Small Businesses
Constituents Guide

December 2019
The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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Paper Overview:
This guide aims to outline and signpost possible sources of support available to new and existing small businesses in Wales.
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Welsh Government assistance

Development Bank of Wales

The Development Bank of Wales helps Welsh SMEs by offering commercial growth investment starting from £1,000 up to £5 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. The Development Bank 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.

For further information:
Website: https://developmentbank.wales/
Telephone: 0800 587 4140

Business Wales

The Welsh Government’s Business Wales website and advisory service is the main source of information for businesses seeking support from the Welsh Government and other sources.

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.

For further information:
Website: business.wales.gov.uk
Telephone: 0300 060 3000
Email: Contact form

There is a separately branded ‘Food and Drink Wales’ section within the Business Wales website. The Welsh Government runs a dedicated support service for businesses in the Food and Drink Sector which includes providing business and technical support, access to centres of excellence and manufacturing premises, and help with exports.
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For further information:
Website: businesswales.gov.wales/foodanddrink

Big Ideas Wales is the section of the Business Wales website that sets out support available to young entrepreneurs. It provides information on workshops, business bootcamps, sources of general advice and support; resources for entrepreneurs; and the Unleashed Package of support offered by Business Wales.

Economy Futures Fund

The scheme aims to support companies to grow and address key Calls to Action as highlighted in the Welsh Government’s Economic Action Plan. The amount of funding for individual projects aligned to these priorities is dependent on the business and application. It could be grant funding or repayable finance, and for either revenue or capital purposes.

The Welsh Government recommends that any companies interested in accessing this funding reads the Economic Action Plan to understand its priorities. Additionally, companies will need to comply with the Economic Contract outlined in the action plan.

For further information:
Website: https://businesswales.gov.wales/economic-action-plan
Telephone: 0300 060 3000
Email: Contact form

Brexit Business Resilience Grant Fund

The Welsh Government’s Brexit Business Resilience Grant Fund, run jointly with the Development Bank of Wales, provides funding of between £10,000 and £50,000 to help SMEs in Wales prepare for and navigate the challenges of Brexit. The fund covers up to 20% of capital costs. It aims to develop capacity; improve processes; retain competitiveness; safeguard jobs; and guarantee trade flows between Wales and the rest of the world.

For further information:
Website: https://businesswales.gov.wales/brexit-resilience-fund
Telephone: 0300 060 3000

Circular Economy Fund

The Circular Economy Fund is a fund for manufacturers administered by WRAP Cymru on behalf of the Welsh Government. It aims to accelerate Wales’ shift towards a circular economy by increasing demand for recycled materials; keep resources in circulation instead of being incinerated or ending their life in a landfill; and support the growth of businesses operating in Wales. Small scale and large scale grants are available, and activities eligible for funding include capital investment for infrastructure and equipment resulting in additional use of recycled materials produced in Wales, and for products, components or packaging new to market and containing recycled materials.

For further information:
Website: http://www.wrapcymru.org.uk/grants
Telephone: 02920 100100
Email: cefwales@wrap.org.uk
Email: Contact form

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The Welsh Government recommends that any companies interested in accessing this funding reads the Economic Action Plan to understand its priorities. Additionally, companies will need to comply with the Economic Contract outlined in the action plan.

For further information:
Website: https://businesswales.gov.wales/economic-action-plan
Telephone: 0300 060 3000
Email: Contact form

Redundancy Action Scheme (ReAct)

The ReAct programme is funded by the Welsh Government with support from the European Social Fund. The programme helps people affected by redundancy gain new skills and encourages recruiting employers to employ a redundant worker.

Employers looking to recruit can get two packages for taking on someone who has been made redundant:

- Employer Recruitment Support - funds employers who recruit individuals made redundant in the past 3 months. The award offers up to £3,000 paid in four instalments as a contribution towards wage costs
- Employer Training Support - is a separate discretionary fund of up to £1,000 that an employer can put towards the cost of the new recruit’s job-related training.

