage. For more information email [RDPSIRGAR@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:RDPSIRGAR@carmarthenshire.gov.uk).

## **Ceredigion**

### **General support**

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The Ceredigion County Council website has a dedicated section for businesses to source information on aspects such as business rates, business support and business waste.

Website: <https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/business/>

Telephone: 0154 557 0881

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

## **Conwy**

### **General support**

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Conwy County Borough Council has established the Conwy Business Centre as a central hub for business support in Conwy, with a team dedicated to supporting businesses; hosting events for business; helping businesses find premises; and providing meeting and conference facilities.

Website: <https://conwybusinesscentre.com/>

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Telephone: 0149 257 4574

Email: [business@conwy.gov.uk](mailto:business@conwy.gov.uk)

## **Supporting Local Business Key Fund: Town Centre Grant**

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The **Supporting Local Business Key Fund** is funded from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund. The fund supports local commercial or social businesses by offering grants to support improvement to the external appearance of commercial properties, regeneration and the overall visual impact of the town centre. The scheme offers funding of up to 80% on eligible capital expenditure for projects with awards offered from £3,000 up to £15,000.

## **Denbighshire**

### **General support**

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Denbighshire County Council can provide support, advice and information to new and existing businesses. Their website provides details on a number of business related areas including starting up, business rates, training and events and business continuity. It also provides information on the grants and funding available for businesses.

Website: <https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/business/business.aspx>

Telephone: 0182 470 6000

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

### **Commercial Property Development Grant**

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The **Commercial Property Development Grant** is funded from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and is open to commercial properties based in one of the eight principal town and city centres in the county that have proposed projects to develop and upgrade their property in the town centre. Individual project grants will be limited to £50,000 per application with a minimum of £5,000 and there is a 30% match funding requirement from the applicant. External and internal works may be eligible including any works to improve the energy efficiency of the building.

## Flintshire

### General support

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The Flintshire County Council website contains a range of advice and information for businesses, including starting and funding businesses; a local business directory; and business rates. The Business Development Team can discuss individual business circumstances and provide details of business support and grants available in Flintshire.

Website: <https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Business/Home.aspx>

Telephone: 0135 270 3040

Email: [busdev@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:busdev@flintshire.gov.uk)

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund Projects

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There are a number of **UK Shared Prosperity Fund projects** in Flintshire aimed at benefiting businesses, social enterprises, infrastructure suppliers, industrialists, academia, community groups and the environment.

Any queries can be addressed to: [FlintshireSharedProsperityFund@flintshire.gov.uk](mailto:FlintshireSharedProsperityFund@flintshire.gov.uk).

## Gwynedd

### General support

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Gwynedd Council's website provides information on help, support and training available to businesses, as well as sources of funding.

Website: <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Businesses/Businesses.aspx>

Telephone: 0128 667 9231

Email: [business@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:business@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)

### Business Loan Fund

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Small and medium businesses can apply for the **Business Loan Fund**. The purpose of the Fund is to establish or develop a business and not to re-pay any existing debts or other loans. Small loans made by the Fund will be between £25,000 and

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£100,000 with the opportunity to borrow larger amounts up to £750,000. The length of a usual term of a small loan will be between 36 and 60 months.

## Accreditations Grant Scheme

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The **Accreditations Grant Scheme** assists small and medium sized businesses located in Gwynedd to achieve accreditations which set recognised specifications for products, services and systems, to ensure quality, safety and efficiency. The grant scheme contributes towards the cost of a consultant and the cost of the actual certification is not included in the scheme.

## Isle of Anglesey

### General support

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The Isle of Anglesey Council's business support webpages include details of local businesses; grants and funding sources; and the Anglesey Business Centre, which provides business support services and facilities to businesses working on the island. In addition, Mon CF is a charity helping small businesses in Anglesey.

Website: <https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Business/Business.aspx>

Telephone: 0124 875 0057

Email: [cyswiltmon@ynysmon.llyw.cymru](mailto:cyswiltmon@ynysmon.llyw.cymru)

Website (Mon CF): <https://www.moncf.co.uk/>

## Merthyr Tydfil

### General support

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Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's website provides support and advice to businesses, including grants and funding available; and more general advice.

Website: <https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/business/support-and-advice-for-businesses/>

Telephone: 0168 572 5000

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

## Monmouthshire

### General support

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Monmouthshire County Council's Business and Enterprise team advises and supports businesses in the county. It provides information on starting and growing a business; supporting young entrepreneurs; locating funding; and rural innovation.

