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| **Advice and guidance– latest update** |
| Updates from 4 June   * **International Travel** - The Department of Health have published an update on International Travel restrictions.   + Red List additions - Afghanistan, Bahrain, Costa Rica, Egypt, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Trinidad and Tobago will be added to the Red List from 4am on Tuesday 8 June.   + Green List - Portugal will be removed from the Green list and added to the Amber list at **4am on Tuesday 8th June**. Anyone arriving to Northern Ireland, either directly or indirectly from Portugal, after 4am on Tuesday 8 June will be legally required to: * provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test result taken up to three days before departure * book post-arrival day 2 and 8 testing * complete a UK passenger locator form 48 hours before departure * self-isolate for 10 days * **Table Service** – following a proposal from Minister Dodds, the Executive have agreed to a limited relaxation on the requirement to provide table service only. It is understood this will be relaxed for coffee shops and carveries **from Saturday 5 June.** * **Live Music** – A proposal to agree a date for live music to be permitted in venues, brought forward by the Communities Minister, has been deferred to the formal review of the next level of restrictions on **10th June**.   Significant relaxations to the Covid-19 restrictions came into effect from Monday 24 May. **Next review 10 June Home and community**   * Allow indoor visits in domestic settings   + Up to 6 people from no more than 2 households   + Does not include children under 12   + Can be more if household has more than 6, but not more than 10   + Overnight stays permitted * Removal of stay local message   **Education and young people**   * Schools can resume extra-curricular activities * Indoor extra-curricular sports allowed * Outdoor inter-schools sports allowed * Day educational visits allowed   **Culture, heritage and entertainment**   * Indoor visitor attractions can reopen   + Includes amusement arcades, bingo halls, museums, galleries and cinemas   + Social distancing where possible   + Risk assessment to maximum capacity   + All contact details must be taken and retained * Libraries can reopen   + Provide limited in-library services in line with permitted gathering numbers   **Sports and leisure activities**   * Indoor group exercise and training can resume   + Includes soft play areas, leisure centres, gyms, swimming pools, equestrian centres, venues relating to motor sport and activity centres.   + Numbers limited to suit the venue   + Social distancing where possible   + Risk assessment to maximum capacity   + All contact details must be taken and retained * Full return to outdoor sport. Removal of:   + The limit of 15;   + The limit on squad training;   + The requirement for outdoor sport being permitted only for those affiliated to a Governing body or an organisation that regulates a sport or sporting activity; and   + The cap of 100 on competitive sporting events, and replace with an overall limit of 500 on all outdoor sporting events * Indoor club training in squads allowed   + No limits on numbers   **Travel and tourism**   * Reopen the remainder of travel and tourism   + All contact details must be taken and retained   + Rooms/accommodation area booking in line with the permission re indoor domestic settings/bubbles   + Shared facilities will reopen   + Meeting rooms will be reopened - capacity will be to risk assessment maximum * Post wedding and civil partnership receptions permitted   + Risk assessment for capacity   + No restriction on top table   + Other tables maximum of 10 (no household restriction)   + Children under 12 excluded from table numbers   + One dance permitted for the couple   + Music same as for licenced venues   **Hospitality**   * Reopen unlicensed and licensed premises indoors with mitigations   + 6 together from unlimited households (indoor and outdoor)   + Children under 12 are not counted in the 6   + More will be permitted per table, if all are from one household, to a maximum of 10   + Table service only   + All contact details must be recorded and retained.   + Social distancing required – minimum of 1m.   + Must stay at table – no gaming machines, pool tables, etc.;   + Face coverings must be worn once no longer seated for any reason, for example, to go to the toilet   + No meal requirement   + No dancing   + No live music   + Music must be at ambient level to permit normal conversation   + Risk assessment as per current regulations for outdoors   **Other hospitality events**   * For example gala dinners, functions, ticketed or not * Capacity to risk assessment maximum * Subject to other indoor hospitality requirements e.g. table seating, contact details, music etc. * Conference facilities in tourism sector – the closure will be removed from the Regulations to allow use for other purposes to risk assessment capacity   **Indoor and outdoor gatherings**   * Increase numbers permitted for indoor gatherings (non domestic)   + Subject to risk assessment per venue   + Allows resumption of community events   + Risk assessment required if over 15 people * Increase numbers for outdoor gatherings   + Increase to 500, or capped at risk assessment level if lower   + Allows up to 500 spectators at any outdoors event (sport/concerts etc)   + Risk assessment required if over 30 people   + Lateral flow tests advised for any planned larger events   Detailed, up-to-date information on all international travel arrangements can be found on nidirect [www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-international-travel-advice](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nidirect.gov.uk%2Farticles%2Fcoronavirus-covid-19-international-travel-advice&data=04%7C01%7CVivienne.Walsh%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7C325756c764964de7dd7708d9011aad58%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637542036388465889%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=yGep4%2F6jGYl70vYYUM%2Fgl7XeS7445t7gLcC2J2zjj3Q%3D&reserved=0) |

