

Support for small businesses

A guide for constituents

July 2026



The Welsh Parliament is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people.

Commonly known as the Senedd, it makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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The information provided in this guide is for general informational purposes only to support the work of Members of the Senedd in assisting their constituents. It is not intended as a substitute to legislation, guidance, policy nor professional advice.

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

Online contact form: **Enquiry Form**

Accelerated Growth Programme

The Accelerated Growth Programme is a dedicated business support service for entrepreneurs and SMEs with the vision, drive and potential to scale at pace. It is for SMEs who are based or operating in Wales that can **demonstrate strong growth potential**. This includes the ambition to:

- Grow by 20% year on year
- Create at least 10 new full-time jobs in the next 3 years
- Be looking to trade in international markets
- Be aiming for 3 years of trading to exceed £3m

The programme provides tailored support including a dedicated relationship manager; high-growth coaches; expert-led masterclasses and webinars; referrals to innovation; funding and export experts; and networking opportunities.

Website: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/topics-and-guidance/accelerated-growth-programme/accelerated-growth-programme>

Online contact form: [Enquiry form](#)

Big Ideas Wales

Big Ideas Wales supports young people aged 25 and under who are thinking about setting up a business. There is tailored assistance for school pupils, college students, university students, and graduates. The support available includes help to:

- Explore ideas and build confidence;
- Learn how to find and keep customers;
- Understand pricing and cashflow;
- Promoting a business; and
- Handle challenges and stay motivated.

Online contact form: [Enquiry form](#)

Entrepreneurship and Start-up Programme

The **Entrepreneurship and Start-up Programme** supports people over 25 who are thinking of starting a business. It offers a range of support, including practical advice on self-employment; the essentials of starting a new business; creating a business plan; understanding legal requirements; accessing funding; building a brand and reaching customers; and developing sustainable and inclusive ways of working.

Online contact form: [Enquiry form](#)

Export Zone

The **Export subsite** of Business Wales provides information on getting started with exporting, as well as online training courses and webinars. Additional support materials can be found on the **Export Hub**.

The **Export Brochure** includes details of the range of Welsh Government support available to Welsh businesses wishing to grow the exporting side of their business.

Overseas Business Development Visit Support (OBDV) is available to Welsh companies needing financial support to undertake international projects to win new business. OBDV can support 50% of the visit cost to a maximum of £10,000.

The **New Exporter Programme** is delivered on an annual basis to a cohort of micro, small and medium sized businesses in Wales who don't currently export. Recruitment takes place in the first couple of months of each financial year but any companies that wish to express an interest should contact internationaltrade@gov.wales.

The **Flexible Skills Programme - Export Training Grant** provides funding support to Wales-based businesses that wish to improve their capability to export their products and services. The programme supports up to 50% of training falling within the eligible training areas, up to a maximum Welsh Government contribution of £20,000.

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

Retail, Leisure and Food and Drink Hospitality Rate Relief

Food and Drink Hospitality Rate Relief is available to qualifying food and drink hospitality businesses to help them manage cost pressures. Eligible businesses will receive a 15% discount on their business rates bill for 2026-27. The maximum relief available is £110,000 across all premises occupied by the same business. Local authorities are responsible for administering this relief. .

Applications via local authorities: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/local-authority-application-links-food-and-drink-hospitality-rates-relief-2026-27>

Redundancy Action Scheme (ReAct+)

The ReAct+ programme is funded by the Welsh Government. The programme helps people who have been affected by redundancy to get back into work through providing grants to cover training and associated costs. It also partially covers the costs of an employer who recruits a disabled person aged 20+ who has been affected by redundancy over the previous six months. Employers using the programme can receive up to £4,000 paid in four instalments over 12 months to help cover the qualifying person's wages.

Websites: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/skillsgateway/recruitment-support/react> and <https://workingwales.gov.wales/how-we-can-help/react-plus>

SMART Flexible Innovation Support (FIS)

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 innovation, 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

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, call 0300 062 2418, or [contact the Development Bank of Wales](#).

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

Young Person's Start Up Grant

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 under 25 who:

- Are not in education, employment or training
- Are working less than 18 hours a week
- Intend to become self-employed within 3 months of completing their education course

Applicants must complete an expression of interest and [submit this via the Big Ideas Wales website](#), and the deadline for applications is 31 March 2027.

