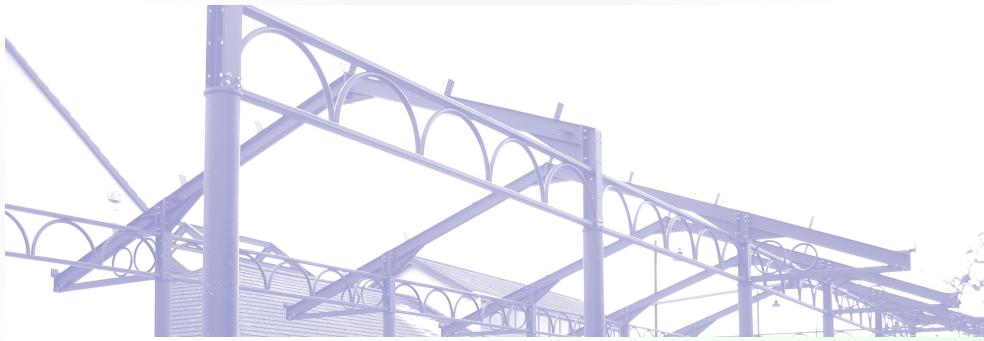


# Ballymoney Business Bulletin



ISSUE 6  
AUTUMN 2011



## Ballymoney Business Survey 2011

As Ballymoney Borough Council commences its rates setting process for the 2012-2013 financial year, local business input is vital to shape the nature and level of the support that the Council's Economic Development Unit can provide to assist companies in the Ballymoney Borough.

Development Committee Chair, Cllr John Finlay "We want to make sure that any support we provide for Ballymoney businesses is the right support."

Current support includes: the 'Steps to Success for Small Business Programme', which has been successfully run across the 4 Council areas of Ballymoney, Moyle, Coleraine and Limavady; and negotiating for the local delivery of an ICT Essential Skills for Business Programme in

Ballymoney, which has just commenced.

Copies of the survey can be downloaded from the business section of the Council website: [www.ballymoney.gov.uk](http://www.ballymoney.gov.uk).

### Want more details?

Contact:

Margaret Doole  
Development Officer

T: (028) 2766 0253

M: 078 8770 4968

E: [business@ballymoney.gov.uk](mailto:business@ballymoney.gov.uk)

Completed surveys must be received by:

**12.00 pm (noon),  
Friday, 2nd December 2011.**

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## Site Seeking?

Despite the economic downturn new businesses continue to be set up in Ballymoney.



Acorn Business Centre rents out industrial units and offices. At present, all office accommodation is fully occupied, however, some industrial units of different sizes are available. These

include 353 sq ft and 1000 sq ft units; the larger units have roller shutter doors.

The cost of a unit includes business rates.

At present Small Business Rate Relief means that an eligible business ratepayer would receive 50% relief on properties with an NAV of £2,000 or less while 25% relief applies to properties with an NAV greater than £2,000 but less than £5,000.

Furthermore, flexible leasing can be negotiated.

For up to date details on available properties at Acorn Business Centre contact, log onto: [www.enterprisingproperties.com](http://www.enterprisingproperties.com), email: [enquiries@acornbusiness.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@acornbusiness.co.uk) or tel. (028) 2766 6133.





## Management and Leadership Development 200+ Directors/Managers Assisted

**F**GS McClure Watters (now RSM McClure Watters) with Envision has now delivered this programme to over 200 Directors and Managers from the NI SME and SEE sector. DEL is continuing to offer **50% bursary support** for this project, up to March 2012. The programme will be delivered in Belfast is **now accepting** applications for the following course dates:

- **Senior Manager/Director Management and Leadership Development Programme (pre-profiling + 2 day course- £756 +VAT) – 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> December**
- **Bursary Funding eligibility criteria:** For SMEs and SEEs, all :
  - **Must have** 10 to 250 employees

- **Must not** be in receipt of core funding from any other public sector organisation. Additionally, SEEs **must:**
- **be registered companies**, limited by guarantee (Companies Registry number should be provided)
- **have a commercial activity** at their core (i.e. generate funding other than solely through donations, on-street collections etc).

**For more Information contact:**

**Elaine Scullion**

**T:** (028) 9045 2777

**E:** [elaines@envision-ni.co.uk](mailto:elaines@envision-ni.co.uk)

**W:** [www.delni.gov.uk/madenotborn](http://www.delni.gov.uk/madenotborn)



## The Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme

**Are you:**

- **aged 18-30?**
- **have a business idea you want help to explore,**
- **unemployed or work less than 16 hours a week**



The Enterprise Programme offers mentoring and financial support to start a business or mentoring support to secure goals in employment, education or training.