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| **Government Support for your Business** | | **Keep up to date with the latest information at:** [**https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/campaign/coronavirus-updates-support-your-business**](https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/campaign/coronavirus-updates-support-your-business)  **Guidance for NI companies** [**https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-guidance-information-for-ni-businesses-employers?utm\_source=e7492372-e10b-4879-93a6-9a71f788f1f8&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm\_content=immediate**](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/covid-19-guidance-information-for-ni-businesses-employers?utm_source=e7492372-e10b-4879-93a6-9a71f788f1f8&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate)  **Working Safely Guidance for different business settings -** [**https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/node/23544**](https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/node/23544) | |
| **Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme** | The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS) - also known as the furlough scheme, is being **extended until September 2021**. Employers will be expected to pay 10% towards the hours their staff who do not work in July, increasing to 20% in August and September, as the economy reopens.  Find out more here: <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/business-support/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme-uk-wide> | |
| **Businesses** | | |
| **Covid-19 Self-Isolation Grant** | The non-repayable Discretionary Support Self-Isolation Grant assists with short-term living expenses where a person on a low income or any member of their immediate family are diagnosed with Covid-19 or advised to self-isolate in accordance with guidance published by the Public Health Agency.  The financial support available will vary according to the period of financial need and individual circumstances.  To check out if you are eligible and apply for the Discretionary Support Self-Isolation grant go to [https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/extra-financial-support](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nidirect.gov.uk%2Farticles%2Fextra-financial-support&data=04%7C01%7CVivienne.Walsh%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7Cc202a00874a047c5c8d608d88a1cb463%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C1%7C637411203183620965%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=5TcaFGUe0TeTHY%2FWs5TVYoDAgxCipaLG0w139KbLz8Q%3D&reserved=0) or telephone (Freephone 0800 587 2750). | |
| **SSP for Small & medium-sized UK based businesses and employers** | Covers up to 2 weeks’ SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19. Visit here for more information: <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-claim-back-statutory-sick-pay-paid-your-employees-due-coronavirus-covid-19> | |
| **Loans** | | |
| **Bounce Back Loan scheme** | The Bounce Back Loan scheme helps small and medium-sized businesses to borrow between £2,000 and up to 25% of their turnover. The maximum loan available is £50,000. The government guarantees 100% of the loan and there will not be any fees or interest to pay for the first 12 months. After 12 months, the interest rate will be 2.5% a year.  If you already have a Bounce Back Loan but borrowed less than you were entitled to, from 10 November you can top up your existing loan to your maximum amount.  Further information here: <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-apply-bounce-back-loan-scheme> | |
| **NI Small Business Loan** | Part of the Invest NI Access to Finance Strategy providing loans of £10-£15,000 to start-up businesses and £10-£100.000 for established businesses.  The NISBLF II funding can be used as well as the Bounce Back and CBILS loans.  To find out more visit [www.nisblf.com](http://www.nisblf.com/) or call: Michael Carlin T: 07545250658 or Donal Leahy T: 07999751095 | |
| **Coronavirus Small/Medium Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS)** | **CBILS helps small and medium-sized businesses to access loans and other kinds of finance up to £5 million. The government guarantees 80 per cent of the finance to the lender and pays interest and any fees for the first 12 months.**  **For more information on:** <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/coronavirus-apply-coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-small-and-medium-sized>  **The scheme is open for applications until 31 January 2021.** | |