Eligible expenditure could include specialist support, legal or professional advice, training costs and operating costs directly related to business activity.

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

Creative Wales

Creative Wales is a team within the Welsh Government that provides support to the creative industries. It provides investment and support to Welsh businesses and international investors looking to locate in Wales in the film and TV, music, games, animation, and immersive tech sectors.

Creative Wales operates **a range of funds** and signposts to other sources of funding and specialist services.

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

Online contact form: [Enquiry form](#)

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

Online contact form: [Enquiry Form](#)

Tech Valleys Business Productivity Enhancement Programme

The Welsh Government established the Business Productivity Enhancement Programme as part of the Tech Valleys programme. The programme is open to engineering and manufacturing firms with more than 10 employees, and

supports them to become more efficient, adopt new technology, diversify their customer base, and develop new products.

Eligible companies will receive a free business diagnostic, and then can apply for a capital grant of between £10,000 and £50,000.

Email: techvalleys@gov.wales

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

The [Investment Fund for Wales](#) is operated by fund managers on behalf of the British Business Bank. It 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.

Smaller loans: [Enquiry form](#) or 0345 313 8410

Debt finance: [Enquiry form](#)

Equity investment: [Enquiry form](#)

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 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, Big Ideas Wales and Defence in Focus.

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

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/

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. Loans are repayable between one and three years, and 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: King's Trust

The King'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.kingstrust.org.uk/>

Telephone: 0800 842 842

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

Female entrepreneurs: NatWest

NatWest employs Women in Business specialists who provide support to meet the needs of 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

Entrepreneurs from under-represented groups: Hatch

Hatch supports entrepreneurs from under-represented demographic groups across the UK through tailored programmes, community support, providing grants, and long-term ongoing support. It operates three different programmes

for entrepreneurs at different stages of running a business – Launchpad, Incubator and Accelerator programmes.

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

Email: [Contact form](#)

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

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

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.

- [Bridge and Build Loans](#)
- [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

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

Wider Investment Fund

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.

Innovation Investment Capital

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

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 Fund

The **Northern Valleys Fund** 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.

The Cluster Development and Growth Programme

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.

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/fund-nwbg/>

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

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 536 9496

Email: business@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk

Kick Start Plus

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**.

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.

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

Telephone: 0165 681 5315

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

Bridgend Valleys and District Centres Placemaking Property Improvement Grant

The [Bridgend Valleys and District Centres Placemaking Property Improvement Grant](#) has two elements - enhancing building frontages and bringing vacant commercial floor space back into beneficial use, and converting vacant upper-floor space into residential accommodation. It provides grants of up to 80% of eligible costs, up to £30,000 for occupied properties and £49,999 for properties that have been vacant for more than six months. For further information contact regeneration@bridgend.gov.uk.

Business Development Grant

The [Business Development Grant](#) provides financial assistance for new and existing SMEs in Bridgend to diversify, decarbonise and grow. Grant support between £5,000 and £25,000 can be awarded (excluding VAT). Eligible expenditure includes capital equipment; computer equipment; development of websites; and small buildings works. For more information contact businessfunds@bridgend.gov.uk.

Business Start Up Fund

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

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**](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)

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 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**](#).

Local Growth Fund

The local authority is providing support for capital projects through [**funding provided via the Local Growth Fund**](#). It will provide grants of up to £25,000 that cover 50% of eligible costs for capital projects which can help re-launch a business, develop it in innovative ways, and create new jobs. For further information, please contact the Business Enterprise Renewal Team at [**business@caerphilly.gov.uk**](mailto:business@caerphilly.gov.uk).

Local Growth Fund start up grant

The **Local Growth Fund start up grant** is funded by the Local Growth Fund, and provides new microbusiness start-ups with a grant of up to £5,000 to help them launch and develop their new venture. It covers up to 50% of costs for an eligible project. For further information and applications forms, contact business@caerphilly.gov.uk.

Cardiff

General support

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

Atlantic Wharf Growth Fund

The **Atlantic Wharf Growth Fund** is funded via the Local Growth Fund. It will support eligible businesses within the Butetown ward to relaunch, develop, grow and maximise the opportunities generated by the Atlantic Wharf redevelopment. It will support projects that create or safeguard jobs, support increased productivity, and increase accessibility and opportunities for local communities. Typically, grants will be for between £1,000 and £20,000 and will cover up to 75% of eligible project costs. The local authority will consider applications of above £20,000 for strategic projects that focus on job creation and large capital projects. For further information, contact cardiffgrowthfund@cardiff.gov.uk.