**WHAT will you get?**

- Advice on employment options
- Business skills training
- Business planning support
- Start-up loan funding
- Ongoing support from a volunteer business mentor
- Access to specialist support, including our free legal helpline

**WHERE?**

Block 5 Jennymount Court,  
North Derby Street  
BELFAST BT15 3HN

**WHEN?**

Information Sessions @ 3.00 pm

Mon 28th Nov 2011

Enterprise Programme: 10.00am-4.00pm

5th - 8th Dec 2011

**CONTACT?**

Bronagh McCulla

**T:** (028) 9075 8109

**E:** [Bronagh.mcculla@princes-trust.org.uk](mailto:Bronagh.mcculla@princes-trust.org.uk)

**W:** [www.princes-trust.org.uk](http://www.princes-trust.org.uk)

*What could the Prince's Trust do for you?*

*"I'm now doing what I've always wanted to do, working with the people I want to work with and working for the sort of clients I've always dreamed of."*

*Syd,  
Enterprise Programme Participant*

## Agency Workers New Rights

From 5th December 2011, Agency workers in Northern Ireland (also known as 'temps'), will be entitled to the same basic rights as they would if they had been employed directly.

Some of these rights will begin from Day 1 of their assignment. For workers on existing assignments Day 1 will be 5th December 2011.

Other rights will begin once a 12-week qualifying period in the same job has been completed. For agency workers on an existing assignment, the 12-week qualifying period will only commence from 5th December 2011.

### Day 1 Rights:

- Access to collective facilities, e.g. childcare, canteen facilities, etc.
- Access to information on job vacancies

### Qualifying 12-Week Rights:

- Equal pay
- Equal basic working conditions, e.g. working hours, rest breaks, annual leave, time off for ante-natal appointments, etc.

It should be noted that the change in rights does not mean a change in employment status.

Furthermore, rights will be slightly different for those Agency workers under 'the Swedish derogation'.

The Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) has published guidance, which gives detailed information on the regulations and which workers fall within the scope of the regulations.

Download a copy of the guidance from:

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/awrniguide>

## National Minimum Wage 2011 New Rates – Apprentices and adults benefit most

From 1st October 2011 the National Minimum Wage rate has increased. The new rates (increases) for workers are:

- **Aged 21 and over - £6.08 an hour** (up 15p)
- **Aged 18 to 20 - £4.98 an hour** (up 6p)
- **Aged 16 to 17 £3.68 an hour** (up 4p)
- **Apprentices under 19 or 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship - £2.60 an hour** (up 10p)



Those aged 21+ gained the most amount per hour at an increase of 15p per hour, following by apprentices with an increase of 10p per hour.

Adults gained most amount per hour, but it was apprentices that gained the largest % increase with an increase of 4%. Adults gained 2.5%, and 18 to 20s gained 1.2%

Those aged 16 to 17 had the smallest increase in both actual money and %, with their 4p per hour equating to a raise of 1.1%.

For more information, log on to [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk)

## Equality Commission—Upcoming Employer Training

The Equality Commission is responsible for promoting awareness of and enforcing anti-discrimination law and organises FREE training workshops for Employers. Over the next few months the following workshops are being held (\*denotes workshops held in conjunction with Labour Relations Agency). For more details, alternative dates, or to register, log onto [www.equalityni.org](http://www.equalityni.org).

| Workshop Title                              | Date and Time                | Location                          |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Affirmative and Positive Action</b>      | 1 Dec 2011 @ 10am - 1pm      | Equality House, BELFAST           |
| <b>How to Complete an Article 55 Review</b> | 7 Dec 2011 @ 9.30am - 1pm    | Equality House, BELFAST           |
| <b>Reasonable Steps Defence</b>             | 13 Dec 2011 @ 10am - 12 noon | Tullyglass House Hotel, BALLYMENA |
| <b>Disability in the Workplace</b>          | 26 Jan 2012 @ 10am - 3pm     | Tullyglass House Hotel, BALLYMENA |
| <b>Equality Awareness</b>                   | 9 Feb 2012 @ 10am - 1pm      | White Horse Hotel, L/Derry        |
| <b>Flexible Working</b>                     | 23 Feb 2012 @ 10am - 1pm     | Tullyglass House Hotel, BALLYMENA |
| <b>Sex Equality</b>                         | 22 Mar 2012 @ 10am - 1pm     | Equality House, BELFAST           |
| <b>Employing Migrant Workers*</b>           | 27 Mar 2012 @ 10am - 1pm     | Equality House, BELFAST           |



The Consumer Council

## Get Ready for Winter and Save Money

Consumer Council's Head of Water, Graham Smith explains how the Consumer Council can help you and your business this winter.

