



Funded by
UK Government



Belfast
City Council

Global Entrepreneurship Week

Navigating Business Support Event



St. George's Market, Tuesday 19th November



Go Succeed
NI Business Support

Welcome to Global Entrepreneurship Week 2024

Global Entrepreneurship Week 2024 is a week-long global celebration of entrepreneurship and takes place this year from Monday 18 November to Sunday 24 November 2024.

Go Succeed NI along with the eleven Councils have brought together an exclusive and diverse programme of events to promote entrepreneurship throughout Northern Ireland. All of the events are aimed at promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and inspiration to help and support sustainability within the business ecosystem.

We encourage you to take part in the worldwide conversations online by using the hashtag

#GEW2024

See what's happening globally at
www.genglobal.org

Intro

As part of this year's Global Entrepreneurship Week, organised through the Go Succeed business support service, the 'Navigating Support for Belfast-based Businesses' event has assembled representatives from more than 20 support organisations and initiatives.

The aim of the Event is to provide attending businesses with direct, practical advice, guidance, insight and signposting across areas such as: exporting (including cross-border); innovation; skills and team development; processes and operations; and tendering. This booklet provides a summary of the support offerings across the organisations represented at the event, as well as a few others that could not attend on the day.

This booklet provides a summary of the support offerings across the organisations represented at the event. Due to pre-arranged commitments on what will be a very busy week across the business community, a number of key organisations could not attend on the day. With this in mind, the booklet is not a comprehensive directory of support for Belfast-based businesses. For further business support options (for example through Invest NI, Innovate UK and Department for Business & Trade), the 'Northern Ireland business support finder' on the NI Business Info website (www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk) is also available.

Thank you and we trust that you will enjoy the event.



Our Support Organisations



Support Available

There are various types and areas of support covered by the organisations / initiatives in this booklet. The key areas below identifies the specific support area covered by each.

Areas



Export / Cross-Border



Innovation



Staff / Team Development



Operations / Processes



Tendering



Sustainability



Membership

Support Organisations



Go Succeed is the new go-to source for expert business advice led by Northern Ireland's eleven local councils. Whether you're a budding entrepreneur just starting out; are looking to grow your business; or are planning to scale up; our team of industry experts will provide tailored support and guidance to help you achieve your business goals.

Go Succeed Grow is for established business owners who require assistance and guidance on the best ways to expand and innovate. If you're looking to employ someone, develop a brand new product, or are looking to adopt new technology that could improve your business' productivity, Go Succeed Grow is for you. This part of the service focuses on providing you with a wide range of tools and the plans you need to take your business to the next stage.

Go Succeed Grow's dedicated business mentors will work with you to create a tailored service that best suits your business needs, whatever stage it's at. The mentor assigned to you will have a deep understanding of your business sector and area and you will have the opportunity to seek their advice and learn from them throughout your journey. A host of learning materials will be made available and you will be invited to attend business masterclasses and events. Go Succeed Grow can also help with applications for funding support if it is needed to help your business progress.

Sign up or find out more - www.go-succeed.com

Belfast City Council Enterprise and Business Growth

Belfast City Council's Enterprise and Business Growth team offers free, tailored support to businesses, co-operatives and social enterprises who operate in the Belfast area. From pre-enterprise to business growth, we offer one to one mentoring, workshops and events.



**Belfast
City Council**

9-21 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8DJ

We develop, lead and coordinate key economic development projects within the Enterprise Framework and contribute to other relevant economic development strategies and policies which stimulate business growth, promote entrepreneurial activity and support local business development and investment.

**[economicdevelopment@
belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:economicdevelopment@belfastcity.gov.uk)**

028 9027 0482

www.belfastcity.gov.uk

We develop and maintain effective partnerships with other organisations in both the public and private sectors to ensure a strategic, sustained and coordinated approach to economic development in the city.





**Belfast
City Council**

Barry Fegan

9-21 Adelaide Street Belfast, BT2 8DJ

07467453506

feganbarry@belfastcity.gov.uk

www.belfastcity.gov.uk



Belfast City Council Employment Academies

Belfast City Council's Employability & Skills Team – through Belfast Employment Academies - provides inclusive pathways to jobs, solving recruitment challenges and skills gaps with employers while enabling our residents to access employment that they would otherwise have no access to. Employment Academies link potential employees with the skills, licences, qualifications etc. that are needed by employers with a smooth pathway to join the workforce and/or progress their careers.

