Funding and Information:
Small businesses

Updated: March 2013

Introduction

This guide aims to outline and signpost possible sources of support available to new and existing businesses in Wales.

Welsh Government Assistance

business.wales.gov.uk

The Welsh Government’s self-titled business.wales.gov.uk website is the main source of information for businesses seeking support from the Welsh Government. The website outlines the business support the Welsh Government provides for new start up and existing businesses in Wales, as well as providing information on the repayable business finance (loans) available from the Welsh Government.

The website also contains a ‘business support finder’ function which allows businesses to search for alternative sources of grants and finance. Further information is available via the business.wales.gov.uk website.

Alternatively further information can be obtained by contacting 0300 060 3000 or businesssupport@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

Finance Wales

Finance Wales provides commercial investments in SMEs throughout Wales. Finance Wales is a subsidiary of the Welsh Government and has made more than 2,000 investments in Wales-based businesses.

Information about the commercial funding which Finance Wales provides to small and medium-sized businesses is available on the Finance Wales website or by contacting 0800 587 4140.

Communities 2.0

Communities 2.0 is a Welsh Government programme which offers financial assistance and free support to new ICT micro-enterprises.

The service aims to provide support to entrepreneurs looking to start a new micro-business where ICT is fundamental. Support is available in North and West Wales, the South Wales Valleys, Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. Applicants need to be based in one of these areas to be eligible for help.

The programme can provide a comprehensive ICT review, with recommendations on the technology required by micro-businesses and specific staff training needs. Entrepreneurs may also be eligible to receive financial support to buy essential equipment or undertake specific ICT training.

For more information please contact:
Tel: 0845 474 8282
Email: communities2.0@walescooperative.org
Web: www.communities2point0.org.uk/starting-an-it-enterprise

Funding for this support has come from the European Regional Development Fund.
Regional Support Schemes

The Local Investment Fund is made up of e schemes. These schemes are open to new business start-ups and existing businesses within the locality of the local authorities listed below.

To be eligible for support businesses must be classed as a small to medium enterprise (SME) in the manufacturing or service to manufacturing sectors although tourism businesses are also considered.

Eligible costs include:
- Capital equipment
- ICT
- Marketing
- E Commerce
- External & Internal Business works.

The Local Investment Fund can provide financial assistance up to 40 per cent of eligible expenditure to a maximum of £10,000 (minimum grant £1,000) subject to certain criteria.

South East Wales
The first scheme is the Local Investment Fund South East Wales which is delivered in partnership by:
- **Blaenau Gwent**
  Economic Development Unit
  01495 355700
  business.services@ blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
- **Bridgend**
  Economic Development Unit
  01656 815315
  business@bridgend.gov.uk
- **Caerphilly**
  Business Development Team
  01443 866222
  business@caerphilly.gov.uk
- **Merthyr Tydfil**
  Business Support Team
  01685 725429
  economicdevelopment@merythr.gov.uk
- **Rhondda Cynon Taff**
  Business Support Team
  01443 495169
  invest@rhondda-cynon-taf.gov.uk
- **Torfaen**
  Business Support Team
  01633 648371
  info@torfaenbusiness.co.uk

More information on the Local Investment Fund South East Wales can be found in the South East Wales LIF guide.

South West Wales
The second scheme is the Local Investment Fund South West Wales which is delivered in partnership by:
- **Carmarthenshire**
  (01267) 242390
  lif@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
- **Neath Port Talbot**
  Assessment Officer - Juliette Hadley
  01639 686244
  JHadley@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
- **Swansea**
  Assessment Officer - Caren Thomas
  01267 242339
  CarenThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
- **Ceredigion**
  Assessment Officer - Michelle Davies
  01267 242389
  MichelleEDavies@carmarthenshire.gov.uk
The Heads of the Valleys Business Seed Capital Fund

This grant scheme is delivered through a partnership across the Local Authorities of:

- Blaenau Gwent
- Caerphilly
- Merthyr Tydfil
- Rhondda Cynon Taff
- Torfaen

The scheme is designed to help residents of the Heads of the Valleys set up a full-time business for the first time and aid existing business looking to develop and grow where projects do not meet the criteria of other grant support currently available. Generally businesses in all business sectors may be considered for support.

More detailed information can be found in the Heads of the Valleys Business Seed Capital Fund document. This document and/or additional information on this scheme can be found by clicking on one of the above local authority links.