| **Recovery Loan Scheme** | From 6 April 2021 the Recovery Loan Scheme will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on eligible loans between £25,000 and £10 million. The scheme will be open to all businesses, including those who have already received support under the existing COVID-19 guaranteed loan schemes.  From 6 April, businesses – ranging from coffee shops and restaurants, to hairdressers and gyms – and can access loans varying in size from £25,000, up to a maximum of £10 million. Invoice and asset finance is available from £1,000.  26 lenders have already been accredited from day one of the scheme, with more to come shortly, and the government will provide an 80% guarantee for all loans. Interest rates have been capped at 14.99% and are expected to be much lower than that in the vast majority of cases, and Ministers are urging lenders to ensure they keep rates down to help protect jobs. The Recovery Loan Scheme can be used as an additional loan on top of support received from the emergency schemes – such as the Bounce Back Loan Scheme and Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme – put into place last year. | |
| **Rates** | | |
| **Rates Relief**  **Murphy bolsters business with £230 million rates holiday** | Finance Minister, Conor Murphy has announced he is extending the rates holiday for a further 12 months for 29,000 businesses at a cost of £230 million.  Businesses in the following sectors will pay no rates in 2021-22 for the second year running:   * Airports (Belfast City, Belfast International and City of Derry); * Childcare; * Hospitality, tourism and leisure; * Manufacturing; * Newspaper production; and * Retail (excluding larger food stores and off-licences) | |
| **VAT** | | |
| **Tax Liabilities** | | |
| **Tax Assistance** | Firms  and  individuals  who  are  in  temporary  financial  distress as a result of Covid-19 and have outstanding tax liabilities may apply to HMRC to defer tax payments:  [For more information on the Tax Helpline to support businesses affected by Covid-19 visit the Gov.UK website](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fnews%2Ftax-helpline-to-support-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19&data=02%7C01%7CGary.Sullivan%40midandeastantrim.gov.uk%7Ca11b156f0c18466358fb08d7d19fbc73%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637208356291991264&sdata=M865VoL0nx5swxChTkK%2FKLRLBD5aQVJVAYgsL%2FYNv9g%3D&reserved=0) on <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tax-helpline-to-support-businesses-affected-by-coronavirus-covid-19>  **Assistance for the firms and individuals T: 0800 024 1222** | |
| **Self Employed** | | |  |
| **Universal Credit Allowance** | The UK Government recognises the continued impact that coronavirus (COVID-19) has had on the self-employed and has taken action to provide support. To access information visit <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/business-support/self-employment-income-support-scheme-seiss-uk-wide> | |
| **Self-Employed** | The UK Government recognises the continued impact that coronavirus (COVID-19) has had on the self-employed and has taken action to provide support. To access information visit <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/business-support/self-employment-income-support-scheme-seiss-uk-wide>  A 5th grant will be available from July. The has been an amendment with regard to eligibility for full grant as follows:   * + People whose turnover has fallen by 30% or more will continue to receive the full 80% grant.   + People whose turnover has fallen by less than 30% will receive a 30% grant. | |
| **Poots announces details of £2million Covid-19 support scheme for potato growers** | Agriculture Minister Edwin Poots MLA has provided further information on the £2million financial support package for potato growers following a meeting with representatives of the UFU Potato Committee.  This financial support is in response to the significant reduction in demand from the hospitality and food service sector for processing potatoes in the past six months due to Covid-19 lockdown measures.  **Growers who still have quantities of unsold potatoes in their stores, which were destined for the potato processing supply chain, must complete an online Expression of Interest form to register for the scheme and request an inspection of all potatoes held in their stores.**  **Following verification of potatoes in stores that are no longer of acceptable quality for the processing market, growers can dispose of them for animal feed or as raw material for anaerobic digesters. This will simplify the administrative process and reduce the amount of bureaucracy for growers.**  **With the hospitality industry reopening, growers with good quality potatoes in cold stores may yet have an opportunity to sell their potatoes into the processing market. Final inspections of potatoes held in cold stores to verify quantities that are only suitable for stock feed will not take place until late July.**  Further details of the scheme and the Expression of Interest form are available on the DAERA website – [https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/Coronavirus-Income-Support-Scheme](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.daera-ni.gov.uk%2Farticles%2FCoronavirus-Income-Support-Scheme&data=04%7C01%7C%7Ca13e9427bd664348a03b08d9203bba83%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637576263173047375%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=86wYcgHJ8%2Bbjt6OPy0dhEvu%2BNcmJeVa%2B454KsnVhVW0%3D&reserved=0) | |
| **Additional info** | Insurers must pay small firms for Covid lockdown losses - BBC News  <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-55661702> | |