For further information:
Website: https://businesswales.gov.wales/skillsgateway/skills-and-training-programmes/react
Telephone: 0800 028 4844
Email: reactenquiries@gov.wales
SMARTCymru

SMARTCymru is a Welsh Government programme funded with support from the European Regional Development Fund. It supports Welsh businesses to develop, implement and commercialise new products, processes and services. It can provide business finance at every stage of the innovation process, for example:

- Feasibility - to investigate the viability of innovative ideas (up to £30,000);
- Industrial Research - to undertake practical research to develop proof of concept (up to £100,000);
- Experimental Development - to show the results of research in operation (up to £200,000); and
- Exploitation - to exploit the new product or process successfully (up to £20,000).

For further information:
Website: https://businesswales.gov.wales/expertisewales/support-and-funding-businesses/smartcymru
Telephone: 0300 060 3000

Tourism funding

The Welsh Government has two main sources of funding available to tourism businesses.

- The Micro Small Business Fund provides support of between £25,000 and £500,000 to tourism sector businesses with less than 50 Full Time Equivalent employees for capital investment projects. Further information is available by contacting the Welsh Government on 0845 010 8020 or at tourism.industryadvice@gov.wales.
- 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. It can be used either to upgrade existing, or create new, high quality assets in the tourism sector. Further information is available by contacting the Welsh Government on 0845 010 8020 or at WTIF@gov.wales.

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, 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.

For further information:
Website: https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/
Email: info@british-business-bank.co.uk

Start Up Loans Company

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 owners or partners in a business able to individually apply for loans of up to £100,000 for a 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, including that they are either starting a new business, or have been trading for less than 24 months.
In addition to finance, successful applicants receive 12-months of free mentoring and exclusive business offers.

For further information:
Website: https://www.startuploans.co.uk/
Telephone: 0344 264 2600
Email: Contact form

Support for social enterprises

Wales Co-operative Centre
The Wales Co-operative Centre’s 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.

For further information:
Website: https://wales.coop/get-our-help/our-projects/social-business-wales/
Telephone: 0300 111 5050
Email: Contact 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. These include funding sources operated jointly with the Development Bank for Wales or supported by the Welsh Government and European Regional Development Fund. Funding streams available include:

- Community Asset Development Fund;
- Communities Investment Fund;
- Micro-business loan fund (for social enterprises); and
- Social Business Growth Fund

For further information:
Website: https://www.wcva.org.uk/funding/social-investment-cymru
Telephone: 0300 111 0124
Email: sic@wcva.org.uk
Support for female entrepreneurs

As well as the other sources of support and assistance in this guide, female entrepreneurs can access a number of specific sources of advice and financial support.

Back Her Business

Crowdfunder and Nat West have developed the Back Her Business initiative, which has been designed to help female entrepreneurs launch their own business.

Applicants are required to set up a crowdfunding project with a minimum target of £1,000. Successful applicants will receive match funding of up to 50% towards their crowdfunding target, up to a maximum of £5,000. There are also free coaching, mentoring and networking opportunities available to successful applicants.

For further information:
Website: https://natwestbackherbusiness.co.uk/
Email: support@natwestbackherbusiness.co.uk

Chwarae Teg

Chwarae Teg operates a number of projects which support women in the workplace, or businesses to work towards gender equality in the workplace. These include:

- The Agile Nation 2 programmes work with businesses to become a FairPlay employer, and with individual women to develop skills and confidence to progress in the workplace;
- The FairPlay Employer service, which works with businesses to deliver gender equality; and
- The LeadHerShip programme which gives women aged 16-25 the opportunity to shadow senior business and politics leaders in Wales.

For further information:
Website: https://chwaraeteg.com/
Telephone: 02920 462745
Email: post@chwaraeteg.com

Fredericks Foundation Women’s Loan Fund

The Women’s Loan Fund was established to provide loans to women in England and Wales with a viable business plan who have been turned down by conventional lenders.

Loans of up to £15,000 for start-ups and follow-on loans of up to £35,000 to support growth will be offered to successful applicants. The focus is on a number of specific groups of women, including single parents; migrant communities and ethnic minorities; women with disabilities; and women not in education, employment or training.

For further information:
Website: https://www.fredericksfoundation.org/the-womens-fund/
Telephone: 01276 472722
Email: mail@fredericksfoundation.org

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

The Economic Development Unit at Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council is dedicated to helping businesses to start, grow and prosper within Blaenau Gwent and also to build 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.
Bridgend Kick Start Grant

This is a flexible grant scheme to support micro-businesses employing less than 10 people delivered through a partnership with UK Steel Enterprise and Bridgend County Borough Council. It provides financial assistance to start-ups and businesses within their first three years of trading that are located, or are planning to locate, in Bridgend County Borough.

