



MEATH BUSINESS SUPPORTS

COMPILED BY

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

2024

Meath
The place & space
to thrive



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Meath County Council are delighted to compile this “Business Support Pack” that will make businesses aware of the range of services, grants, training and supports that are available to them.

This pack will provide you with access to Mentors, Consultants, Business Advisors, information on grants and funding, supports to help your business scale, enter new markets and become more sustainable.

In addition to this you will also find information on employment sites and a guide to pre planning for your business set up or expansion.

Meath County Council have a dedicated team in place to support you and your business to succeed and grow.

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BUSINESS SUPPORTS

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE MEATH

Local Enterprise Office Meath provides a range of complementary supports for those who want to start up or grow a business. The supports range from providing an initial "First Stop Shop" service where individuals can receive advice on the steps involved in setting up a business, to the provision of grants for feasibility studies, provision of financial support for the establishment of new businesses or expansion of existing ones and the provision of a range of soft supports such as training and mentoring:

Supports:

- Training & Courses
- Mentoring
- Business Advice Clinic
- Operational Excellence
- Digital for Business
- Green for Business
- Lean for Business

Funding:

- Priming Grant
- Business Expansion Grant
- Feasibility / Innovation Grant
- Micro Exporters' Grant
- Trading Online Vouchers
- Energy Efficiency Grant
- Grad Start
- Microfinance Ireland
- Grow Digital Voucher



MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

If you're interested in County Meath as a potential location for setting up your business or for the expansion of your existing business the Economic Development and Planning teams are ready to support you by helping to source the ideal location, steer you towards potential funding opportunities, provide guidance on sustainability, lean and digital supports, as well as providing focused pre-planning consultations prior to submitting a planning application.



Local Enterprise Office
MEATH



ENTERPRISE IRELAND

Enterprise Ireland supports Irish companies at every stage of their journey, from early-stage to established businesses and multinationals. They provide funding, advisory and development supports, helping Irish owned companies to achieve their exporting ambitions and to become global leaders in their field.



NATIONAL ENTERPRISE HUB

Discover a wide range of government supports tailored for Irish businesses. From cash flow to sustainability, here you can find the resources you need to thrive, all in one convenient place. Whatever your business needs, you have their support.

The National Enterprise Hub is a one-stop shop which brings together information and resources on over 180 supports from 19 Departments and state agencies.

The hub makes it easier for your business to find and access the supports you need. Supports such as grants, funding, loans, management development, mentoring and expert advice are available across a range of sectors, including retail, tourism and hospitality, and food and beverages.



National
Enterprise Hub



An Roinn Fiontar,
Trádála agus Fostaíochta
Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Employment

COUNTY MEATH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

County Meath Chamber is an organisation for the promotion and development of economic and commercial activity in the county. They seek to support and empower a progressive, dynamic network of members who are confident to drive and champion County Meath as the number one place in Ireland to do business.

Members will have access to year round opportunities of networking and training for business, as well as other supports such as export documentation, trade information, cross promotion and collaboration.



MEATH NETWORKS

Business networking is the practice of building relationships with individuals and businesses for professional purposes. It involves the strategic exchange of information and resources to create connections that can be mutually beneficial. The following are some of the Networks in Meath:

- Meath Women in Biz & Tech
- MBON Meath Business Owners Network
- Boyne Valley Flavours
- Meath Made
- Network Ireland Meath Branch
- Look for Local


DISCOVER BOYNE VALLEY

Boyne Valley Tourism is the county promotional, marketing and development company for tourism in the Boyne Valley and represents 200 tourism businesses. Businesses receive support through networking opportunities, marketing, social media, festivals, industry knowledge, access to the travel trade and press visits.



LEADER Programme

LEADER supports private enterprises and community groups who improve the quality of life and economic activity in rural areas. It is delivered by a network of Local Action Groups (LAGs) selected to implement Local Development Strategies (LDSs or Strategies) for their respective geographical areas. The LEADER programme accepts applications for funding based on projects which improve the following:



LEADER 2023-2027

Programme Themes

Economic Development & Job Creation	Rural Infrastructure & Social Inclusion	Rural Environment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Green Economy• Agri-Diversification• Rural Tourism & Recreation• Enterprise Development• Rural Food Production• Social, Community & Co-op Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural Infrastructure• Accessible Services• Optimising Digital Connectivity• Rural Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment• Climate Change Capacity Building• Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation



MEATH ENTERPRISE

A commercially focused local government (Not-For-Profit) enterprise development company with a remit / mission to drive local, regional and national enterprise development through the provision of business incubation and support services, collaboration, clustering and creative thinking.