South West Wales Property Development Fund

The South West Wales Property Development Fund (PDF) is a £27m commercial property development programme led by Carmarthenshire Council and comes from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Welsh Government.

Funding is available to private sector commercial property developers, investors and landowners operating in the following four South West Wales Local Authorities:

- Carmarthenshire
- Swansea
- Pembrokeshire
- Neath Port Talbot
Properties eligible under the fund must be intended for a business end-use, typically manufacturing, secondary food processing or other business-to-business activity. Proposals will be assessed according to the potential benefit to the local economy. The Fund can provide up to 50 per cent of the costs of developing a site.

For more information can be obtained by contacting Alwyn Thomas on 01269 590208 AlJThomas@carmarthenshire.gov.uk or by visiting the Carmarthenshire County Council website

Public Facilities Grant

The Public Facilities Grant also known as the Community Toilet Scheme enables local businesses such as pubs, restaurants, cafes, community centres and shops to work together with the Council to make cleaner, safe and accessible toilets available to the public.

Businesses could receive between £500 and a £1000 for participating in this scheme which will run until April 2013.

Where possible links to the relevant section on each local authority website have been included below:

- Blaenau Gwent;
- Bridgend;
- Cardiff;
- Carmarthenshire;
- Ceredigion;
- Conwy;
- Denbighshire
- Gwynedd;
- Isle of Anglesey;
- Neath Port Talbot;
- Pembrokeshire;
- Powys;
- Swansea;
- The Vale of Glamorgan;
- Wrexham.

Local Authority Support

The Welsh Government’s business support website also contains information on the support that is provided by local authorities in Wales.

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

Kick Start Grant

The grant scheme is a joint initiative between Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and UK Steel Enterprise to provide financial assistance for business start-up projects within the Borough of Blaenau Gwent.

The scheme is open to individuals or groups of individuals wishing to pursue business start-up opportunities. All viable business start-up projects will be considered (with the exception of mobile businesses) from applicants who meet the given criteria.

The grant could potentially fund 50 per cent of eligible costs to a maximum of £2,000.

Further information can be obtained by contacting The Economic and Development Unit in Blaenau Gwent on 01495 355700 or business.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Bridgend

**Bridgend Town Improvement Grant**

Bridgend County Borough Council provides the Town Improvement Grant which is available to businesses wishing to make improvements to the exterior of commercial premises. Grants can cover up to 30 per cent of costs and the level of assistance provided can exceed £15,000. Grants are aimed primarily at manufacturing businesses and services although other sectors, such as tourism, may be considered.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Principal Grants Officer for Bridgend County Borough council on 01656 815201 or email: Gareth.morgan@bridgend.gov.uk

**Bridgend County Borough Council** aims to provide new and existing businesses in the Bridgend area with support, free advice and information on financial support.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Bridgend’s Economic and Development Unit on 01656 815322 or Business@bridgend.gov.uk.

Caerphilly

**Business Development Grant**

The **Caerphilly Business Development Grant scheme** is designed to complement existing sources of grant funding and is open to new or existing businesses.

To be eligible for this scheme businesses must have fewer than 250 employees and must be established in Caerphilly County Borough or the individual a resident of Caerphilly County Borough and setting the business up in the area.

Business start-ups in all business sectors may be considered (excluding retail), although businesses that are eligible to apply for the Local Investment Fund will not be considered under this grant scheme.

**Budding Business Grant**

The maximum grant available under this scheme is £30,000. The grant can be used to fund capital and revenue projects for developing new ideas and products in the following areas:

- local food;
- timber;
- craft;
- rural skills;
- new creative industries;
- marketing;
- Promotion; and fostering a 'buy local' attitude.

This scheme is specifically aimed at micro-businesses in the rural wards. A list of wards that have qualified for support can be found on Caerphilly County Council website.

**Community Economic Development Programme**

This scheme has been developed to support Social Enterprises in Caerphilly. **The Community Economic Development Programme** aims to build sustainable and vibrant communities through the development of community economic activity and social enterprises.

There are four funding options available to a wide range of organisations within the third sector, such as voluntary and community organisations, charities, social enterprises, co-operatives and mutuals.

Funding is available for capital and revenue projects and applications are assessed up to three times per year, subject to the availability of resources.
Go2 website grant
The Go2 Website grant provides financial support to help eligible businesses to have an online presence and to start trading online. New or existing business may apply and must be located in Caerphilly Borough Council.

Generally all business sectors will be considered, including retail. Financial assistance of up to 50 per cent is available towards the set up and hosting costs of a new website or an eCommerce website to generate online sales. Expenditure incurred prior to grant approval is not eligible.