The Employability & Skills Team also provide access to Digital Badging – which operate as micro-credentials - for employers in the city which can be utilised across HR functions, from recruitment through to recognising employee CPD and training.

Belfast City Council The Commercial & Procurement Service

The Commercial & Procurement Service (CPS) team in Belfast City Council (BCC) is committed to ensuring that the purchase of goods, services and works achieves value for money by making a positive difference to the people and communities in Belfast.

By supporting BCC in this way, CPS plays a central role in contributing towards the aims and objectives set out in the Belfast Agenda.

Our approach is about developing local micro and small businesses competitiveness by embedding a category management approach, putting in place supplier relationship management and growing the local market.

BCC is committed to using our influence and procurement power to contribute to the delivery of the Belfast Agenda.



**Belfast
City Council**

Lewis Murray

9-21 Adelaide Street Belfast, BT2 8DJ

07979803111

cps@belfastcity.gov.uk

www.belfastcity.gov.uk





Belfast
City Council

Barry O'Neill

9-21 Adelaide Street Belfast, BT2 8DJ

07393760980

oneillbarry@belfastcity.gov.uk

www.belfastcity.gov.uk



Belfast City Council Vacant to Vibrant

Vacant to Vibrant is a capital grant scheme delivered by Belfast City Council which incentivises both property owners and potential occupiers to bring vacant units back into use and support the cities revitalisation.

This capital grant is designed to improve individual properties, contribute to higher quality streetscapes, sustain jobs and help create new employment opportunities. The scheme supports start-ups, independent retailers, social enterprises and cultural and voluntary organisations to make our city centre offering more diverse and transform vacant spaces to become vibrant once again.

Financial support (grants from +2.5k - +25k) includes smaller financial support to pop-up shops and meanwhile test space (min. 4 months lease) and larger grants to encourage uptake of vacant units (min. 2-year lease).

Belfast City Council Belfast Business Promise Team

Belfast Business Promise is a new accreditation by Belfast City Council, for employers working to improve Belfast.

Working together to make Belfast a better city involves providing good jobs, whilst also supporting a sustainable local economy and building a healthier city for everyone.

We want to create a community of organisations committed to improving how they do business together.



Belfast
City Council

**Keeva Murtagh
Kieran Quinn**

9-21 Adelaide Street Belfast, BT2 8DJ

028 90270482

**Keeva Murtagh - MurtaghK@belfastcity.gov.uk
Kieran Quinn - QuinnK@belfastcity.gov.uk**

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/businesspromise





Belfast
City Council

Gillian McEvoy

**Cecil Ward Building, 4-10 Linenhall
Street, Belfast BT2 8BP**

02890270428

**EnvironmentalHealthService@belfastcity.
gov.uk**

www.belfastcity.gov.uk

**Belfast City Council
Environmental Health**

We can provide advice on compliance with:

- Food Safety
- Health and Safety
- Product Safety
- Tobacco Sales
- Cosmetic Registrations
- Pollution Control Public Health

**Belfast City Council
Challenge Fund Programme**

Within the Digital Pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal Programme, we have a £55m Challenge Fund Programme. This Programme is designed to encourage collaboration between the public sector, academia and industry.

The fund will include a number of funding programmes designed to encourage digital innovation within the region's SME community. The programmes will seek to encourage SMEs to develop innovative digital solutions to address some of the region's most pressing challenges under the areas of net zero, health and wellbeing and AI and big data.



Belfast
City Council

Barry O'Neill

9-21 Adelaide Street Belfast, BT2 8DJ

07393760980

oneillbarry@belfastcity.gov.uk

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/vacanttovibrant



THE VOICE FOR BUSINESS IN BELFAST

info@belfastchamber.com

**Suite 108, Custom House, Custom
House Square, Belfast, BT1 3ET**

02890331399

info@belfastchamber.com

www.belfastchamber.com



Belfast Chamber

Belfast Chamber is a business membership organisation representing businesses of all sizes and sectors, united by a commitment to making Belfast an even better place to live, work, visit, study, and invest. As a member, you gain access to networking events, content-rich seminars and general support that helps small businesses grow and succeed. There are also a range of exclusive benefits designed to help make your business thrive.

Membership provides a strong voice in key discussions, as we advocate for policies that make Belfast more business-friendly, influencing decision-makers at City Hall, Stormont, and Westminster. Our events and networking opportunities enable you to connect with fellow members, expand your network, and collaborate with other local businesses.

