The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales and holds the Welsh Government to account.
This guide aims to outline and signpost possible sources of support available to new and existing businesses in Wales.

Printed by the National Assembly for Wales Commission, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA.

Promoted by the National Assembly for Wales Commission, Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA
## Contents

### 01. UK Government

- Business Wales .................................................................................................................. 1
- Finance Wales ...................................................................................................................... 1
- WRAP Cymru ...................................................................................................................... 2
- Workboost Wales .................................................................................................................. 2
- Tourism investment support scheme .................................................................................... 2
- Redundancy Action Scheme ............................................................................................... 3

### 02. Welsh Government Assistance

- Business Wales .................................................................................................................. 1
- Finance Wales ...................................................................................................................... 1
- WRAP Cymru ...................................................................................................................... 2
- Workboost Wales .................................................................................................................. 2
- Tourism investment support scheme .................................................................................... 2
- Redundancy Action Scheme ............................................................................................... 3

### 03. Local Authority Support

- Blaenau Gwent .................................................................................................................... 3
- Bridgend ................................................................................................................................... 4
- Caerphilly ............................................................................................................................. 4
- Cardiff .................................................................................................................................... 5
- Carmarthenshire .................................................................................................................... 6
- Ceredigion ............................................................................................................................. 6
- Conwy ...................................................................................................................................... 6
- Denbighshire ........................................................................................................................ 7
- Flintshire .................................................................................................................................. 7
- Gwynedd .................................................................................................................................. 7
- Isle of Anglesey ..................................................................................................................... 8
- Merthyr Tydfil ....................................................................................................................... 8
- Monmouthshire ...................................................................................................................... 8
- Neath Port Talbot .................................................................................................................. 9
- Newport ................................................................................................................................... 9
- Pembrokeshire ....................................................................................................................... 10
- Powys ...................................................................................................................................... 10
- Rhondda Cynon Taff ........................................................................................................... 10
- Swansea .................................................................................................................................... 11
- The Vale of Glamorgan .......................................................................................................... 12
- Torfaen .................................................................................................................................... 12
- Wrexham .................................................................................................................................. 13
01. UK Government

The Gov.UK website contains a ‘business support finder’ function which allows businesses to find government-backed support and finance, including:

- grants
- finance and loans
- business support e.g. mentoring, consultancy
- funding for small and medium-sized businesses and start-ups

The search can be customised based on business location, size and activity.

02. 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 from the Welsh Government and other sources.

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

For further information:

Website: business.wales.gov.uk
Telephone: 0300 060 3000
Email: businesssupport@wales.gsi.gov.uk

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

For further information:

Website: businesswales.gov.wales/foodanddrink

Finance Wales

Finance Wales helps Welsh SMEs by offering commercial growth investment starting from £1000 up to £2 million.

Finance Wales is a subsidiary of the Welsh Government and has made more than 2,000 investments in Wales-based businesses: including start-ups and early stage enterprises as well as more established businesses.

Finance Wales can help with short or long-term growth funding needs including:

- Start up or early stage finance
- Development/expansion capital
- Succession funding
- Short-term project finance
- Property development loan

**For further information:**

**Website:** [www.financewales.co.uk](http://www.financewales.co.uk)
**Telephone:** 0800 587 4140
**Email:** [Contact form](#)

**WRAP Cymru**

WRAP Cymru works with businesses to help them reap the benefits of reducing waste, developing sustainable products and using resources in efficient ways: the not for profit company is backed by Welsh Government funding.

WRAP Cymru offers two types of support to SMEs operating in the hospitality, tourism, food service and food and drink production sectors to help them save money by cutting the amount of waste they produce:

WRAP Cymru offers grants of up to £50,000 towards the cost of waste prevention or sustainable waste management equipment.

Up to £10,000 worth of support from WRAP-appointed business consultants, who will help businesses identify how to prevent waste, recycle more and save money.

**For further information:**

**Website:** [www.wrapcymru.org.uk](http://www.wrapcymru.org.uk)
**Telephone:** 029 2044 8090
**Email:** [Contact form](#)

**Workboost Wales**

Workboost Wales is a Government-funded service providing confidential, practical and free advice to small businesses in Wales on workplace health and safety, management of sickness absence and return to work issues.

Workboost Wales is designed for small businesses in Wales that employ between 5 and 250 workers and do not have access to specialist health and safety advice.

