

Attend workshops and events



Business Gateway offers an extensive programme of training and events aimed at West Lothian businesses. Through our European Funded Business Competitiveness Programme we provide access to subject specialists across key business sectors.

Digital Marketing & Social Media

workshops delivered by NSDesign offers a range of digital marketing and communications training courses to help your business thrive. From our flagship 'Embrace The Space' social networking masterclass, to our 'Hot 100 – Digital Marketing Essentials' and 'Engaging Video Content' our interactive approach has a powerful track record of success.

“ The workshop I attended was first class and would recommend the course to other businesses. ”

Archie Meikle,
Ashwood Scotland Ltd

“ Finding out all the hidden parts of social media which could help my business. ”

Rebecca Noble, T.T.S 24-7

Strategic Leadership Programme

delivered by Matrix, aims to help participants develop an understanding of effective leadership, and the importance of a strategic approach to business growth to develop leaders who are more able to impact on the growth of their business. It consists of five half day workshops which are based on practical lessons and techniques.

Financial Growth Workshops are delivered by Springfords LLP and cover topics such as: Making Tax Digital; Retaining Key Employees While You Grow Your Business - looking at what motivates your employees; Share Option Schemes and Management Buy Outs; and Growing Your Business by Acquisition - discussing finding, valuing and funding the right business.

Procurement Surgeries ran by Intend Business Development give companies access to one hour free practical advice on topics such as Public Contracts Scotland; Business Development for Public Sector Markets; and How to complete tender forms. As a result of attending the surgery you will be able to plan your tender more effectively.

Take a half day or a couple of hours out of your day to add to your skillset and enjoy networking with other forward-thinking small and medium sized businesses.

Key Annual Achievements



Over **550** existing businesses supported

Over **400** businesses started

Over **£2m** awarded through West Lothian Growth Plan

Over **240** business information requests completed

We provide free business support across West Lothian with advisers in Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn, Linlithgow, Whitburn, Fauldhouse and our main office in Arrochar House, Civic Square, Livingston.

Call 01506 283400 for an appointment.

Local Offices

Arrochar House
Civic Square
Almondvale Boulevard
Livingston
EH54 6QJ

Call in the experts

to reach the next level of success



Priority Actions



Assistance from Business Gateway will help with key areas such as:

Business Change

Standing still is not an option. Let us help you make the difficult choices, at the right time for the best reasons. We will work with you to see your business transformed.

Sales and Marketing

How can you win more sales? How can you develop new markets? How do you raise the profile of your business? We can help.

Employing People

Finding and keeping the right staff can give you a competitive advantage – never has that been more important than today. There are various grants available to help you train and employ staff including Steps N2 Work wage subsidy programme, Training Grants and support from advisers who can provide Specialist Employment advice.

Expert Help

Through Business Gateway West Lothian, businesses can access fully or partly funded consultancy support. This is provided via specialists who would provide tailored, expert advice.

Market Intelligence

Free business information service including Market Research and Intelligence; Statistics and Demographics; Company Lists and Property Searches.

Supplier Development Programme

The Supplier Development Programme is a local authority partnership programme established to offer SMEs support and training to improve their performance in winning contracts with public sector organisations.

For more information www.sdpscotland.co.uk

Grants and Loans



Help is available to businesses that are planning to start-up, locate or expand in West Lothian.

Get in touch if you are:

- Introducing a new product or service
- Building your competitiveness through marketing and staff development
- Investing in manufacturing/quality improvements
- Exporting
- Expanding and recruiting
- Opening up new markets through e-commerce.



We can help if you are:

Starting a new business:

Introduction to Business Grant

This funding is part of our in-depth support to help people develop viable business plans and access sources of funding. This support aims to give people the best possible start in their new business venture. Sustained aftercare support is also provided once businesses have been set-up. Maximum grant of £500 for eligible businesses.

High Growth Start Up Grant

Exclusive to businesses within the first 18 months of trading. Businesses can receive grant support of up to £2,000 to bring new products to market, attend trade events and build capacity within the business, leading to additional employment.



Growing your business:

Project Grant

Up to £10,000 against at least £20,000 of eligible costs. Aims to help firms enhance their competitive edge through capacity building and efficiency improvements.



Growth Assistance Project

Support will be considered for projects involving total eligible costs of at least £100,000, typical grant award of £45,000. Applications need to demonstrate that the proposed project will be strategic to the development of the business by improving competitiveness and creating (or safe-guarding) jobs.

Business Loan Scotland

Business Loan Scotland offers secured, gap loans of up to £50,000 to viable West Lothian businesses in priority economic sectors including manufacturing, engineering and technology. It aims to ensure that commercially viable proposals do not fail from a lack of access to finance. BLS, as a public sector owned fund, can provide up to 50% of the funding package required to help grow your business. The balance of the funding package must be provided by the private sector, usually from owners, directors or banks.



We also offer funding for:

Shop Front Improvement Grants, Childminding Grants, Steps N2 Work Wage Subsidy Programme.