INTERTRADE IRELAND

InterTrade Ireland helps small businesses in Ireland and Northern Ireland explore new cross-border markets, develop new products, processes and services and become investor ready under the following headings:

- Sales Growth Supports
- Innovation Supports
- Funding Supports
- Post-Brexit Supports and Advice
- Business Insights

The logo for InterTradeIreland, featuring a stylized circular icon to the left of the text "InterTradeIreland".

Ibec- IRISH BUSINESS AND EMPLOYER'S CONFEDERATION

Ibec membership is for all businesses - home grown, multinational, big or small. Ibec provide a powerful voice to government on the key international, national and industry issues impacting business, supported by 39 trade associations covering a wide range of industry sectors.



SFA - SMALL FIRMS ASSOCIATION

The Small Firms Association is recognised by decision makers as the "Voice of Small Business" in Ireland, proudly representing small businesses with 50 or less employees, spanning every sector of our economy. They leverage this influence, along with their parent organisation, Ibec, to ensure the best deal for small business. Members are found in every town and city in Ireland, and their vision is that Ireland will be the most vibrant small business community in the world – supporting entrepreneurship, valuing small businesses and rewarding risk takers.



**BUSINESS
SUPPORTS**



DROGHEDA NURTURE FUND

The Drogheda Nurture Fund is an initiative of the Drogheda Implementation Board and funded by both Louth and Meath County Councils, through their respective Local Enterprise Offices. The Drogheda Nurture Fund is administered by The Louth County Enterprise Fund. Entrepreneurs and small-business owners can apply for business loans, up to a maximum of €25,000. The loans are re-payable over a 3 to 5 year period and the interest rate is 7% per annum. The business must be based within the Drogheda Implementation Board's designated target area.



ThinkBusiness.ie – Supporting Every Step

ThinkBusiness.ie has been created for Irish business owners and managers who are seeking information, resources and help on a range of business topics.

ThinkBusiness.ie provides practical, actionable information and guidance on starting, growing and running a business. It offers guides, tools, templates, checklists and a wealth of other content tailored to meet the needs of Irish business owners and managers. It also showcases case studies, with insights, tips and advice from Irish start-up entrepreneurs and business owners.



ENERGY SUPPORTS FOR BUSINESSES

SEAI

- Support Scheme for Energy Audits
- Energy Academy
- Business Energy Upgrades
- EXEED - Energy Efficiency Design
- Renewable Heating
- Electric Vehicle Grants
- Energy Contracting Support Scheme
- Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme
- Accelerated Capital Allowance
- Non-Domestic Microgen Scheme

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE

- Green for Business
- Energy Efficiency Grant

OTHER SUPPORTS

- National Enterprise Hub



TRAINING & COURSES

LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE MEATH

Local Enterprise Office, Meath exists to assist and support small, existing, sustainable, growth orientated and start-up businesses who will then:

- Create employment
- Expand
- Sustain existing jobs

Local Enterprise Office, Meath offer a vast range of courses to suit owner/managers and their specific business requirements.

A wide range of one-day workshops, seminars and management development programmes are offered, which includes:

- Business Support Courses
- Finance Courses
- Productivity Courses
- Management Development Courses
- Food & Drink Supports
- Social Media & Marketing Courses

A full list of training Courses are available at the following link:

www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/

Get in touch with us today localenterprise@meathcoco.ie



LOUTH AND MEATH EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Louth & Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) is the largest education and training provider in Louth and Meath.

Skills to Advance Business Supports Courses - This initiative provides Level 5 & 6 training courses to support employed people upskilling, seeking new work opportunities and career pathways, digital upskilling, employability, and lifelong learning.

The Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence (AMTCE) aims to provide the training required by businesses for the successful transformation to Industry 4.0 technologies and practices. The AMTCE supports people to reskill or upskill in technologies and processes relevant to advanced manufacturing, for example, in Engineering, Pharma, BioPharma, Food and Drink sectors.

MAKE THE TRANSITION TO INDUSTRY 4.0

Our courses cover key skills and practices required to transform businesses through the successful adoption and application of Industry 4.0 technologies and practices.

Our courses are delivered under the SOLAS Skills to Advance programme which covers up to 70% of the training cost for companies and their employees.