**For further information:**

**Website:** [www.gov.uk/workboost-wales](http://www.gov.uk/workboost-wales)
**Telephone:** 0845 609 6006

**Tourism investment support scheme**

The Tourism Investment Support Scheme is a grant for new and existing Welsh tourism businesses looking to upgrade the quality of facilities and increase capacity where there is a gap in the market.

Support of between £5,000 and £500,000 may be available per project and if offered will be in the form of a grant or repayable business finance.

Details of eligible projects may be found in the **Guidance Notes**.
Redundancy Action Scheme

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

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

- Employer Recruitment Support - funds employers who recruit individuals made redundant in the past 3 months. The award offers up to £3,000 paid in four instalments as a contribution towards wage costs.

- Employer Training Support - is a separate discretionary fund of up to £1,000 that an employer can put towards the cost of the new recruit’s job-related training.

For further information:
Website: www.gov.wales
Telephone: 01792 765888
Email: reactenquiries@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Guidance Notes

03. 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

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

The team offers guidance, support and signposting in relation to sites and premises, financial assistance and also general business issues.

For further information:
Website: www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Telephone: 01495 355700
Email: business.services@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
**Bridgend**

**Grants for commercial premises**

Assistance towards improving buildings is available to those who own or have a long lease on a shop, office or other premises in a town centre within Bridgend County Borough.

There are 3 schemes available:

- Commercial Improvement Areas Grant
- Industrial Improvement Areas Grant
- Town Improvement Areas Grant

**For further information:**

**Website:** www.bridgend.gov.uk
**Telephone:** 01656 815201
**Email:** physicalregeneration@bridgend.co.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:**

**Website:** www.business.bridgend.gov.uk
**Telephone:** 01656 815322
**Email:** Business@bridgend.gov.uk

**Caerphilly**

**Business Development Grant**

The **Business Development Grant** is a flexible grant scheme to help businesses set up or expand.

Eligible costs could include:

- Capital equipment (including ICT)
- Websites & E Commerce sites
- Marketing
- Feasibility studies
- Business planning

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.

**Commercial improvement grants**

The **Commercial Improvement Grant** scheme provides financial assistance to owners or tenants of business properties that have become rundown and have deteriorated over time.

The maximum amount of grant available for any one property is £15,000 and eligible costs include:
– The extension, improvement or modification of existing commercial/retail buildings and the conversion of other buildings into commercial use.

– Works to improve the physical infrastructure of the property

– Landscaping to the exterior of properties

– Internal works such as doors, flooring, lighting, decoration/refurbishment, painting and plastering

**Caerphilly Business Start-up Grant**

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

Eligible costs could include:

– Capital equipment

– ICT equipment

– Development of websites

– Marketing

– Building works to business premises

**For further information:**

**Website:** [www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 01443 866 220

**Email:** business@caerphilly.gov.uk

**Cardiff**

The Economic Development Team of Cardiff Council can provide existing or new businesses looking to set up in the city with advice on identifying and securing loans, grants and equity from a range of organisations including the Council’s Capital Cardiff Fund, Welsh Government, Finance Wales, European Commission and specialist funding bodies.

**Cardiff Connection Voucher Scheme**

The **Cardiff Connection Voucher Scheme** is open to Small and Medium sized Enterprises, Social Enterprises, Community Interest Companies, Charities, Small Office Home Office or Sole Traders based at business premises or residential premises.

The voucher enables applicants to apply for funding for the capital costs of installing a broadband connection directly to a premises in order to access high speed connectivity and capability. The funding is not available towards the costs of monthly service charges.

**For further information:**

**Website:** [www.cardiff.gov.uk](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 029 20788498

**Email:** Contact Form
**Carmarthenshire**

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, offer direct advice and investment support to growing companies.

For further information:

Website: [www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales](http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales)

Telephone: 01269 590214

Email: jreynolds@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

**Ceredigion**

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

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

For further information:

Website: [www.ceredigion.gov.uk](http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01545 570881

Email: Enquiry Form

**Conwy**

**Conwy Business Support Grant**

This is a discretionary grant scheme to support the growth of businesses and social enterprises in Conwy County. New or established businesses can apply for grants up to £1,000 to help with the purchase of capital equipment, marketing materials or even specialist training.

For further information:

Website: [www.conwy.gov.uk](http://www.conwy.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01492 574514

Email: ecodev@conwy.gov.uk

The Business Support team at Conwy County Borough Council can provide support and advice to those businesses that are new or already establish.