Belfast Metropolitan College

Belfast Met provides confidential guidance and one-on-one mentoring to help businesses develop innovative products, services, or processes. Our experts support your journey, from ideation to implementation.

We collaborate with businesses to assess staff training needs and deliver tailored programs, with possible funding for qualifications at Level 2 and above in areas like Leadership, Digital Marketing, HR, Finance, and more. Industry-specific training is available for sectors such as Creative, Manufacturing, and Health & Social Care. For businesses seeking to grow, apprenticeships offer employees a practical pathway to gain qualifications while working. Belfast Met supports apprenticeships from Level 2-5 and offers student work placements for hands-on experience.



Margaret McCabe / Lisa McCaul

**E3 Building, Springvale Campus,
Belfast, BT12 7DU**

02890 265069

businessdevelopment@belfastmet.ac.uk

www.belfastmet.ac.uk/support-for-business/





Catalyst

Pauline Timoney

enquiries@WeAreCatalyst.org

Contact - Catalyst (wearecatalyst.org)

**Catalyst, The Innovation Centre,
Queen's Road, Belfast BT3 9DT**

+44(0)28 9073 7800



Catalyst

Catalyst is an independent, non-profit hub focused on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship in Northern Ireland.

Future Workspace: Catalyst provides modern, flexible workspaces designed for collaboration and creativity, equipped with amenities for work-life balance. Being part of the Catalyst Community of entrepreneurs and mentors offers a unique competitive edge.

Entrepreneurial Support: Catalyst offers programs including mentorship, networking, and access to funding to support entrepreneurs.

Open Innovation: Catalyst connects companies, academia, and government to drive technology-based R&D, helping Northern Ireland lead in innovation.

Construction Industry Training Board

Construction Industry Training Board NI provides a range of services to the industry which incorporates identifying:

- training needs
- encouraging and advising on training
- provision of training grants
- research
- careers promotion
- standards & qualifications
- policy development.

Visit www.citbni.org.uk



Amanda Stevenson

**CITB NI, 17 Dundrod Road, Crumlin, Co Antrim
BT29 4SR**

02890825466

Amanda.stevenson@citbni.org.uk

www.citbni.org.uk





David Phelan – Innovation Partner

**Arthur House, 41 Arthur St, Belfast,
BT1 4GB**

+447425423548

david.phelan@digicatapult.org.uk

www.digicatapult.org.uk



Digital Catapult

Digital Catapult empowers businesses to thrive through the transformative power of deep tech. We spotlight the positive impact of advanced technologies on critical societal and economic challenges, focusing on areas where technology can drive real solutions.

Our approach centres on real-world needs, aligning programmes with industry challenges and delivering impactful support to startups and scaleups. This includes thematic and cross-technology innovation, acceleration activities, ecosystem mapping and field labs.

The Smart Nano NI team based in Belfast unites a diverse group of experts to drive industry innovation via: Photonics, Artificial Intelligence, Machine learning, 5G, IoT, Immersive technologies and Blockchain.

Digital Transformation

Digital Transformation Flexible Fund – Grant support for hardware and software for SMEs looking at Digital Transformation.

AMP – Advanced Media Production programme to support SMEs explore opportunities within the virtual production industry.

Fintech Support Programme – Programme of support for SMEs looking to grow and scale within the financial technology sector.

Challenge Funding – Access to various challenge funding competitions for SMEs with a focus on Immersive Technology and 5G use cases.



Brendan McGoran

9 – 21 Adelaide Street

02890 270453

mcgoranb@belfastcity.gov.uk

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/businessinfo





Graeme Weir

143 Royal Avenue Belfast BT1 1FH

07752574131

Graeme.weir@fsb.org.uk

www.fsb.org.uk



Federation of Small Businesses

FSB provides the largest business resource in the UK, all provided free within the annual membership fee. Membership is open to all businesses ranging from 0 to 250 employees. Charities and Social Enterprises are also welcome.

24/7 legal helpline gives free access to a massive team of lawyers covering all areas of business including but not limited to: employment, health and safety and GDPR. Employment law advice includes fully insured protection in the event of a tribunal.

Our team of ex HMRC inspectors provide a free consultancy service in the event of any tax investigation, this includes approved accountancy bills. Member services include training, insurance brokerage, credit card merchant services and a wide range of banking offers.