[VIEW CATALOGUE →](#)

[COURSE SCHEDULE →](#)



Training that suits your organisations requirements

Bespoke design and delivery of courses and courses which address the latest industry technology trends



Improved productivity and increased business innovation

Increasing the technology "IQ" of your workforce



Embrace the potential of Industry 4.0

Develop the right change mindset across employees enabling them to embrace, drive, plan and execute the technology changes required to maintain business competitiveness



lmetb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí
Louth and Meath Education and Training Board



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council

DUNBOYNE COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION - DCFE

Further your education with a range of accredited courses to choose from. DCFE offer both theoretical and practical training, and you will leave DCFE with the knowledge and skills required for your next step in your career.



SKILLNET IRELAND

Skillnet Ireland is a business support agency of the Government of Ireland, it is the national talent development agency. The primary objective of Skillnet Ireland is to advance the competitiveness, productivity and innovation of businesses operating in Ireland through enterprise-led workforce development.

SKILLNET BUSINESS NETWORKS

A Skillnet Business Network is a cluster of private sector businesses that collaborate based on their sector, or region, to address skills needs and provide upskilling and reskilling programmes and supports to companies.



FAILTE IRELAND -LEARN IFI

Running a tourism business keeps you busy. LearnIFI is Failte Ireland's training platform providing short, interactive online workshops that can fit into your busy day.

With 250+ practical courses and regular workshops to choose from, your team can learn at their own pace and develop essential skills.



FOOD BUSINESS SUPPORTS

Boyne Valley Flavours

Boyne Valley Flavours initially began when a group of passionate food producers and hospitality providers came together to support and promote the local food offering across the region. Since then the movement has grown significantly and in 2013 the Boyne Valley Food Series was born, a unique calendar of events which celebrates our land, our heritage, our people and of course their produce, which helped cement the region as a leading player on the national food stage.



Centre of Food Culture Boyne Valley

The Centre of Food Culture, Boyne Valley, believes that by preserving and celebrating our food culture, past, present and future, they will enhance people's relationship with food, connect them to the source of their food and the people who produce it. When they speak about food, they also include our rich heritage in brewing, distilling and drink production. The purpose is to facilitate greater connectivity between food, people, soil and sea. They did this by creating the first national Centre of Food Culture, based in the Boyne Valley.

This centre facilitates education, discussion, enterprise and advocacy of our food culture for current and future generations. They will strengthen the connections between all stakeholders be they consumers, food producers, food professionals, state agencies, communities, and academic institutions locally, nationally and internationally.



THE FOOD ACADEMY

To help develop Ireland's artisan food industry, the Local Enterprise Offices, SuperValu and Bord Bia joined forces in 2013 to create 'The Food Academy' – a tailored Food Business Development programme for early to mid-stage food business owners.



Guide to Starting a Food Business in Meath www.localenterprise.ie/Meath

Health Service Executive

You must register your food business with a competent authority before you start operating, even if operating from home. See details of your local Health Service Executive (HSE) / Environmental Health Officer (EHO) here.



HSE County Clinic, Navan	046 909 8729
Dunshaughlin Health Care Unit, Dunshaughlin	046 9098729
HSE St Joseph's Hospital, Trim	046 9098729

Boyne Valley Food Hub

Located in Navan, the hub offers a comprehensive range of facilities and support for start-up and expanding of food businesses. These include food-grade incubation units, a food R&D lab and sensory testing facility and access to coworking, meeting rooms and events spaces. The hub also offers access to a media lab and a fab lab for prototyping products.



EMPLOYER & WORKFORCE SUPPORTS

INTREO - WORK PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

The Work Placement Experience Programme (WPEP) allows employers to host a jobseeker on a work experience placement and help the jobseeker to build new skills and gain valuable work experience. The programme is targeted at jobseekers who are on certain social welfare payments for 6 months (156 days) and want to avail of training and work experience to re-engage with the job market.

Employers who host a WPEP participant will provide a placement for 6 months with the participant attending for work experience for 30 hours a week. There is no cost to the host/employer as the participant will be paid by the Department of Social Protection during their work placement.



INTREO - REDUNDANCY PAYMENT SCHEME

The scheme is a payment from the Social Insurance Fund by the Department of Social Protection to an employee where an employer is unable to make a statutory redundancy payment.

If an employer is unable to pay a statutory redundancy payment, an application can be submitted by the employer on behalf of the employee to the department on Welfare Partners for payment to be made through the Redundancy Payment Scheme.

The rate of statutory redundancy is two weeks' pay for every year of service (over the age of 16) plus one additional week's pay. Payment is subject to a limit of €600 per week.



JOBSPLUS

JobsPlus is an employer incentive which encourages employers and businesses to focus their recruitment efforts on those who have been unemployed for a period.

Regular payments will be made to qualifying employers to offset wage costs where they recruit eligible jobseekers for full time employment. There are no limits to the number of eligible employees any one employer may hire under this incentive. The maximum support under the scheme is 24 months per employee.