For further information:

Website: [www.conwy.gov.uk](http://www.conwy.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01492 574000

Email: information@conwy.gov.uk
Denbighshire

Denbighshire Enterprise Agency

For those who are looking at starting up a business, the Denbighshire Enterprise Agency can help. They provide free impartial advice as well as support and training to give you the best chance of success. They will also help you find additional sources of support within the private and public sector.

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

For further information:
Website: www.denbighshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01824 706101
Email: Enquiry Form

Flintshire

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.

The Business Development Team can discuss individual business circumstances and provide details of business support and grants available in Flintshire.

For further information:
Website: www.flintshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01352 703055
Email: businessdev@flintshire.gov.uk

Gwynedd

Business Loan Fund

Small and Medium businesses can apply for the Business Loan Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to establish or develop a business and not to re-pay any existing debts or other loans.

Small loans made by the Fund will be between £25,000 and £100,000 with the opportunity to borrow larger amounts. The length of a usual term of a small loan will be between 36 and 60 months.

For further information:
Website: www.gwynedd.gov.uk
Telephone: 01286 679231
Email: business@gwynedd.gov.uk

ISO Grant Scheme

Gwynedd Council is keen to assist small and medium sized businesses located in Gwynedd to achieve ISO accreditations which set world-class specifications for products, services and systems, to ensure quality, safety and efficiency.
A grant scheme is available which contributes towards the costs of a consultant to work with businesses in order to achieve the necessary standard for certification. The cost of the actual certification is not included in the scheme.

For further information:
Website: www.gwynedd.gov.uk
Telephone: 01286 679392
Email: business@gwynedd.gov.uk

Isle of Anglesey
The business section on the Isle of Anglesey County Council website provides information that new and existing businesses may find useful.

Grants and funding may be available from a number of different sources. Eligibility of any one project will depend on factors such as overall value, business sector and jobs created.

For further information:
Website: www.anglesey.gov.uk
Telephone: 01248 752480
Email: econdev@anglesey.gov.uk

Merthyr Tydfil
The Business Support Team, of Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council, is part of the Regeneration Department which supports business creation, investment, expansion and success by offering a range of services to businesses throughout the County Borough.

The team is able to provide businesses, both new and existing, with a range of information.

For further information:
Website: www.merthyr.gov.uk
Telephone: 01685 725 414
Email: towncentre@merthyr.gov.uk

Monmouthshire
Monmouthshire County Borough Council has a separate webpage with information relating to business advice and services. In addition to this Monmouthshire enterprise can advise and support businesses in the county.

For further information:
Website: www.monmouthshire.gov.uk
Telephone: 01633 644841
Email: info@monmouthshire.biz
Neath Port Talbot
Innov8 and Innov8+ Schemes

The 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.

The Innov8+ is also provided by Neath Port Talbot County Council. The scheme provides support to those who are over the age of 31 and wishing to start-up a new enterprise. Through this scheme funding is available to cover start-up and pre-start costs up to a maximum of £1,000.

For further information on both schemes:
Website: www.npt-business.co.uk
Telephone: 01639 765695
Email: innov8@npt.gov.uk

UK Steel Enterprise Start-Up Grant

This joint initiative between Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and UK Steel Enterprise Limited provides financial assistance for new businesses less than 24 months old based in the Neath Port Talbot County Borough.

The grant covers up to 100% of eligible costs with a maximum of £500. Eligible costs include:

– Capital Equipment
– ICT Equipment
– Development of websites
– Marketing
– Building works to business premises

For further information:
Website: www.npt-business.co.uk
Telephone: 01639 765695
Email: k.lugg@npt.gov.uk

Newport
Newport City Council / UK Steel Enterprise Start Up Business

Newport City Council and UK Steel Enterprise are offering an entirely discretionary grant to pre start-ups and businesses up to 12 months old.

Businesses can receive up to 40% of eligible and reasonable costs. The minimum grant is £250 for a total spend of £625. The maximum grant is £500 for a minimum total spend of £1250.

Eligible costs include:

– First year’s rent on first commercial premises
– Plant and equipment
– ICT equipment
– Software, websites and related training

For further information:
Website: [www.newport.gov.uk](http://www.newport.gov.uk)
Telephone: 01633 656656
Email: business.services@newport.gov.uk

Newport City Council Loans

Loans are repayable finance and usually have a rate of interest attached to them.

Newport City Council has two low interest loan schemes to help businesses invest and grow, one for start-ups and one for established businesses.

Pembrokeshire

Pembrokeshire Council’s business support team works to provide a high standard of advice and support to businesses, individuals and other organisations. It aims to foster a successful enterprising and entrepreneurial culture within the Pembrokeshire economy.