Websites: <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/business/>

Telephone: 0163 374 8316

Email: [EconomicDevelopment@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:EconomicDevelopment@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

## Neath Port Talbot

### General support

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Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's NPT Business website provides details of business support provided by the local authority, including details of assistance for people starting a business in the area, or relocating an existing business.

Website: <https://businessinneathporttalbot.com/support-and-funding/>

Telephone: 0163 968 6835

Email: [business@npt.gov.uk](mailto:business@npt.gov.uk)

### UK Steel Enterprise Start-Up Grant

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This joint initiative between Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and UK Steel Enterprise Limited provides financial assistance for new businesses less than 24 months old based in the Neath Port Talbot County Borough. The **grant** covers up to 100% of eligible costs with a maximum of £500. Eligible costs include capital equipment; ICT equipment; website development; marketing; and building works to premises. For an application form email [s.wyndham@npt.gov.uk](mailto:s.wyndham@npt.gov.uk) or call 0797 171 9745.

## Commercial Property Grant

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The **Commercial Property Grant** is available to owners of commercial premises that want to improve the appearance of their building. Applicants must be the freeholder of the property or a tenant with a lease that has an unexpired term of at least 5 years from the date of grant payment. The grant covers 50% of eligible costs and eligible works include replacement of shop frontages; new signage; rainwater goods; painting, rendering and attention to stone and brickwork; and the cost of scaffolding. For more information call 0163 968 6683.

## Newport

### General support

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Newport City Council's Economic Development team provides support for new and established businesses, including financial assistance, locating in Newport, and regarding land and property.

Website: [www.newport.gov.uk/en/Business/Business-home-page.aspx](http://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Business/Business-home-page.aspx)

Telephone: 0163 365 6656

Email: [business.services@newport.gov.uk](mailto:business.services@newport.gov.uk)

### City of Newport Business Grants

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**Grants** of 50% of net costs up to £2,500 are available for businesses outside the city centre, and grants up to £5,000 are available for those located within the city centre. The grant can be used towards five capital equipment items and covers infrastructure and equipment; ICT equipment and software; and website development and related training. For more information email: [business.services@newport.gov.uk](mailto:business.services@newport.gov.uk).

## Pembrokeshire

### General support

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Pembrokeshire Council's business support team provides advice and support to businesses, individuals, and other organisations. It aims to foster a successful enterprising and entrepreneurial culture within the Pembrokeshire economy. Targeted support is provided for specific business sectors to assist the development of viable projects and the creation of employment.

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Website: <https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/business>

Telephone: 0143 777 6167

Email: [BusinessSupport@pembrokeshire.gov.uk](mailto:BusinessSupport@pembrokeshire.gov.uk)

## Powys

### General support

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Powys County Council's website provides a range of information for businesses, including sources of grants and advice, and services for business.

Website: <https://en.powys.gov.uk/>

Telephone: 0159 782 7460

Email: [regeneration@powys.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@powys.gov.uk)

## Rhondda Cynon Taf

### General support

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Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Regeneration and Planning Division works with the local business community and partners. It can help with advice on planning, finding premises and grant funding.

Website: <https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Business/BusinessSupportandAdvice/BusinessSupportandAdvice.aspx>

Telephone: 0144 328 1124

Email: [regeneration@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@rctcbc.gov.uk)

### Business Growth Grant

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The aim of the **Business Growth Grant** is to support sustainable local businesses to set up, grow and diversify, contributing to creating a vibrant and strong local economy. Businesses must operate in Rhondda Cynon Taf and be classed as a start-up or existing business with fewer than 250 employees. A maximum of 75% contribution towards eligible project costs can be awarded for commercial premises (£2,000-£15,000) or residential premises (£1,000-£2,000). Applications must be for capital expenditure such as capital equipment, infrastructure

or machinery; internal renovation works; energy efficiency; and new website development. For more information call: 0144 328 1124 or email: [regeneration@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:regeneration@rctcbc.gov.uk).

## Commercial Improvement Grant

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The aim of the [Commercial Improvement Grant](#) is to support larger scale improvements to commercial buildings with energy efficiency being intrinsic to the design. Applicants must be freeholders or property owners in town centres and be a SME with fewer than 250 employees. A maximum of 50% contribution towards eligible project costs, up to a maximum grant of £50,000, can be awarded. For more information email [propertyregeneration@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:propertyregeneration@rctcbc.gov.uk) or call 0144 328 1121.

## Swansea

### General support

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Swansea Council's website contains a range of information on funding, running a business, recruitment support and property development.

Website: <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/businessadvice> .