More detailed information can be obtained from the Advisory Services Team at Caerphilly Council by contacting 01443 866222 or business@caerphilly.gov.uk.

Cardiff

New Enterprise Start Up Grant
The Scheme is designed to assist new business start-ups in Cardiff. Funding ranges from £500 to £5,000. Eligibility criteria are set out below:

- Companies trading for no more than 2 years;
- No retail or purely local services;
- Business plan with 3-year financial projections;
- Business address (not working from home or any residential premises);
- Fixed asset capital expenditure (machinery/equipment/refurbishment/fit out);
- Creation of jobs.

All applicants for funding would need to be registered with an appropriate business advisor.

Capital investment fund
This fund will consist of loans or grants up to £25,000 and is provided for the following business activities:

- Start-up growth businesses;
- Established and expanding companies;
- High technology and knowledge based companies;
- Companies demonstrating continuous improvement, competitiveness, innovation and creativity;
- Businesses looking to undertake capital works to buildings;
- Job creation/safeguarding.

More Information can be found obtained by contacting the Business and Investment Team at Cardiff City Council on (029) 2087 1412 or businessadvice@cardiff.gov.uk.

Carmarthenshire

Llanelli Town Improvement Grant
The Llanelli Town Improvement Grant is part of the ADREF project which enables eligible businesses to undertake improvements to property frontages. Applicants must demonstrate the need for financial assistance. Grants of up to £15,000 are available and can cover up to 75 per cent of the total eligible project cost.

For further details on the Llanelli Town Improvement Grant please contact Simon Rees on 01554 742173 or email SCRrees@carmarthenshire.gov.uk.
Ammanford Town Improvement Grant

The Town Improvement Grant will enable eligible businesses to undertake improvements to property frontages. Small, Medium and Micro enterprises within the commercial core of Ammanford may apply. Grants of up to £25,000 are available and can cover up to 75 per cent of the eligible project cost.

For further details on the Ammanford Town Improvement Grant please contact Sam Palmer Sam Palmer on 01269 590277 or email SEPalmer@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Business Loan

Loan funding is available to small and medium sized enterprises situated in the county of Carmarthenshire. Grants under this scheme range from £1,000 to £10,000 and can cover up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs.

More detailed information on the business development loans, including eligibility and application guidance, can be found on the Carmarthenshire County Council website or by contacting on 01267 242331 or email BusinessSupport@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Conwy Supporting Business Grant

This is a discretionary grant scheme to support the growth of businesses, social enterprises or farm diversification projects in Conwy.

Conwy Rural Business Support Grant

The Conwy Rural Business Support Grant is funded through the Rural Development Plan which is financed by the EU and the Welsh Government. The scheme aims to provide support to eligible organisations that can demonstrate a need for assistance with setting up or expanding a rural business operation.

Grants under this scheme range from £500 to £5,000 and cover up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs. Financial assistance is available to micro businesses (fewer than 10 employees), sole traders, limited companies, social enterprises or community groups on rural Conwy. Businesses must not be associated with agriculture, forestry or the tourism sector.

Further information can be found on the Conwy Rural Partnership website or by contacting the Rural Development Plan Team on 01492 643159 or by email: conwyruralpartnership@conwy.gov.uk
Denbighshire

For details of business support and grants available in Denbighshire, please contact the Economic Regeneration Team on 01824 706 910 or email: customerservice@denbighshire.gov.uk

The Denbighshire County Council website allows you to complete a business grants enquiry form to find out whether your business is eligible for grant funding.

Flintshire

For details of business support and grants available in Flintshire, please contact the Business Development Team on 01352 703055 or email: businesscentres@flintshire.gov.uk.

The Flintshire County Council website contains useful information such as an up-to-date listing of business-related events and training courses available in and around Flintshire and a searchable directory of businesses in Flintshire.

Gwynedd

Llwyddo yng Nghwynedd

The Llwyddo yng Nghymru programme is provided by Gwynedd County Council with funding from the Welsh Assembly Government through the Rural Development Plan for Wales. The programme offers financial assistance to new and existing businesses in rural areas of Gwynedd with the aim of stimulating enterprise in rural communities and boosting rural tourism and the rural economy.