Cardiff Growth Fund

The **Cardiff Growth Fund** is also funded via the Local Growth Fund. It will support projects that create or safeguard jobs, support increased productivity, and increase accessibility and opportunities for local communities. Most grants will be for between £2,500 and £20,000 and will cover up to 50% of eligible project costs. The local authority will also consider applications of above £20,000 for strategic projects that focus on job creation and large capital projects. For further information, contact cardiffgrowthfund@cardiff.gov.uk.

Carmarthenshire

General support

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

Carmarthenshire Business Growth Grant

The Carmarthenshire Business Growth Grant is funded via the Local Growth Fund, and will support local SMEs and Inward investors to become resilient and competitive; to grow, prosper and be sustainable. The grant will provide between £1,000 and £50,000 to **eligible businesses within specified sectors** for capital costs such as equipment purchases, IT and telecom hardware, fixtures and fittings, and marketing items. Specialist revenue expenditure associated with these capital costs can also be supported. Interested businesses should **submit an expression of interest** outlining their proposal and costs.

Carmarthenshire Business Launchpad

The **Carmarthenshire Business Launchpad** is a fully-funded payment of up to £1,000 for Carmarthenshire residents aged 18+ who are interested in test-trading a business idea, and who have little or no previous business experience. It is funded via the Local Growth Fund. Through test-trading, the entrepreneur can refine their products or services, and understand market demand without the financial risk. To apply, entrepreneurs will need to **submit an expression of interest**.

Carmarthenshire Business Start Up Grant

The **Carmarthenshire Business Start Up Grant** provides grants of between £1,000 and £50,000 for new start-ups within **particular economic sectors**. It is funded via the Local Growth Fund, and will support the business with capital costs such as equipment purchases, IT and telecom hardware, fixtures and fittings, and marketing items. Specialist revenue expenditure associated with these capital costs can also be supported. Businesses interested in applying should submit **an expression of interest** outlining their proposal and costs.

Carmarthenshire Enterprise Fund

The **Carmarthenshire Enterprise Fund** supports businesses and sole traders to develop new and existing business premises, where jobs are being created as a result. The grant offer will be based on £30,000 per job created or 50% of costs, whichever is lower. The maximum grant level is £240,000, which can be increased in exceptional circumstances. For further information, email **economicdevelopment@carmarthenshire.gov.uk**.

Carmarthenshire Research and Development Grant

The **Carmarthenshire Research and Development Grant** will support SMEs at early stages of development of innovative products, processes and/or services to grow, prosper and be sustainable. It will provide grants to **businesses in specified sectors** of between £1,000 and £50,000 to cover up to 50% of eligible costs. The grant is provided through the Local Growth Fund, and will cover capital and specialist revenue expenditure related to developing and testing new products such as prototyping, design, manufacture, monitoring, evaluation, quality assurance certification, training, and software. Businesses interested in applying should **submit an expression of interest**.

Refreshing Town Centre Fund

The **Refreshing Town Centre Fund** is funded by the local authority and the Local Growth Fund. It is open to eligible businesses located in Ammanford, Burry Port, Carmarthen and Llanelli, and is focused on external improvements to facades of town centre buildings. The fund provides grants of between £500 and £2,000, and covers up to 80% of eligible costs that improve the visual aesthetic of the building. Further information is available from towns@carmarthenshire.gov.uk.

Ten Towns Programme Capital Development Fund

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. Vacant premises across these towns could be eligible for up to £50,000 support to redevelop them. Freeholders and some leaseholders are eligible for the grants, and the primary focus of redevelopment should be on works to the interior of the property, although works to the exterior and curtilage are eligible for support. For more information email RDPSIRGAR@carmarthenshire.gov.uk.

Town Centre Vibrancy Fund

The **Town Centre Vibrancy Fund** is funded by the council and the Local Growth Fund, and aims to bring vacant ground-floor premises back into commercial use, creating and/or safeguarding jobs. It's available to eligible businesses in Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli, and provide grants of between £5,000 and £50,000 which cover up to 70% of costs. The grant is for works to the interior, exterior and curtilage of buildings, and applicants will be required to work with one main contractor with a proven track record. For further information, email towns@carmarthenshire.gov.uk.