Burst pipes and leaks cost your business money. They can stop your water supply, force you to close, lose business, damage property, be expensive to fix, and if you are on a water meter your water bill will increase.

You are responsible for the pipes within your property. By taking some simple steps you can be better prepared for winter.

- Make sure pipes and tanks in unheated areas, e.g. lofts, roof spaces, garages, outbuildings, etc, are insulated.
- Find your internal stop tap/valve. Test that it is working. Make sure all your staff know where it is and how to turn it off.
- Have a back-up plan. What would you do if you lost your water supply?
- If you have a water meter take regular meter readings. (This can help you check if you have any leaks.)
- Regularly check your property for bursts and leaks.

- If you close during a holiday period get someone to check your property.

### If a pipe freezes:

- Turn off your stop tap/valve.
- Defrost the pipe with warm cloths.
- Don't thaw too quickly as this could make the pipe burst.

### If a pipe bursts:

- Turn off your stop tap/valve.
- Then turn on your taps to empty the pipes and reduce flooding.
- Contact a qualified plumber.

If you have a complaint or want advice contact the Consumer Council for a free, independent complaint and advice service about energy, water and transport. For more information, contact The Consumer Council:

Tele/textphone: (028) 9067 2488

Complaints: 0800 121 6022

Email: [info@consumercouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@consumercouncil.org.uk)

Website: [www.consumercouncil.org.uk](http://www.consumercouncil.org.uk)

## North East Rural Businesses— 50% Funding Available

Businesses within rural areas in Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine, Larne and Moyle have a unique opportunity to access finance under the Rural Development Programme.

Under Measures 3.1 and 3.2, rural businesses can access up to 50% funding that can be up to a maximum of £50,000. Measure 3.2 is specifically for businesses that are not on a farm. Businesses just have to be based in a rural ward and be micro-businesses, i.e. less than 9 employees.

At a time when banks are being criticised for their lack of financial support to the small and medium sized business sector, this funding is an opportunity not to be missed.

Micro-businesses, which are based in rural areas, and which are seeking finance to create or develop their business are urged to

make the most of this exceptional opportunity.

Under Measure 3.2, the business must include an element of production, craft, process, or specialist service and the project should be aimed at specialist or niche markets. Importantly, the business must not cause displacement.

Businesses that are based on farms should apply under Measure 3.1 - [Farm] Diversification.

This funding is not limitless so to ensure that your business does not lose out, contact the North East Rural Development Office to discuss your idea.

**Contact:** Eamonn Matthews

**Tel:** (028) 2563 8263

**E-mail:** [Eamonn.rdp@ballymena.gov.uk](mailto:Eamonn.rdp@ballymena.gov.uk)

**Website:** [www.northeastrdp.com](http://www.northeastrdp.com)

*At a time when banks have are being criticised in the media for their lack of financial support to the small and medium sized business sector, this funding is an opportunity not to be missed.*

## Innovation Vouchers Scheme Open

The latest round of the Innovation Vouchers Scheme opened on **1st November 2011** and will close again on the **30th November 2011**.

Through the programme a voucher of up to £4000 is provided to small enterprises (i.e. less than 50 employees and/or €10million turnover) to enable them to work with one of the 41 publicly funded research organisations throughout Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. To be eligible companies must have a valid NI company registration number.

Owing to high demand, priority will be given to those enterprises that have most potential to further develop their business. It should be noted that there are exclusions around small enterprises in the agricultural and transportation sectors.

Innovative activities could include more cost effective ways of doing things or adding additional dimensions to your products or services. It could also provide information on new materials and products, improve processes or offer research to find a solution to a problem.

For more information on innovations vouchers and/or to apply, log onto:

<http://www.innovationvouchers.com/>

## DARD Research Challenge Fund Open

The DARD Research Challenge Fund opened again on 27th October 2011 and will remain open until **5.00 pm on 4th January 2012**.

The DARD Research Challenge Fund (RCF) gives small and medium sized businesses from the agri-food and other rural sectors an opportunity to get help with research. In this round of the Fund (which is worth £800,000) a grant of up to 50% is available for assistance with research funding.

During the first round of the RCF, DARD awarded grants of almost £500k for a broad range of research projects. Details of the successful projects are available to download from DARD's website.