Set out below is some information on two projects which are part of the Llwyddo yng Nghymru programme:

Enable project

This project is specifically for rural businesses in Gwynedd. It offers financial and practical support to new businesses and small existing businesses and to community groups who are based on a farm. Grants of up to £50,000 are available and will cover up to 50 per cent of the total value of the project. Further information is available on the Enable project website

Local products

The Local Products Supply Chain and Market Development Fund provides financial support for local food and drink businesses, craft producers and local manufacturers to develop products of standard and to establish new supply chains to reach present and new markets. Grants of up to £20,000 are available and will cover up to 80 per cent of the total value of the project. Further information is available on the Local Products website

Isle of Anglesey

For details of business support and grants available in Anglesey, please contact the Economic Development Service on 01248 752480 or email: econdev@anglesey.gov.uk.

For full details visit the Isle of Anglesey County Council website.
Merthyr Tydfil

For details of business support and grants available in Merthyr Tydfil, please contact the Economic Development Team on 01685 725429 or email: economicdevelopment@merthyr.gov.uk

For full details visit the Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council website.

Monmouthshire

Monmouthshire’s Rural Development Plan
The Monmouthshire’s Rural Development Plan is provided by Monmouthshire County Council’s Economy and Enterprise section with funding from the Welsh Government through the Rural Development Plan for Wales. In Monmouthshire, the Rural Development Plan aims to develop the county’s rural small businesses and communities and boost local economy.

Set out below is information on some of the available grants aimed towards businesses in Monmouthshire:

Businesses
Grants of up to £2,500 are available to assist with equipment purchases which must lead to the accessing of new customer markets and be innovative to the business. 50 per cent match funding is required.

Please email: becky@adventa.org.uk for further information.

Food Producers
This grant provides financial support for local food and drink businesses to assist with refurbishment or development of new facilities (where planning permission is in place), packaging or labelling equipment, etc. Grants of up to £50,000 are available and 50 per cent match funding is required.

Revenue grants up to £2,500 are also available (50 per cent match funding required) for activities such as recipe development, marketing activity for new products, etc.

Please email sandy@adventa.org.uk for further information.

Farm Shops
This grant aims to provide financial support for farm shop development or refurbishment in Monmouthshire. Capital grants up to £5,000 are available and 50 per cent match funding is required.

Revenue grants up to £2,500 are also available (50 per cent match funding required) for developing marketing activities with other farm shops and establishing new supply chains to reach present and new markets.

Please email: sandy@adventa.org.uk for further information.

Detailed information for the above grants can be found on the Monmouthshire Rural Development Plan website.

For details of other business support and grants available in Monmouthshire, please contact the Economic Development Department on 01633 644841 or email: economicdevelopment@monmouthshire.gov.uk

For full details visit the Monmouthshire County Borough Council website.

Neath Port Talbot

Neath Port Talbot Innov8 Plus Scheme
The Neath Port Talbot Innov8 Scheme is provided by Neath Port Talbot County Council. The scheme aims to provide support for young people under the age of 31 who want to start up, develop, or grow a business.
Grants of up to £1,000 are available and can cover up to 50 per cent of start-up costs.

For details of the Neath Port Talbot Innov8 Plus Scheme please contact Kevin Lugg at Sandfields Young Business Centre on 01639 765695 or email: innov8@npt.gov.uk

**NPT Flexible Loan Fund**
The NPT Flexible Loan Fund is available to businesses currently located or intending to locate within the County Borough of Neath Port Talbot.

Support is available to new or an existing business with up to 250 employees investing in viable projects that create, maintain or safeguard jobs.

The amount of loan available ranges between **£1,000** and **£10,000**, dependant on the value of the project. Fifty per cent of project costs must be met by the applicant and/or private sector funding.

For details of business support and grants available in Neath Port Talbot, please contact the Business Services Team on **01639 686835** or email: business@npt.gov.uk

For full details visit the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Business website.

**Newport**

For details of business support and grants available in Newport, please contact the Economic Development Team on **01633 232543** or email: inward.investment@newport.gov.uk

For full details visit the Newport City Council website.

**Pembrokeshire**

**Commercial Property Grants Scheme**
Funding for this scheme has been made available by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Welsh Government. The Commercial Property Grant Scheme is available to commercial property owners within the conservation areas of the two historic Pembrokeshire towns - Pembroke and Pembroke Dock.

The scheme aims to help preserve the heritage of the two towns and improve commercial business which will help create new economic opportunities.

The grants can be obtained for external and some internal structural and fabric repair, reuse of vacant historic floor space and to restore architectural heritage detail. The level of financial assistance will vary according to the type of work.