Ceredigion

General support

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](#)

Cynnal y Cardi – Local Growth Fund

The **Cynnal y Cardi Business Capital Grant** is funded via the Local Growth Fund, and will provide grants of between £2,500 and £50,000 to eligible businesses. The grant will support capital expenditure and associated specialist revenue expenditure. Businesses interested in applying should complete an **expression of interest form**.

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.

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

Telephone: 0149 257 4574

Email: business@conwy.gov.uk

Conwy Business Support Grant

The **Conwy Business Support Grant** supports businesses, social enterprises and farm diversification projects. It covers up to 50% of eligible capital costs of between £500 and £1,500. Projects must be able to demonstrate outcomes from business development, for example increased turnover and/or profitability, job creation, low carbon initiatives, new products and services, development of a new customer base, or greater business sustainability. For further information, contact business@conwy.gov.uk.

Denbighshire

General support

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

The [Commercial Property Development Grant](#) 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

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

Gwynedd

General support

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

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 up to £750,000. The length of a usual term of a small loan will be between 36 and 60 months. For further information, contact busnes@gwynedd.llyw.cymru.

Accreditations Grant Scheme

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. For further information, contact busnes@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. 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

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

Merthyr Tydfil

General support

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

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

Neath Port Talbot

General support

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://businessinneathportalbot.com/support-and-funding/>

Telephone: 0163 968 6835

Email: business@npt.gov.uk

Commercial Property Grant

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, contact n.bulcraig@npt.gov.uk.

Business Start-up Support

The local authority's employability team is providing business start-up support for people made redundant from Tata Steel UK, supply chain firms and contractors and their families. For further information, contact nptemployability@npt.gov.uk or jobsupport@npt.gov.uk.

Economic Growth and Investment Fund

The **Economic Growth and Investment Fund** has been established with funding from the UK Government and Tata Steel UK to support growth projects in key sectors in areas most affected by the transition at Tata. It provides grants to cover up to 70% of project costs of between £300,001 and £1.5 million, with grants of up to £2 million available in exceptional circumstances. For further information, contact tsukgrantqueries@npt.gov.uk.

Newport

General support

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

Telephone: 0163 365 6656

Email: business.services@newport.gov.uk

City of Newport Business Grants

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.

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.

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

Telephone: 0143 777 6167

Email: BusinessSupport@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

Pembrokeshire Carbon Reduction Fund

The **Pembrokeshire Carbon Reduction Fund** is funded via the Local Growth Fund, and is open to eligible businesses **within particular sectors** to support them to reduce carbon emissions. It funds capital expenditure of between £1,000 and £35,000 in relation to power, heating and combined heat and power systems. To apply, interested businesses should **submit an expression of interest**.

Pembrokeshire Growth Fund

The **Pembrokeshire Growth Fund** is funded via the Local Growth Fund, and will provide grants of between £1,000 and £50,000 to support **businesses in eligible sectors** with the cost of capital projects that create new jobs. Eligible costs include capital expenditure and specialist revenue costs. Businesses who are interested in applying should **submit an expression of interest**.

Pembrokeshire Start Up Fund

The **Pembrokeshire Start Up Fund** aims to encourage and support the creation of new businesses in the county, resulting directly in the creation of new jobs. It is funded via the Local Growth Fund, and awards grants of between £1,000 and £15,000 to groups or individuals with a viable new business proposal **in an eligible sector**. The fund supports eligible businesses with capital expenditure and specialist revenue costs. Eligible businesses who are interested should **complete an expression of interest**.

Powys

General support

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

Rhondda Cynon Taf

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.

Website:

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

Telephone: 0144 328 1124

Email: regeneration@rctcbc.gov.uk

Business Growth Grant

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.

Commercial Improvement Grant

The **Commercial Improvement Grant** supports external improvements to business premises within identified town centres. The scheme aims to improve commercial property frontages, business energy efficiency, and the overall look of streets in town centres. The grant provides up to £50,000 to cover up to 50% of eligible project costs. To apply, businesses should **complete an expression of interest form** and return this to propertyregeneration@rctcbc.gov.uk.

