



Supporting Local Business

www.midulstercouncil.org/business

Mid Ulster Business News and Events

As a business in Mid Ulster District Council area, we would like to make you aware of current business programmes, events and awards that may be of interest to you.

Please note that Mid Ulster District Council have a dedicated Business Support Section established on its website providing up-to-date information to our business community.

[Visit our Business Support page](#)

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Go Succeed

Go Succeed is the go-to source for expert business advice led by Northern Ireland's eleven local councils, in partnership with the UK Government through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The programme provides tailored support and guidance to help businesses achieve their business goals.

Support to grow

Your business is already established and is now ready to expand, but growth is slow and you're not sure how to progress. Go Succeed Grow experts have seen it all before in just about every sector, so they'll provide tailored support to help shorten the journey to business growth.

Support to scale

Your business is ready to go to the next level locally and internationally but you need guidance, support or resources to achieve your ambitions. Go Succeed Scale industry experts will help tailor your plans to penetrate new markets, identify investment opportunities and scale up your operations

Events

Go Succeed offer a range of events to assist businesses in their journey. Events are available in person and online. Please see below for upcoming events.

Go Succeed: More Information

Go Succeed Events

Click on the links below to view some of the free upcoming business events being hosted by Go Succeed, (the council support service for Northern Ireland businesses.)

[Understanding CRM for Small Businesses](#)

Date: Wednesday 12th Feb 2025

Time: 1pm-2pm

Location: Online

[The Organised Workplace Blueprint: Practical Solutions for Business Growth](#)

Date: Thursday 13th Feb 2025

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: Online

[How to use Google Analytics to Unlock Website Insights](#)

Date: Wednesday 19th Feb 2025

Time: 1pm-2pm

Location: Online

[Driving Sales Growth & Reinforcing Competitive Advantage through Customer Experience](#)

Date: Thurs 20th Feb 2025

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: Online

[Using Canva for Digital Design](#)

Date: Wednesday 26th Feb 2025

Time: 1pm-2pm

Location: Online

[E-Commerce Essentials: Selling your Products Online](#)

Date: Thurs 27th Feb 2025

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: Online

[Using Meta Ads to Grow your Business](#)

Date: Thurs 27th Feb 2025

Time: 10am-12pm

Location: Online

International Women's Day Events

Mid Ulster District Council is helping to 'Accelerate Action' this International Women's Day, Saturday 8 March, by holding two events to celebrate the achievements of inspirational women who are making a major impact in the world of business, community and all areas of society.

The Council will hold two events to support this year's International Women's Day and its important theme of 'Accelerate Action'. All money raised will go to Causeway and Mid Ulster Women's Aid.

The first event takes place on Wednesday 5 March at the Old Rectory, Killyman when Angeline Murphy and Shelley Cowen will take to the stage along with Carol Doey, MC for the night.

The second event will be held in the Ballyscullion Park, Bellaghy on Wednesday 12 March, also with Carol Doey as MC and guest speakers, Emma Heatherington and Vanessa McMinn.

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

Tickets for these two highly anticipated events, are priced at £7.50 each, and can be booked online at the link below. Both events commence at 6.45pm with a drinks reception, with speakers taking to the stage at 7.15pm and ending the evening with a light supper. All attendees will receive a free goodie bag.

Tickets will be on sale via the link below from 10am Friday 7 February 2025.

International Women's Day Events: Book

QEST Grants

The Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST) is offering substantial funding opportunities for talented and aspiring crafts people.

- up to £10,000 for Emerging Maker Grants

- up to £12,000 for Apprenticeship training

Scholarships grants aim to sustain vital skills in traditional and contemporary crafts and contribute to excellence in the UK craft industry.

The deadline for applications is 10 February 2025 at 12 noon

Quest Grant: More Information

Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF)

The Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF) will open Call 4 in March 2025 and now is the perfect time to take your first step towards securing funding for your business.