The grant is discretionary, and can provide up to 50% of eligible projects costs. The minimum grant is £250 and the maximum grant available is £4,000. Eligible costs include capital equipment; computer equipment; website development; one-off marketing costs; and building works to premises.

For further information:
Website: https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/business/business-zone/bridgend-kick-start-grant/
Telephone: 01656 815315
Email: tracy.mortimer@bridgend.gov.uk

Bridgend

General support

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.

The Council has also developed the Bridgend Business Zone, which allows businesses to find out about business related news, events, information, and details of various initiatives and projects that can help local enterprises.

For further information:
Website: https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/business/
Telephone: 01656 815315
Email: business@bridgend.gov.uk
Caerphilly

General support

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.

For further information:
Website: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Business/Support,-promotion-and-advice/Business-Enterprise-Support-Team
Telephone: 01443 866 220
Email: Contact form

Business Development Grant

The Business Development Grant is a flexible grant scheme to help businesses set up or expand. It is a discretionary grant and can provide up to 45% of eligible expenditure to a maximum of £2,000.

Eligible costs could include capital equipment; websites and e-commerce sites; marketing; feasibility studies; and business planning.

To be eligible for this scheme businesses must be in manufacturing, service to the manufacturing sector, or have a minimum of 60% business to business customers.

For further information:
Website: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Business/Business-grants-and-funding/Business-development-grant
Telephone: 01443 866 220
Email: Contact form

Caerphilly Business Start-up Grant

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 set up a full-time business for the first time, who are not able to access any other sources of funding. 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 further information:
Website: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Business/Business-grants-and-funding/Caerphilly-business-start-up-grant
Telephone: 01443 866 220
Email: Contact form

Commercial Improvement Grant

The Commercial Improvement Grant scheme provides financial assistance to owners or tenants of business properties that have become rundown and have deteriorated over time. It is open to both landlords and leaseholders of commercial and retail properties located within the county borough.

The maximum amount of grant available for any one property is £15,000 and eligible costs include extensions and improvements to commercial and retail properties; physical infrastructure improvements; exterior landscaping; and internal works.

For further information:
Website: https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Business/Business-grants-and-funding/Commercial-improvement-grants
Telephone: 01443 866444 or 01443 866448
Email: CIGrants@caerphilly.gov.uk

Cardiff

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.

For further information:
Website: https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/Business/Support-and-Finance-for-Business/Pages/default.aspx
Telephone: 029 20788498
Email: businessadvice@cardiff.gov.uk
Property Development Fund

This scheme aims to provide financial assistance for the construction of buildings for industrial and commercial use.

Priority will be given to applications that will provide tangible benefits to the local economy in terms of quantity and quality of jobs accommodated/jobs created, the area of floor space created, the amount of land developed, the number of SMEs accommodated, the impact of the development on the Welsh language and the number of enterprises adopting or improving equality strategies & monitoring systems.

The funding is available to meet the financial gap between the construction costs and the completed market value of the property.

For further information:
Website: https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/business/funding/property-development-fund/
Telephone: 01267 242319
Email: RFurlong@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Rural Enterprises Fund

Funds have been made available to provide grant aid for capital projects for the county’s rural enterprises. The grant will provide assistance to enterprises and sole traders for the development of new and existing business premises, where new jobs are created as a result of the project. Priority will be given to applications that will provide tangible benefits to the local economy in terms of quantity and quality of direct jobs created in key sectors.

For further information:
Website: https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/business/funding/rural-enterprises-fund/
Telephone: 01267 242319
Email: businessfund@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
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Conwy

General support

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.

For further information:
Telephone: 01492 574574
Email: businesscentre@conwy.gov.uk

Conwy Business Support Grant

This is a grant scheme to support the growth of businesses, social enterprises and farm diversification projects within the local authority’s boundaries. New or established businesses can apply for grants up to £1,500 to help with the purchase of capital equipment; marketing materials; and specialist training and specialist professional fees.

For further information:
Website: https://conwybusinesscentre.com/conwy-business-support-grant/
Telephone: 01492 574574
Email: businesscentre@conwy.gov.uk

Denbighshire

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.