For further information on any Pembroke projects, please contact Melissa Howells on 01437 776180 or email Melissa.Howells@pembrokeshire.gov.uk.

For further information on any Pembroke Dock projects, please call David Davies on 01437 775055.

For further details of business support and grants available in Pembrokeshire, please contact the Regional Business Centre Service on **01437 764551** or email: enquiries@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

For full details visit the Pembrokeshire County Council website.
**Powys**

**Business Start-up Grant**
The Business Start-up Grant is provided by Powys County Council. The aim of the scheme is to assist with capital equipment purchases which will help expand and develop businesses within Powys.

The grant offers support to aid start-up businesses trading less than 12 months to purchase capital equipment.

Grants under this scheme range from £500 up to £2,500 and will cover up to 50 per cent of eligible costs.

Financial assistance is available to the following types of businesses in Powys:

- Manufacturing based businesses.
- Leisure and Recreation.
- Tourism.
- Construction.
- Retail.
- Service Sectors.

Deadline for application is 31 March 2013 - subject to the availability of the funds.

For further details on the Business Start-up Grant, please contact Cathy Ellis on 08701 923702 or email cathy.ellis@powys.gov.uk.

**Rhondda Cynon Taff**

**Business Start-Up Grant**
The purpose of this grant is to assist small businesses (which have not started trading) with their early set-up costs.

This grant is available to new (full-time) businesses based in Rhondda Cynon Taff that pay residential or business rates to the local authority and would not be eligible for support from the Local Investment Fund. Applicants must pay residential or business rates to the local authority.

This grant can be used for the initial outlay on items that would be essential to the start of the business, up to 50 per cent of eligible costs: with a minimum £500 and maximum of £2,000 grant.

**E. Commerce Grant**
This grant is intended to assist businesses to gain or develop an Internet presence. It is available to full-time businesses based in Rhondda Cynon Taff that would not be eligible for support from the Local Investment Fund. Applicants must pay residential or business rates to the local authority.

The grant may be used to fund the development of new or upgrading of existing website.

Grants can be for up to 50 per cent of eligible costs, up to a maximum of £2,000.
For details of business support and grants available in Rhondda Cynon Taff, please contact the Business Support Team on 01443 495169 or email: invest@rctcbc.gov.uk

**Building Improvement Grants (Commercial / Industrial Properties)**

This grant is available to businesses to carry out external building improvements. (Environmental and internal improvements may also be considered as part of a wider project and all works must be within the curtilage of the property).

Successful applicants can use the funding to cover 50 per cent of eligible costs up to a maximum of £15,000.

For full details visit the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council website.

**Swansea**

For details of business support and grants available in Swansea, please contact the Business Centre Swansea on 01792 545050 or email: businesscentreswansea@swansea.gov.uk

For full details visit the City and County of Swansea website.

**The Vale of Glamorgan**

For details of business support and grants available in The Vale of Glamorgan, please contact the Business Support Team on 01446 724332 or email: invest@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

For full details visit the Vale of Glamorgan Council website.

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**Torfaen**

**A Taste of Torfaen Grant Scheme**

This grant scheme is available to individuals, micro enterprises, small enterprises and community groups to help them develop land based production in Torfaen.

To be eligible businesses must reside in one of Torfaen’s 7 rural wards. A list of these wards can be found on the Torfaen County Borough Council website.

Businesses must also be able to demonstrate the ability to develop a business/project that will support one or more of the themes listed on their website.

A maximum of £3,000 will be available to each applicant and can cover up to 70 per cent of the project costs.

For further information on the Scheme please contact the Rural Development Team on 01495 742412 or email deyolden.stroud@torfaen.gov.uk

For further details of business support and grants available in Torfaen, please contact the Business Support Team on 01633 648371 or email: emma.davies3@torfaen.gov.uk

For full details visit the Torfaen County Borough Council website.
Wrexham Rural Development Business Grants

The Rural Wrexham Business Grants programme is funded through the Rural Development Plan which is financed by the EU and the Welsh Government. Financial support is given towards projects that involve the expansion, modernisation, or restructuring of an existing business or setting up a new business. Grants of up to £5,000 are available.

For further information on the Wrexham Rural Development Business Grants, please contact Toni Godolphin on 01978 298382 or email toni.godolphin@wrexham.gov.uk.

For details on other business support and grants available in Wrexham, please contact the Economic Development Team on 01978 667300 or email: business@wrexham.gov.uk

For full details visit the Wrexham County Borough Council website.