Pre-briefing sessions are running online and across all 11 council areas in Northern Ireland and are designed to guide you through the Expression of Interest (EOI) process and help you build a strong application. Don't miss this opportunity to prepare for success in your digital transformation journey.

If you can't attend an in-person session, the online pre-briefing sessions are also available. In person sessions will allow you to network with experts from QUB, local Council representatives and other businesses.

Date: Tuesday 18th February 2025

Time: 9.30am – 11.30am

Location: Royal Hotel, Cookstown

For more info: DTFF website: [Digital Transformation Flexible Fund](#)

DTFF: Registration

NI Small Business Loan Fund

The NI Small Business Loan Fund is part of Invest NI's Access to Finance Strategy and provides loans for Northern Ireland based individuals and limited companies who are predominantly based in Northern Ireland and have been unable to access mainstream finance.

Small Business Loan Fund: More Information

Driving Net Zero Transformation

The new 'Driving Net Zero Transformation' Programme aims to assist local businesses in their transition towards achieving net-zero emissions and seeks to support micro enterprises and small and medium enterprises operating in three key sectors in the MSW Region with their Net Zero ambitions. These are Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering, Agri-food, and Construction.

The programme also seeks to support micro enterprises and small and medium enterprises operating in three key sectors in the MSW Region with their Net Zero ambitions providing bespoke 1:1 Net-Zero baseline and action plan development. 90 businesses across the Borough will also have the opportunity to work directly with the Carbonfit team to establish Net-Zero baselines and action plans bespoke to their own businesses.

Driving Net Zero Transformation: More Information

SME Big Breakfast Briefing: Reduce Energy Costs with Net Zero Action

Mid South West team are hosting a SME Breakfast Briefing at the Glenavon Hotel on Thursday 6 March focusing on how to future-proof your small or medium-sized business and reduce your energy costs by fast-tracking your net zero action plan.

Business owners are urged to act to secure one of the funded places available for SMEs in the Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering; Agri-food and Construction sectors at this sign-up event.

Hosted by BBC's Louise Cullen, attendees will gain exclusive insights from Invest NI, hear the real success stories from local businesses and learn how to be the Supplier of Choice in 2025. The Carbonfit team will be on hand to help you sign up and get started.

There will be breakfast and networking from 9:00am before the event starts at 10:00am.

Date: Thursday 6th March 2025

SME Big Breakfast Briefing: Registration

BridgeAI Workshop

This workshop is aimed at SMEs and anyone interested in using AI tools. It will cover how to design, develop, and implement AI systems while considering their impact on society and the environment. Attendees will also learn how to identify risks and spot opportunities in AI, including how it can be used to improve public services and well-being. Interactive sessions and small group discussions will allow participants to exchange ideas and gain useful resources for continued learning.

Date: Thursday 13th February 2025

Time: 10am- 1pm

Location: Online

Bridge AI Workshop: Registration

Industrial Decarbonisation for Northern Ireland

Invest Northern Ireland invites you to the Industrial Decarbonisation for Northern Ireland (ID-NI) Insight Event, where they showcase the latest progress and plans for reducing carbon emissions in Northern Ireland's industries.

Date: Wednesday 19 February

Time: 9am - 2pm

Location: Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown

For catering purposes, please register by 4pm on Friday 7th February

Industrial Carbonisation Workshop: Registration

Labour Relations Agency (LRA) is hosting a number of employer events taking place at their head office in Belfast. The seminars will cover a range of key workplace employment issues. Each seminar lasts around two hours and they are all free to attend.

