


Business Support Section

Business Support Schemes Information Sheet

A range of discretionary programmes to assist new and established businesses in the West Dunbartonshire area.

Business Start Up Grant	Business Capital Grant	Business Property Improvement Grant
<p>A grant of £500 is available to assist individuals over 18 years of age with business start-up costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A business plan is required (business planning advice can be provided) Applicants must provide proof of trading e.g. evidence of a business bank account. 	<p>A grant to assist existing businesses over 12 months old, in purchasing essential equipment or machinery. The grant pays up to 30% of the costs, with a maximum of £3000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business must be able to demonstrate how this grant will enable expansion and safeguard or increase employment. 	<p>A grant to assist existing businesses, over 12 months old, with the costs of property improvements necessary to expand their business and create additional employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant up to 30% of the costs, with a maximum of £3000.
Business Training Support	Export Development Grant	Business Innovation Grant
<p>A programme paying up to 75% of training fees and is part-funded by Europe. It aims to improve the competitiveness of businesses by staff training.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses must be operating in West Dunbartonshire and employ less than 250 people. Eligible training fees must be external or additional to the company 	<p>The aim of the grant is to assist businesses to attend overseas trade shows to allow them to test markets, attract new customers, source agents or distributors and make sales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a discretionary funding programme and will provide up to 50% match funding with a maximum grant of £2000. The grant can be used to assist with the cost of travel, accommodation and exhibitor space. 	<p>A grant will be provided to assist existing businesses in promoting both new and developing innovative products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grant will provide 30% of the costs up to a maximum of £3,000.00. The business will require to show evidence that the new product is either patented or in the process of being patented.
Graduates For Business	Business ICT Grant	West of Scotland Loan Fund
<p>The programme will provide financial incentives to companies to take on a graduate who would otherwise be unemployed or not in graduate employment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subsidy is payable for a maximum 52 weeks, covering 50% of gross wages, to a maximum payment of £160 per week. The employee must be a recent graduate (degree level or above). 	<p>A grant will be provided to assist existing businesses to support the further development and implementation stages of ICT products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grant will provide 30% of the costs up to a maximum of £3,000.00. The grant can also form part of a larger funding package with other supportive agencies 	<p>In addition to these schemes, loans are available up to £25,000 from the West of Scotland Loan Fund for small and medium sized business to grow.</p> <p>West of Scotland Loan Fund </p>
Fit For Growth	E-Commerce Support	Energy Efficiency Support
<p>Fit For Growth is a part European funded programme which offers an enhanced package of free advisory services to businesses who have aspirations to grow and expand their operations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Planning Assistance with funding applications Strategic business reviews A 50% grant up to £1000 is available to businesses who wish to establish or update their existing business plan. 	<p>Fit For Growth offers expert advice to companies to use the internet to improve relationships with existing customers, attract new customers and boost sales.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 50% grant of up to £2000 is available to assist companies to grow their business by trading online. 	<p>Fit For Growth offers expert advice to help companies save money and reduce their impact on the environment. Find out how to lower costs, decrease risk, exploit efficiency opportunities and much more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 50% grant of up to £2000 is available to assist companies become more energy efficient.
Tourism Support Grant	New Employment Wage Subsidy	Supplier Development Programme
<p>Grants which seek to support innovative tourism activities and projects which are designed to increase visitor numbers and tourism revenue in the West Dunbartonshire area. Projects must be innovative and be able to demonstrate added value to the area and how related activity would be sustained.</p> <p>A decision on the level of matched funding will be assessed at the time of application however a maximum of £2,000 will be available per project.</p>	<p>A wage subsidy for employers over 26 weeks covering 50% of wages for those who would otherwise be unemployed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payments are made at 13 and 26 weeks with evidence of wages paid Wages must meet the minimum wage and not exceed £7.00 per hour 	<p>West Dunbartonshire Council is a partner in this programme which assists companies in accessing and bidding for public sector contracts. SDP provide free events and training to improve tendering performance.</p> <p> Supplier Development Programme</p>