Telephone: 0179 263 6000

Email: [business@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:business@swansea.gov.uk)

### Shared Prosperity Fund Grant Schemes

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A range of [grants](#) are available through the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Pre-Start Grant is available to pre-start businesses only and can fund costs including equipment, training, accreditation and marketing. The maximum grant available is £10,000. The fund offers up to 95% of the project costs for the first £1,000 of expenditure and 50% for expenditure between £1,000-£10,000. For further details and an application form contact: [startupgrant@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:startupgrant@swansea.gov.uk).

The Website Development Grant can fund costs related to the creation of a business website for the first time or enhancement to an existing site. The maximum grant available is £1,500 and the grant will require applicants to provide 50% of costs. For further details and an application form contact: [growthgrant@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:growthgrant@swansea.gov.uk).

The Business Growth Grant supports business growth through the introduction of a new product or service. The grant can fund costs including equipment, IT systems and machinery. The maximum grant available is £50,000. For further details and an application form contact: [growthgrant@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:growthgrant@swansea.gov.uk).

The Business Innovation Grant aims to support businesses looking to develop new products, or processes to support innovation and growth within the business. For further details and an application form contact: [growthgrant@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:growthgrant@swansea.gov.uk).

The Carbon Reduction Grant funds costs including renewable energy generation; energy conservation measures; and changes to manufacturing processes which result in carbon reduction. The maximum grant available is £10,000 and the grant will require applicants to provide 50% of costs. The free course '[Toward Net Zero Carbon training](#)' is mandatory for any business wishing to access the Carbon Reduction Grant, and covers the basics of carbon reduction and the path to net-zero emissions. For further details and an application form contact: [growthgrant@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:growthgrant@swansea.gov.uk).

The Supplier Development Grant aids businesses wishing to bid for public sector and/or larger scale contracts. The maximum grant available is £1,000 and the grant will require applicants to provide 50% of costs in match funding. For further details and an application form contact [developmentgrant@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:developmentgrant@swansea.gov.uk).

## **UK Steel Grant**

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The UK Steel Grant is in partnership with UK Steel Enterprise Ltd and offers up to £500 for new start-ups or businesses which are under two years old in the Swansea Council area. The grant will cover 50% of the eligible project costs and the minimum grant payable is £250. Funding covers items such as equipment, qualifications, accountancy, software, web development and tools. For further details contact [startupgrant@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:startupgrant@swansea.gov.uk).

## **Torfaen**

### **General support**

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Torfaen County Borough Council's Economy, Enterprise and Environment team provides direct and specialist support for businesses in the borough.

Website: [www.southwalesbusiness.co.uk](http://www.southwalesbusiness.co.uk)

Telephone: 0163 364 8083

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Email: [info@southwalesbusiness.co.uk](mailto:info@southwalesbusiness.co.uk)

## Spring Soft Landing Support

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**Spring Soft Landing Support** is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It provides six months' free office space to get tech businesses off the ground at Springboard Business Innovation Centre in Cwmbran. The centre encourages and supports high growth science and technology businesses. Springboard also offers business advice; networking opportunities; and reception facilities.

## Vale of Glamorgan

### General support

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Vale of Glamorgan Council has its own Business Support Team that can help business start-ups and existing businesses.

Website: <https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/working/Business-Support/Business-Advice-and-Guidance.aspx>

Telephone: 0144 670 4636

Email: [economic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:economic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

### Commercial Improvement Grant

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The **Commercial Improvement Grant** provides support for the improvements and maintenance works to enhance the front elevation of retail properties in the Vale of Glamorgan. Businesses and owners of commercial and retail properties within the town centres can apply. The grant can contribute 70% towards the cost of eligible works up to a maximum grant of £2,000. Eligible works include painting of the front elevation; repair, repointing and cleaning of stonework or render; repairs to glazing, doors and shopfronts; small scale shop modifications; and improved accessibility. For more information email [towncentres@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:towncentres@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk).

### Vale Business Start-Up Bursary

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The **Vale Business Start-Up Bursary** scheme is funded by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the Waterloo Foundation. The Vale Business Start-up Bursary Scheme provides bursaries of up to £5,000 with 20% match funding required, for individuals and groups of people intending to start a new business or social enterprise in the

Vale of Glamorgan. Extensive help and support is also provided alongside the bursary. For more information email: [VSUBursary@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:VSUBursary@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk) or call: 0775 164 5374.

## **Wrexham**

### **General support**

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Wrexham County Borough Council provide a range of services to support pre-start businesses as well as those already trading or looking to relocate to Wrexham. Appointments with the Business and Investment team can be requested.

Website: <https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/services/business>

Telephone: 0197 829 2092

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)