Dignity at work

Date: Tue 11 Feb 2025

Time: 10am to 12:30pm

Venue: LRA Head Office, Belfast

[Register to attend this seminar](#)

Pregnancy, Maternity and Adoption Webinar (co-hosted with the Equality Commission)

Date: Tue 11 Feb 2025

Time: 11am to 12:30pm

Venue: Online

[Register to attend this webinar](#)

Supporting Mental Health in the Workplace

Date: Thu 20 Feb 2025

Time: 10am to 12:30pm

Venue: LRA Head Office, Belfast

[Register to attend this seminar](#)

Certificate in Effective Line Management Practice (8 session course)

Date: Tue 4 Mar 2025

Time: 10am to 12:30pm

Venue: LRA Head Office, Belfast

[Register to attend this course](#)

Neurodiversity in the Workplace

Date: Tue 1 Apr 2025

Time: 10am to 12:30pm

Venue: LRA Head Office, Belfast

[Register to attend this seminar](#)

Inclusive Leadership

Date: Tue 8 Apr 2025

Time: 10am to 12:30pm

Venue: LRA Head Office, Belfast

[Register to attend this seminar](#)

LRA Employer Events: More Information

UKEF Supports for Female Entrepreneurs

UKEF and Female Founder Finance have partnered up to expand export finance access for women-led businesses. This collaboration aims to help female entrepreneurs secure funding, grow their enterprises, and compete globally.

Female Founder Finance is a women-owned organisation that supports female-led small businesses by providing financial assistance and networking opportunities. The partnership with UKEF will streamline referrals between their financing programmes, reducing missed opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

UKEF Support: Funding Opportunities

High Growth AI Accelerator for Construction Sector

The High Growth AI Accelerator, run by Digital Catapult and funded by Innovate UK, is a 14-week programme that aims to help startups and SMEs create responsible artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) solutions.

Part of the BridgeAI initiative, this round of the accelerator focuses on key challenges in construction.

Applications are open to UK-based startups, scaleups, and SMEs with:

- existing AI-powered services or AI-integrated infrastructure relevant to the challenges
- strong technical teams
- accessible data and an immediate need for computation

Selected businesses will collaborate with industry leaders, gain access to cloud credits, and receive technical and business expertise. They'll also get strategic guidance and tailored support to accelerate product readiness and sector success.

The deadline for applications is 11:59pm on 23 February 2025.

AI Accelerator: More Information

UK Export Academy Webinars

services to new markets worldwide.

Build your knowledge and confidence if you're relatively new to selling internationally or interested in learning how to start. These webinars offer a step-by-step guide to becoming an exporter.

[10 Feb - How to: Manage agents and distributors in export markets](#)

[12 Feb - How to: Navigate international taxes, tariffs and rules of origin](#)

[13 Feb - How to: Navigate international regulatory bodies](#)

[17 Feb - How to: Use Incoterms correctly](#)

[20 Feb - How to: Move your goods into market](#)

[24 Feb - How to: Manage risk and get paid when selling overseas](#)

[25 Feb - How to: Develop an Export Plan](#)

Already have a good understanding of the export basics? Attend these masterclasses to broaden your knowledge.

[13 Feb - Effective Instagram for international audiences](#)

[14 Feb - Managing agents and distributors \(part 2\): developing a successful long term relationship](#)

[14 Feb - Delivery Duty Paid \(Part 2\): An essential guide to shipping your goods B2C in Europe](#)

[18 Feb - UK Export Finance: how government support could help you grow overseas](#)

[19 Feb - Build a digital marketing strategy to drive international sales](#)

[20 Feb - Cultural Awareness: Your key to international business success](#)

[26 Feb - Choosing your next export market: A data-driven approach](#)

[26 Feb - Six steps to adapting your website for a global audience](#)

[28 Feb - Changing the world one reusable nappy at a time: In conversation with the founder of Bambino Mio](#)

Gain insight into the different markets overseas.

[18 Feb - 10 Things You Didn't Know About India](#)

[20 Feb - 10 Things you need to know about Asia Pacific Region](#)

[24 Feb - 10 Things you need to know about South East Asia](#)

[24 Feb - Unlock opportunities and navigating challenges in Pakistan: Market Insights and Legal Perspectives](#)

Gain insight into the different markets overseas.

[18 Feb - South Korea Food & Drink Market Overview](#)

[18 Feb - Discover the opportunities to grow your education business in Eastern Europe and Central Asia](#)

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