TRAINING SUPPORT GRANT

The Training Support Grant is designed to fund quick access to short term training or related interventions, obtain or renew certification and permits for individual jobseekers that have identified work opportunities, or where Employment Personal Advisers have identified an immediate skills gap that represents an obstacle to taking up a job offer.

The primary focus of this scheme is on jobseekers and on supporting the activation policy of the department.



GROW REMOTE

Grow Remote is a not-for-profit organisation, which started life as a WhatsApp group in 2018, and now has over 130 local chapters across Ireland and 10,000 members. Their mission is to make remote work accessible for everyone and create a lasting social impact in Ireland.



JOBSIRELAND.IE

At JobsIreland.ie, the aim is to help people to get jobs and help employers connect with the right people. Whether someone is looking for their next job or finding the right person to join a team, JobsIreland.ie can help you.

JobsIreland.ie is the Public Employment Service of the Department of Social Protection. It offers a free job advertising service to employers and enables job seekers to search for jobs, and to create a profile to match their skills and experience with available jobs.

This service includes a network of staff providing expert guidance and resources to both jobseekers and employers. They can help jobseekers to create their CV and find their ideal job, while helping employers to promote jobs and match their requirements to jobseeker profiles using the latest technology.



FINANCE & CREDIT

Whether you are starting out or expanding your business, here is a comprehensive list of Meath-based funds, grants, and financial supports available to you.

BANK FINANCE & SUPPORTS

AIB

Business Banking
Sector Specialists
www.aib.ie



Trimgate Street,
Navan
046 902 9101

BANK OF IRELAND

Business Managers
Agri Development Managers
Sector Specialists
www.businessbanking.bankofireland.com



Market Square,
Navan
046 902 1215

PERMANENT TSB

Business Banking
www.ptsb.ie/business-banking/business-banking/



Kennedy Road,
Navan
046 907 31 47

KEY ENTERPRISE SUPPORTS

- Local Enterprise Office Financial Supports
- Enterprise Ireland
- Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland
- Microfinance Ireland Loans (available through your Local Enterprise Office at a reduced rate)
- R&D Corporation Tax Credit

VENTURE CAPITAL

Venture capital is a form of private equity financing that is provided by firms or funds to startups, early-stage companies, and emerging companies that have shown high growth potential.



ANGEL FUNDING

An angel investor provides initial seed money for startup businesses, usually in exchange for ownership equity in the company. A list of active angel investment syndicates in Ireland can be found in the link



HBAN

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AUTHORITY OF IRELAND

Capital Grants of up to €5m are available from SEAI for energy efficiency and renewable energy works – Key existing grants available to retailers are Community Energy Grants, the Support Scheme for Renewable Heat and the EXEED Grant Scheme.



seai SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY AUTHORITY
OF IRELAND

ThinkBusiness - Guide to Business Grants

From starting to running to growing, the link below has a range of funds, grants and financial supports available for businesses in Ireland. From business loans to government supports, if you need to raise money for a business or have a business that needs to grow, this is the list for you.



REVENUE

The Office of the Revenue Commissioners provides a number of supports and initiatives to assist start-up businesses and small and medium enterprises. Initiatives include tax incentives - tax reliefs, deductions and exemptions as well as supports and other initiatives.

Tax reliefs, deductions and exemptions that aim to contribute towards job creation include;

- The Start Your Own Business
- SURE - Start UP Refunds for Entrepreneurs
- The Employment and Investment Incentive
- Relief from Corporation Tax for start-up companies
- The Research and Development Tax Credit

Revenue also have a range of other supports for small and medium businesses;

- Exemption from the requirement to register for VAT (provided turnover does not exceed certain thresholds)
- Use of the cash basis of accounting for VAT
- Deferral of the Corporation Tax preliminary due date



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

➤ **Financial Planning**

Financial Planning is essential to the success and resilience of any business across all sectors. Businesses need to plan for the future and set goals. Once you understand these goals, its all about the steps involved to achieve them. Meath Chamber of Commerce has a number of members who offer Financial Planning for you and your business. A number of Financial Institutes also offer this invaluable service along with several private entities.



➤ **Protection**

Protect your business and your business partner in the event of death or serious illness. It is important to protect your business if you have one or more Keypersons working in it, have substantial borrowings or in the event of the death of the owner.