For further information:
Telephone: 01824 706000
Email: Enquiry Form

Ceredigion

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.

There is also a page for Funding and Grants, where businesses can access information on any current funding schemes and financial support.

For further information:
Website: https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/business/
Telephone: 01545 570881
Email: Contact form

Mid Wales Town Centre Property Investment Fund

The Mid Wales Town Centre Property Investment Fund is available to commercial and residential building occupiers and owners within the six target towns within Powys and Ceredigion.

It is a package of support that will include loan, private investment and an element of grant. Applicants will need to demonstrate that existing private, grant, and loan finance mechanisms have been properly considered and exhausted prior to any top up from grant funding being sought.

Its purpose is to enhance building frontages and to bring vacant commercial and residential floor space back into beneficial business use. Where a local need can be identified, the grant would also fund development projects that would create new build commercial/residential floor space.

The minimum level of eligible project costs that can be considered is £30,000, excluding VAT. Applications are restricted to a maximum grant of £200,000 (excluding VAT) unless the scheme is exceptional in its impact when a grant up to £225,000 (excluding VAT) could be considered.

For further information:
Website: https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/business/funding-grants/town-centre-property-investment-fund/
Telephone: 01545 572065
Email: Gareth.Rowlands@ceredigion.gov.uk
Flintshire

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.

For further information:
Website: https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Business/Home.aspx
Telephone: 01352 703219
Email: busdev@flintshire.gov.uk

Gwynedd

General support

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

For further information:
Website: https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Businesses/Businesses.aspx
Telephone: 01286 679231
Email: business@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Business Loan Fund

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

For further information:
Telephone: 01286 679231
Email: business@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Centre Loans Funds

Owners of centrally located premises in Bangor, Bethesda, Caernarfon and Penygroes are able to apply for loans to improve properties for continued ownership, to sell, to rent or unlock a vacant or stalled site. The value of loans is at a minimum of £5,000, with no maximum value up to the balance remaining within the fund.

For further information:
Telephone: 01286 679231
Email: business@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

ISO Grant Scheme

Gwynedd Council can assist small and medium sized businesses located in Gwynedd to achieve ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) accreditations which set world-class specifications for products, services and systems, to ensure quality, safety and efficiency.

A grant scheme is available which contributes towards the costs of a consultant to work with businesses in order to achieve the necessary standard for certification. The cost of the actual certification is not included in the scheme.

For further information:
Telephone: 01286 679231
Email: business@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

Support for Enterprise

Support for Enterprise is delivered under the Arfor programme. It provides practical or financial support for a business to overcome the obstacles preventing their growth and creating jobs. It aims to support businesses that create products such as goods, food and drink, computer software, television productions within rural communities that are strongholds for the Welsh language in Gwynedd.
The scheme can provide funding to secure skills, help with the cost of equipment, or provide a temporary contribution to the rental costs of a building.

The maximum budget for the Support for Enterprise package is £250,000. There is no minimum or maximum sum for individual applications; however, roughly, it is anticipated that most applications for funding will be £5,000 to £10,000.

**For further information:**
Telephone: 01286 679231
Email: business@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

**Isle of Anglesey**

**General support**

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.

**For further information:**
Website: https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/browse/Business/
Telephone: 01248 752480
Email: econdev@ynysmon.gov.uk

**Anglesey Arfor Business Grant**

This is an advice and financial support package for small businesses or community enterprises with schemes which combine:

- a) Increasing or supporting the use of the Welsh language by businesses/communities/individuals
- b) The creation or growth of businesses and jobs
- c) Promoting private business investment

Projects involving unique or innovative aspects and wider markets are of particular interest.
**Innov8 Scheme**

The Innov8 Scheme is provided by Neath Port Talbot County Council. The scheme provides a range of support and advice to people aged 18+ on starting, developing and growing a business.

The programme provides grant support to cover up to 50% of eligible start-up costs up to a maximum of £1,000. All capital costs (with the exclusion of vehicles) are eligible as well as pre-start costs such as stock, overheads and marketing.

Funding is subject to the client setting up their business within Neath Port Talbot and successfully completing a recognised start up course.