For more details on the Research Challenge Fund and previous projects funded, log onto:

<http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/strategies-reports-accounts/dard-research-section/dard-research-challenge-fund-rcf.htm>

If you have any queries regarding the fund, please contact:

### The Research Challenge Fund Team

**Tel:** (028) 9052 5036

**Email:** [rcf@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:rcf@dardni.gov.uk)

## Better Business—Focus on Finance

Invest Northern Ireland  
Building Locally  
Competing Globally

Invest NI, as part of its **Boosting Business Initiative**, is holding a series of Focus on Finance seminars across Northern Ireland. These seminars are aimed at helping your business defy the economic downturn. Each workshop will provide clear, succinct advice on key areas with a range of practical steps you can take to:

- **improve your cashflow;**
- **manage payments and suppliers;**
- **recover debt and avoid insolvency;**
- **access funding for new projects; and**
- **plan for the future.**

You can also apply for up to **five days free** Financial Advice Consultancy at the seminars, if your business has been trading for more than 2 years.

**Wednesday, 30 November 2011**  
**from 8.30am - 1.15pm**  
**Tullyglass Hotel, Ballymena**

### SCHEDULE

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 8.30am  | Registration  |
| 9.00am  | Introduction  |
| 9.15am  | Workshop 1: How to manage the cash in your business |
| 10.15am | Workshop 2: How to plan the future of your business |
| 11.15am | Workshop 3 How to access cash for your business     |
| 12.15pm | Summary, and Application process                    |
| 1.15 pm | Lunch   |

*NB You will be able to attend all 3 workshop as you will put into groups on arrival.*

To register your place (and places are limited), log onto:

[www.investni.com/registration](http://www.investni.com/registration)

European Union  
  
European Regional Development Fund  
Investing in your future



**BALLYMONEY**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

**DEVELOPMENT UNIT**

Riada House  
14 Charles Street  
BALLYMONEY  
BT41 3HP

Tel: (028) 2766 0253

Fax: (028) 2766 0222

E-mail:

business@ballymoney.gov.uk

[www.ballymoney.gov.uk](http://www.ballymoney.gov.uk)

Ballymoney Borough Council's Economic Development Unit's strategic aim is to:

**'Encourage social and economic development in the [Ballymoney] borough'**

To this end 6 key priority areas have been identified:

- **Strengthen the Enterprise base:** *Improve the competitiveness of existing enterprises and accelerate the formation of sustainable new business and jobs.*
- **Tourism Development:** *Further develop the tourism industry in the Borough through partnerships and by promoting opportunities which exist internally and externally within the sector as a source of tourism revenue and jobs*
- **Town Centre Development:** *Strengthen the town as a shopping and hospitality base for both those living locally and the tourist population to attract new business, revenue and jobs.*
- **Social Economy:** *Encourage social enterprise as part of the wider encouraging entrepreneurship agenda to tackle economic regeneration, job creation and relationship issues in their communities, improving the quality of life (economically, socially and environmentally) for residents.*
- **Partnership Working:** *Working internally and externally to achieve its goals.*

## Get Yourself Noticed for the Right Reasons—Planning... Your Sign

### ARTICLE 84

**Up to £2,500  
+ another  
£250 per  
day**

*"Every business likes a nice display,  
A sign to the people just to say,  
Here's where I am and what I do!  
But here is a word of caution for you,  
Ignore planning guidance when  
erecting your sign,  
And you may be ordered to pay a  
fine."*

Outdoor advertising is everywhere... on billboards, on shop-fronts, buses and hoardings.

It introduces businesses, their brand, their products and/or services. It can lead to the generation of new business through new or existing customers.

It can be bright, gaudy, dark, sombre, informative, entertaining. Its aim to attract customers and clients. But... it can also attract complaints, summary and daily fines and enforcement notices.

The Department of the Environment (DOE) has overall responsibility for the

control of outdoor advertising through its planning authority.

PPS17 sets out its policy and guidance for the control of outdoor advertisements. This policy's main concern is the effect an outdoor advertisement may have on amenity and safety including road safety.

Enforcement is through Article 84 of the Planning NI order. Through this order, the Department can seek to prosecute:

- (a) **the person, business or company responsible for the advertisement;**
- (b) **the landowner or the occupier of the land;**

(c) **the person, business or company being advertised; or**  
(d) **any combination of (a)-(c).**

As well as an initial fine of up to £2,500, a daily fine of £250 can also be applied.

For more information download a copy of PPS 17, available from: [www.planningni.gov.uk](http://www.planningni.gov.uk)

Or contact the Coleraine planning office:

County Hall  
Castlerock Road  
COLERAINE

T: 101 or  
(028) 9151 3101

E: [coleraine.planning@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:coleraine.planning@doeni.gov.uk)