➤ **Pensions & Investments**

Ensuring that you have adequate funding for your retirement to maintain a standard of living takes time and planning. If you wish to start/review a pension or your investment journey the following table includes some local Chamber Members and Financial Organisations to help you:

	Financial Planning	Protection	Pensions	Investment	Sector Expertise	Financial Wellbeing
AIB	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Bank of Ireland	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
PTSB		Y		Y		Y
Credit Union		Y	Y	Y		
Meath Chamber	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

HUBS

Looking for office space, a hot desk or an innovative space to learn and collaborate in, please see list of potential locations below:

- DigiTeic Bhaile Ghib
- iDesk Cormeen
- Deerpark Community Hub
- Dunshaughlin Hub
- Kilskyre Community Activity Centre
- Enfield Community and Economic Hub
- Athboy Digital Hub
- Boyne Valley Food Innovation District
- Meath Digital Innovation Hub
- Kells Tech Hub
- Boyne Valley Food Hub

connectedhubs



MENTORING

Avail of insights, ideas, advise on strategy, direction and growth from one of the mentors through the Local Enterprise Office.

Mentoring is also available through the various Networks below:

Mentor Network	Description	Website
LEO Meath	The LEO Mentor Programme is designed to match up the knowledge, skills, insights and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners with small business owner/managers who need practical and strategic one to one advice and guidance.	https://www.localenterprise.ie/Meath/Training-Events/Mentoring/
smallbusinessadvice.ie	A free & confidential advisory service set up to help SME's in Ireland by providing them with expert advisors & advice to grow their business	smallbusinessadvice.ie
Mentors.ie	Mentors is an alliance of senior business advisors who provide expert mentorship services to a range of clients in various sectors.	Mentors.ie
Enterprise Ireland Mentor Network	The Enterprise Ireland Mentor Network was established to help companies identify and overcome obstacles to growth. Mentors in our network can provide tailored advice, guidance and support, to help accelerate growth and build management capability.	Enterprise Ireland Mentor Network
Network Ireland - Mentor Database	Network Ireland is a networking organisation for women in business and offers time with mentors to its members.	Network Ireland - Mentor Database
Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs	Entrepreneurs gather and exchange knowledge and business ideas through a period of 1 to 6 months with an experienced entrepreneur in another European Country. Part financed by the European Commission.	Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

IDA Ireland - INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

IDA Ireland is an autonomous Statutory Agency set up under the Industrial Development Acts 1986 - 2019. The Agency operates in accordance with the provisions of the Acts and under the aegis of the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, who is empowered to provide funds to discharge its obligations and issue general policy directives/seek information on the Agency's activities.

The IDA cover an array of areas to help grow your business in Ireland. Some include Engineering, MedTech, Media, Biopharma and Financial Services.



Citizen Information

You can drop into your local centre or contact it by phone and email for information, advice and advocacy for topics such as Health, Housing, Social Welfare, Asylum, etc. Make sure you check your local service's opening hours if you are dropping in. Appointments are offered as needed following an initial assessment.

Ashbourne CIC

Unit 43, High Street, Ashbourne, Ashbourne, A84 FX66

Phone: 0818 07 6110

Navan CIC

Floor 2. 1 Cannon Row, Navan, C15 XR8Y

Phone: 0818 07 6150

Trim CIC

Unit 3, The Old Forge, 3 Haggard Street, Trim, C15 C942

Phone: 0818 07 6180



Údarás na Gaeltachta

Údarás na Gaeltachta can offer qualifying businesses and companies from various sectors a range of incentives and supports to start up, develop, expand or locate in a Gaeltacht region. Hundreds of companies have established businesses in the Gaeltacht with the help of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Whether you may be thinking of expanding your business into a new area or accessing new markets, developing a new product, or diversifying in a new direction, Údarás na Gaeltachta may be able to assist you.



Other Agency Supports



MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

ECONOMIC & ENTERPRISE TEAM



KIERAN KEHOE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DARA MCGOWAN

DIRECTOR OF ENTERPRISE & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



MAJELLA FARRELL

HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MICHELLE GOODWIN

ENTERPRISE INITIATIVES MID EAST REGION



JOE ENGLISH

HEAD OF ENTERPRISE



Economic Development,
Meath County Council,
Buvinda House,
Dublin Road,
Navan,
Co. Meath
C15 Y291



046 909 7065



economic@meathcoco.ie



www.meath.ie

HERE TO HELP - ECONOMIC & ENTERPRISE TEAM



Food Supports
Emma Gill



Centre of Food Culture
Ella Ryan



Tourism & Hospitality
Michele Whelan



Local Enterprise Office
Aoife Fegan



Economic Development Supports
Rachel Finegan



Local Enterprise Office
Lorna Cooney



comhairle chontae na mí
meath county council