Large Scale Property Improvement Scheme

The **Large Scale Property Improvement Scheme** aims to target development of large vacant commercial properties located in town centres. It covers 50% of costs of required building works up to £250,000 to develop and bring units back into use. Businesses interested in applying should **complete an expression of interest form** and return this to **propertyregeneration@rctbc.gov.uk**.

Town Centre Minor Improvements Grant

Town centre traders and vacant property owners in eight towns across Rhondda Cynon Taf may be eligible for the **Town Centre Minor Improvements Grant**. This is funded by the UK Government's Pride in Place fund, and supports businesses to make small-scale decorative improvements to external building facades. The grant can contribute up to 75% towards the cost of eligible works up to a maximum of £2,000. If scaffolding or skip hire is required, a further grant covering up to 75% of costs of up to £500 can be made. For further information, contact **regeneration@rctbc.gov.uk**.

Swansea

General support

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**

Business Launchpad Bursary

The **Business Launchpad Bursary** gives local entrepreneurs the chance to explore and trial their ideas before formally setting up a company. It provides up to £1,000 to support entrepreneurs to undertake test-trading, which helps them to shape their offer, gauge customer interest, and build confidence. For further information, contact **startupgrant@swansea.gov.uk**.

Carbon Reduction Grant

The **Carbon Reduction Grant** is funded via the Local Growth Fund, and is available for projects involving low carbon energy generation, energy efficiency measures, or process improvements that lead to a reduction in carbon emissions. Grant support is available up to £10,000, rising to £30,000 where high value for money is demonstrated, with the grant covering 50% of eligible costs. For further information contact businessswansea@swansea.gov.uk.

Growth Grant

The **Growth Grant** supports existing businesses seeking to grow by introducing new products and services that will create jobs. The fund can offer up to £50,000, covering 50% of eligible costs. The grant level is linked to a minimum baseline of £7,500 per job created, with the possibility of higher grant levels depending on the proposal. To find out more contact businessswansea@swansea.gov.uk.

High Street Helper

The **High Street Helper** aims to support new hospitality and retail ventures to set up in the city centre and district centres. It offers grants of up to £30,000, which includes up to £25,000 in start-up costs and up to £5,000 to support businesses with overheads in the first three months of trading. Further information is available via startupgrant@swansea.gov.uk.

Innovation Grant

The **Innovation Grant** provides up to £10,000 support to businesses seeking to develop new or improved products, services, or processes that will contribute to business growth. It will cover 50% of eligible costs up to this value, which may cover prototyping, product testing, patent and intellectual property costs. For additional information contact businessswansea@swansea.gov.uk.

Pre-start Grant

The **Pre-start Grant** provides start-up support to viable enterprises that are not yet registered or trading and have a business plan and a 12 month financial forecast. It provides support of up to £25,000, with the first £2,000 in costs fully covered, and the remainder covering 50% of eligible costs. Common

expenditure includes equipment, training/accreditation, initial stock and marketing costs. To find out more contact businessswansea@swansea.gov.uk.

UK Steel Grant

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.

Torfaen

General support

Torfaen County Borough Council operates Business Direct Torfaen, a personal service for business enquiries, a single point of contact through which businesses can access all council services, advice, and wider support.

Website: <https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/Business/Business-Direct/Business-Direct-Torfaen.aspx>

Telephone: 01633 648735

Email: businessdirect@torfaen.gov.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.

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

Telephone: 0144 670 4636

Email: economic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Commercial Improvement Grant

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.

SME Low Carbon Grant Programme

The **SME Low Carbon Grant Programme** is funded via the Local Growth Fund, and provides capital grants to help SMEs invest in low-carbon energy technologies such as solar and heat pumps. The grant covers up to 50% of eligible project costs, with grants ranging from £1,000 to £20,000. To apply for the fund, submit **an expression of interest**.

Vale Business Start-Up and Early Growth Bursary

The **Vale Business Start-Up and Early Growth Bursary** is funded through the Local Growth Fund.. The Vale Business Start-up and Early Growth Bursary Scheme provides bursaries of up to £7,500 with 20% match funding required. It is available to individuals, groups and early-stage businesses intending to start, implement or grow a new business or community enterprise in the Vale of Glamorgan. Extensive help and support is also provided alongside the bursary. For more information email: VSUBursary@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, and to apply for the bursary, complete **the expression of interest**.

Wrexham

General support

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 8990

Email: [Enquiry Form](#)

