



Investment Programme Ongoing

One of Northern Ireland's premier investment areas, Lisburn Castlereagh is an ambitious and entrepreneurial city. A business-friendly location, it's a superb choice for investors who require a strategic all-island base, offering easy access to the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

Businesses relocating or searching for new premises in the Lisburn Castlereagh area can tap into free support from the Council's Investment Team to assist their own individual business requirements. This 'Soft Landing' service includes matching investors with opportunities in Lisburn Castlereagh as well as supporting businesses to connect with a network of top-class companies, Universities, Chamber of Commerce and research centres. The Investment programme includes a number of initiatives including:

- Property Agent Forum 2019/20
- Lisburn Castlereagh Investment Guide
- Made in Lisburn Castlereagh 2020
- Annual Business & Investment Networking Reception, London Spring 2020
- Attendance at European Trade Shows and Conferences 2019/20

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SERC Fabrication Project Ongoing

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council have partnered with South East Regional College and a consortium of local employers to recruit and provide highly trained, motivated and professional engineers.

Students will use their skills to develop engineering solutions and will have the opportunity to work in a highly technical industry working with everything from bridges, structural steel, cladding systems, ventilation, marine and agriculture products. The Council is keen to engage with businesses within this sector to address any current or future skills deficits.

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Entrepreneurs Network September 2019 - May 2020

The Entrepreneurs Network is a free monthly networking and discussion breakfast forum for local Lisburn Castlereagh businesses. These monthly events offer practical information aimed at addressing key business issues and promoting local business development.

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Business Development Programmes 2018/19

Digi Growth Programme 2019-2022

The Digi Growth Programme offers businesses in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area a bespoke package of support which will help them to develop viable commercial projects and identify the funding to deliver these. This free Programme will support businesses at various stages of their digital transformation journey to transform and grow through the use of digital technologies and E-commerce, to enhance customer engagement, increase sales and ultimately create jobs. Programme participants will receive support including:

- Specialist mentoring suited to individual businesses and projects
- Research and Development support to develop new products and processes
- Innovation workshops and networking opportunities
- Signposting advice to receive further support

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Fairtrade Programme Ongoing

In 2017, the Council received Fairtrade City status, supporting the principles of the Northern Ireland Fairtrade campaign with the following actions:

- Actively promoting Fairtrade to workplaces and community organisations (places of worship, schools, universities, colleges and other community organisations) within the Council area;
- Exploring tendering and public procurement of Fairtrade products within the Council's own purchasing policies and embracing Fairtrade where possible;
- Facilitate a regular Voluntary Steering Group made up of representatives from across the Council area focusing on Fairtrade activity with representation from the Council



If you are a local business and keen to promote and raise awareness of fair trade in the workplace please feel free to contact us.

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International Trade & Development Programme Ongoing

The trade and development missions are targeted at local business owners and managers who wish to be equipped with the relevant in-depth knowledge, know-how and confidence to successfully operate in new markets.

Due to the Council's substantial contribution each participating business will only be required to cover travel and accommodation costs. These trade programmes will offer support to research new potential export markets in terms of customers, importers, distribution partners, suppliers or subcontractors. Trade visit locations to be confirmed.

Support will include, targeting new trade opportunities, itinerary planning, one-to-one company meetings with potential trade partners as well as information and advice on developing business in the target markets.

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Invest in Health, Profit in Business Ongoing

Invest in Health, Profit in Business is a free programme developed in partnership with the Public Health Agency which aims to encourage local businesses to take positive steps to improve their employee's health and wellbeing, helping to support a more positive work-life balance. This programme will equip businesses with a pro-active programme of activity that will help them to fulfil their obligations to support health and wellbeing.

Businesses can benefit from a range of healthy initiatives such as the business games, health fairs or assistance with a small grant to implement healthy workplace initiatives.

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NI Business Start-Up Programme – Go For It Ongoing

'Go for It' is a business start-up and growth programme, in partnership with all 11 local Councils and delivered by Enterprise Northern Ireland and its Local Enterprise Agencies of Northern Ireland. If you are thinking of starting your own business you can access a free comprehensive package of support for your new business idea through the 'Go for it' Programme, including:

- One-to-one assessment with a business advisor
- Tailored financial and business planning advice
- Advice on how to access grants and funding
- Access to best practice guides, tools and videos
- Support and help to get you started



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INTERREG North West Europe Programme – Support for Social Entrepreneurs (SuNSE) Ongoing

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council in partnership with economic development organisations from France, Holland, Switzerland and the Republic of Ireland has developed an INTERREG North West Europe Social Enterprise Programme led by the Highlands & Islands Enterprise.

This free programme will assist the start-up of new social economy enterprises as well as assist established social enterprises to grow and develop. This will be achieved through one-to-one support, innovative idea generation workshops, best practice learning from other countries and networking opportunities.

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Youth Entrepreneurship Programme Ongoing

This programme offers free training, advice and support to young people to develop their skills and help them become future entrepreneurs.

The Council is working closely with The Prince's Trust and Young Enterprise NI to deliver specialist support for young people. These projects will provide opportunities to access training and employment, as well as inspire young people to consider self-employment as a potential career pathway.

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SME Mentor Growth Programme 2019-2022

The aim of the SME Mentor Growth Programme is to enable local businesses to access free essential business knowledge and expertise on a one-to-one basis to become even more competitive and achieve growth. The Programme offers a flexible tiered support offering of up to 30 hours of support. Through listening to the needs and requirements of local businesses, the range of expert support includes: sales development, strategic planning, digital marketing, branding and financial management.

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Small Business Procurement Programme 2019-2022

The Small Business Procurement Programme supports local companies and social enterprises identify procurement opportunities and build their capacity to construct tender bids more effectively to win new work. This programme will provide an insight into public tendering needs and structures. Each participating business can benefit from one-to-one support in preparing and submitting high quality bids, participate in workshops focusing on increasing awareness of the procurement process, attend 'Meet the Buyer Events' as well as explore and develop new partnership and clustering opportunities.

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