**For further information:**
Website: [www.npt-business.co.uk](http://www.npt-business.co.uk)
Telephone: 01639 765695
Email: [business@npt.gov.uk](mailto:business@npt.gov.uk)

**UK Steel Enterprise Start-Up Grant**

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 further information:**
Website: [www.npt-business.co.uk](http://www.npt-business.co.uk)
Telephone: 01639 765695
Email: [s.wyndham@npt.gov.uk](mailto:s.wyndham@npt.gov.uk)

**Newport**

**General support**

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

**For further information:**
Telephone: 01633 656656
Email: [business.services@newport.gov.uk](mailto:business.services@newport.gov.uk)

**Newport City Council / UK Steel Enterprise Start Up Business Grants**

Newport City Council and UK Steel Enterprise offer a discretionary grant to pre start-ups and businesses up to 12 months old.

Businesses can receive up to 40% of eligible and reasonable costs. The minimum grant is £250 for a total spend of £625. The maximum grant is £1,500 for a minimum total spend of £3,750. Eligible costs include the first year’s rent on commercial premises; plant and equipment; ICT equipment; and software, websites and related training.

**For further information:**
Telephone: 01633 656656
Email: [business.services@newport.gov.uk](mailto:business.services@newport.gov.uk)

**Pembrokeshire**

**General support**

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.

**For further information:**
Website: [https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/business](https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/business)
Telephone: 01437 776167
Small Steps to Enterprise Loan

Pembrokeshire Council’s Small Steps to Enterprise project, working with Pembrokeshire Lottery, has developed an interest-free loan of up to £500 for entrepreneurs aged 18-25, to help with business costs. Costs previously covered by the loan include a variety of costs such as purchasing stock or machinery.

For further information:
Website: https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/business-advice-and-support/small-steps-to-enterprise-loan
Telephone: 01437 776251
Email: christina.morgan@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Powys

General support

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

For further information:
Website: https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/4980/Advice-for-businesses

Rhondda Cynon Taff

General support

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.

For further information:
Website: https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Business/BusinessSupportandAdvice/BusinessSupportandAdvice.aspx
Telephone: 01443 281124
Email: regeneration@rctcbc.gov.uk

Enterprise Investment Fund

This flexible grant programme is delivered by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. It provides financial assistance to new or existing SMEs, private and social enterprises that are located, or are planning to locate, in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough. Grants can cover up to 50% of eligible project costs, excluding VAT.

The grants available for eligible home-based businesses range from £500 to £1,500, and grants for eligible commercial premises range from £1,500 to £10,000.

Financial support is available for full-time, existing and start-up SMEs employing less than 250 people based in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

For further information:
Website: www.rctcbc.gov.uk
Telephone: 01443 281124
Email: regeneration@rctcbc.gov.uk

Swansea

General support

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

For further information
Website: https://www.swansea.gov.uk/businessadvice
Email: business@swansea.gov.uk

Powys

General support

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

For further information:
Website: https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/4980/Advice-for-businesses

Rhondda Cynon Taff

General support

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.

For further information:
Website: https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Business/BusinessSupportandAdvice/BusinessSupportandAdvice.aspx
Telephone: 01443 281124
Email: regeneration@rctcbc.gov.uk

Property Enhancement Development Grant

Financial assistance is available to bring derelict or vacant premises back into beneficial use and to ensure good quality building and shop front enhancements.

This funding can be a maximum of 40% of total costs, and will be assessed on an individual case by case basis, taking account of the economic and environmental benefits that the project provides. To qualify for the grant the completed scheme must accommodate new jobs.

Items that are eligible for a grant include building facades; roofs; shop fronts; floors; ceilings; staircases; re-wiring; and signage.
For further information:
Website: https://www.swansea.gov.uk/businessfunding
Telephone: 07826 950439
Email: business@swansea.gov.uk

Torfaen

Torfaen Economy, Enterprise and Environment

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

For further information:
Website: www.southwalesbusiness.co.uk
Telephone: 01633 648083
Email: info@southwalesbusiness.co.uk

Vale of Glamorgan

General support

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

For further information:
Telephone: 01446 704636
Email: economic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Wrexham

General support

Wrexham County Borough Council’s website states that very few grants are widely available in the Wrexham County Borough area, however, depending on the individual business, funding may be available.

For further information:
Website: www.wrexham.gov.uk
Telephone: 01978 292092
Email: businessline@wrexham.gov.uk