Targeted support is provided for specific business sectors to assist the development of viable projects and the creation of employment.

For further information:
Website: [www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk)
Telephone: 01437 776167

Powys

Sustainable Tourism Powys

Sustainable Tourism Powys is an innovative new programme delivered by Powys County Council to support and develop tourism in Powys into a dynamic and competitive sector.

The project will offer a range of support that will develop and promote the tourism offer in Powys including; grants schemes, targeted marketing, business advice and support.

The project is open to tourism businesses operating within Powys including accommodation providers, activity providers and attractions with up to 10 full time employees.

For further information:
Website: [www.tourismpowys.org](http://www.tourismpowys.org)
Telephone: 01874 612 281
Email: tourism.trade@powys.gov.uk

Rhondda Cynon Taff

Enterprise Support Programme

This flexible grant programme is delivered by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council. It provides financial assistance to new or existing private and social enterprises that are located, or are planning to locate, in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough.
Financial support is available for full-time, existing and start-up enterprises based in Rhondda Cynon Taf and can assist with:

- Purchase of capital equipment (including ICT)
- Improvement of commercial premises
- Development of a website
- One off marketing costs

**For further information:**
Website: [www.rctcbc.gov.uk](http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk)
Telephone: 01443 495169
Email: [invest@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:invest@rctcbc.gov.uk)

**Swansea**

**Building Enhancement Programme**

Financial assistance is available to owners or occupiers of city centre properties wanting to enhance shop fronts and building facades across Swansea city centre.

Projects can have a Building Enhancement Programme grant of up to 50% of the eligible cost of the improvement work and professional fees, but this will be assessed on an individual case by case basis.

Items that are eligible for a grant include:

- Building facades
- Roofs
- Shop fronts
- Rainwater goods
- Signage
- Lighting

**For further information:**
Website: [www.swanseacitycentre.com](http://www.swanseacitycentre.com)
Telephone: 01792 637266
Email: [craig.fisher@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:craig.fisher@swansea.gov.uk)

Swansea Council has their own Business Development Team who is able to assist businesses in finding the most appropriate level and source of support.

**For further information**
Website: [www.swansea.gov.uk](http://www.swansea.gov.uk)
Telephone: 01792 637223
Email: [invest@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:invest@swansea.gov.uk)
The Vale of Glamorgan

**Employment Training Services**

Employment Training Services is run by the Vale of Glamorgan Council on behalf of JobFit and the Department for Work and Pensions. They help local businesses find new staff, by putting them in touch with local unemployed people who they are helping to find work.

Some of the benefits of the service include:

- Skills matching service
- Work trials
- Job focused training
- No cost to employers

In addition to this businesses could be eligible for a £2,275 wage incentive, if they employ an unemployed 18-24 year old who is on the government’s Work Programme.

For further information:

Website: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Telephone: 01446 704873 / 874

Email: ets@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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

For further information:

Website: www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Telephone: 01446 704601

Email: invest@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Torfaen

**Torfaen Economy, Enterprise and Environment**

**Torfaen Economy, Enterprise & Environment** provide direct and specialist support for businesses in the borough. A brief range of their services includes:

- A one-stop shop for business advice and support
- Inward Investment Support
- Free and confidential advice on a wide range of business topics
- Help with financial assistance
- Marketing Advice
- Tourism Business Marketing
- Commercial Property Register
- On line Business Directory
- Local Business Club (Torfaen Business Voice)
Business Start-up Loans

Torfaen Economy & Enterprise and Gateway Credit Union are working together to offer Torfaen sole traders who have been trading for less than 12 months a loan between £250 and a maximum of £1,000.

For further details on this start-up loan contact Gaynor Wakeling, Business Development Officer at Torfaen Economy & Enterprise: email gaynor.wakeling@torfaen.gov.uk or call Gaynor on 01633 648371

The Torfaen Economy & Enterprise Team can also aid and identify individual business needs for funding and financial assistance.

For further information
Website: www.torfaen.gov.uk
Telephone: 01633 648371
Email: info@southwalesbusiness.co.uk

Wrexham

According to Wrexham County Borough Council’s website, funding support available to businesses in Wrexham is extremely limited and subject to on-going review. However the Assets and Economic Development team offer free ‘New Business Start’ workshops to help go through the fundamentals of starting a new business, including:

– Marketing
– Operations
– Financial planning
– Financial Administration

For further information:
Website: www.wrexham.gov.uk
Telephone: 01978 667000
Email: business@wrexham.gov.uk