Intertrade Ireland

InterTradeIreland is the all-island Trade body. Its role is to assist small businesses in taking advantage of cross border sales and innovation projects.

The Trade Team delivers initiatives to support sales development. This includes advice on Customs, VAT, Regulatory issues and cross border employment matters. Sales support concentrates on: Market research; sales planning and implementation activities such as lead generation, prospecting, sales training and ecommerce.



Grant Gilmore / Martina Keenan

The Old Gasworks Business Park, Kilmorey Street, Newry, County Down, BT34 2DE

028 30834100

trade@intertradeireland.com

www.intertradeireland.com





James House
2-4 Cromac Avenue, The Gasworks,
Belfast, BT7 2JA

03300 552 220

info@lra.org.uk

www.lra.org.uk



Labour Relations Agency

The Labour Relations Agency's purpose is to improve employment relations, promote best employment practice and help to resolve workplace disputes in Northern Ireland.

We support businesses by offering a wide range of high-quality training seminars and digital content on employment legislation and workplace policies and procedures. We are also active in resolving disputes through our conciliation, mediation and arbitration services.

Our Workplace Information Service is a dedicated phone line (03300 555 300) for employment-related queries. The service is confidential, impartial and there is no charge for the information we provide.

NI Cyber Security Centre

We work to make Northern Ireland cyber safe, secure and resilient for its citizens and businesses. We are focused on ensuring that we have a cyber aware society and business community to better protect their technology, systems and data from cyber-attacks.

We work with small businesses to improve their ability to defend against cyber-attacks, increase their knowledge of cyber threats, and become more cyber resilient. In tandem with the National Cyber Security Centre, we ensure they have access to the right advice, guidance and support.



**NI Cyber
Security Centre**

Dawn Jamison

Craigtlet Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast

02890 163137

Info@nicybersecuritycentre.gov.uk

<https://www.nicybersecuritycentre.gov.uk/>





Joelene Poole

**245 Upper Newtownards Road Belfast
BT4 3JF**

0289022004

joelene@retailni.com

www.retailni.com



Retail NI

We are the sole organisation representing the independent retail sector at every level of government, ensuring that the voices of our 2,000 members are heard and valued.

Our diverse membership encompasses wholesalers, independent retailers spanning various industries, suppliers, and affiliated chambers of commerce and local traders' groups.

Together, we form a united front, advocating for the interests of independent retailers across Northern Ireland.

Social Enterprise NI

Social Enterprise NI is the leading representative body and networking organisation for social enterprises in Northern Ireland. Over 12 years we have grown a membership base of over 400 organisations across all sectors who believe in the business model to create income and create profit with purpose.

We exist to strengthen the social enterprise sector in Northern Ireland and support businesses at all stages of their entrepreneurial journey.

For over 12 years, we have represented local social enterprises and worked together to build a stronger collective voice and grow the social enterprise movement. Social Enterprise NI provide support and upskilling to those organisations currently operating as social enterprises or for anyone who is considering establishing one.



Colin Jess/Amanda Johnston

**Innovation Factory, Forthriver Business Park,
Springfield Road, Belfast BT12 7DG**

028 9046 1810

colin@socialenterpriseni.org

www.socialenterpriseni.org





a part of **W**The **WiB** Group

**Roisin McDermott, Head of
Entrepreneurship**

**Arthur House, 41 Arthur Street Belfast BT1
4GB**

info@womeninbusinessni.com

www.womeninbusinessni.com/home



Women in Business

Women in Business provides a range of business start and growth programmes as well as networking events for women led businesses across the Island of Ireland.

NI Chamber

NI Chamber is a well-connected network powered by businesses across Northern Ireland. We empower ambitious business people to connect, learn and grow together.

Our vision is to become the UK's no.1 regional business organisation creating opportunity for NI business and driving the growth and prosperity of the NI economy.

We are a business membership organisation providing unrivalled access to networking, learning and accredited training. We provide members with platforms to raise their profile substantially and act as a powerful voice which influences change for the better. Our team of technical experts provides specific expertise for firms trading internationally, including the processing of export documentation.



**Northern Ireland
Chamber of Commerce
and Industry**

**Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce
and Industry, 40 Linenhall Street, Belfast,**

BT2 8BA

+44 (0)28 9024 4113

mail@northernirelandchamber.com



**Are you ready
to take the
next
step in
business?**



GoSucceed_NI



Go Succeed
NI Business Support