**Coronavirus: Support for your Business through Mid and East Antrim Borough Council**

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the support available, please contact Mid & East Antrim Borough Council’s Economic Development Team on:

Email: [amplify@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:amplify@midandeastantrim.gov.uk)

Keep up to date with the latest information at: <https://www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/covid-19/supporting-ourmea-businesses/>

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| **In Place** | | **Details** |
| **Support for Small/Med sized businesses** | | **Amplify Business Escalator Programme**  Council is supporting our existing small and medium sized businesses to navigate through COVID-19 and prepare for the new economic landscape post lockdown to sustain jobs.  We can help businesses realise their potential, proactively plan for a new way of working, prepare robust financial plans and to ensure an effective and efficient way of working to service their existing customers and new markets.  We can provide you with 1-1 mentoring support in the following areas  **Finance Support**   * Detailed business plan and financials to access finance from lenders * Preparing accounts and Financial Projections * Financial management planning   **HR Support**   * Taking staff off Furlough and reviewing contracts of employees * HR policies after COVID-19 * Capacity Planning   **Diversification**   * How to generate new revenue streams for your business * New product/service ideas * Market Research   **Business Continuity**   * Supply chain management * Social distancing measures in a return to business post lockdown * Maintaining products and services * Streamlining systems and processes   **Strategic Business**   * Develop your business strategy * Monitoring and review pre and post Covid 19 * Goal Mapping   Please note the above supports can be tailored to your specific needs. If you want to access support contact and email   * E: [amplify@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:amplify@midandeastantrim.gov.uk?subject=Covid-19%20Business%20Support%20enquiry%20via%20MEA%20website) * T: 028 2563 5036   *Eligible businesses must be based in the Mid and East Antrim District Council areas and employ less than 50 people. This project is part-funded by Invest Northern Ireland and the European Regional Development Fund under the Investment for Growth & Jobs Northern Ireland (2014-2020) Programme* |
| **Advice and Guidance** | **Support for Small/Med sized businesses** | **Go for it**  Are still here to help you start a business. Business advisors can now  provide virtual meetings to discuss as business idea.  Call 0800 027 0639 or visit goforitni.com |
| **Business Webinars**  **Mentoring Support** | Support for Small/ Medium sized businesses | Council are providing a blend of dedicated webinars (accessible at any time) which follow with provision to book one to one mentoring slots to support your business in key areas of Finance, Human Resources and Digital/Online business.  **Webinars & Support for 2021**  cid:image003.jpg@01D75179.ECD391A0  Council’s Digital Boost Programme brings you a series of webinars designed to empower you to setup and manage key online platforms for your business.  Commencing 20 May through to 24 June.   * Create your very own profitable online store with **Shopify** * Master your own **WordPress** websites, * Learn how to climb search engine rankings in an increasingly competitive marketplace using **Core Vitals**   Tailored one to one follow on mentoring support will be provided to take forward what you have learned from these sessions and embed in to your businesses for future growth.  **Simply click on the link below to register for each of the upcoming events:**  Digital Boost Webinar Event Series – Core Vitals – 3rd June 2021 - [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mea-digital-boost-webinar-event-series-core-web-vitals-tickets-154691296833](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eventbrite.co.uk%2Fe%2Fmea-digital-boost-webinar-event-series-core-web-vitals-tickets-154691296833&data=04%7C01%7C%7C7f2c1ddba352474ab81408d91f8b3dd4%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637575505159645109%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=a1BywVZBMu%2BAA8yv%2BWM7MJZUSCmHWijnYtSVYsdL4jg%3D&reserved=0)  Digital Boost - Webinar Event Series - WordPress (2 Sessions) – 8th & 15th June 2021 - [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mea-digital-boost-webinar-event-series-wordpress-2-sessions-tickets-154395536205](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eventbrite.co.uk%2Fe%2Fmea-digital-boost-webinar-event-series-wordpress-2-sessions-tickets-154395536205&data=04%7C01%7C%7C7f2c1ddba352474ab81408d91f8b3dd4%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637575505159655077%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=uLrQL1wuLX1tfumjU7dFUVSCZUo5hNxYGG0l3GokswM%3D&reserved=0)  Digital Boost - Webinar Event Series – Shopify (3 Sessions) – 10th, 17th & 24th June 2021 - [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mea-digital-boost-webinar-event-series-shopify-3-sessions-tickets-154569562723](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.eventbrite.co.uk%2Fe%2Fmea-digital-boost-webinar-event-series-shopify-3-sessions-tickets-154569562723&data=04%7C01%7C%7C7f2c1ddba352474ab81408d91f8b3dd4%7C54a722d029fa45c7b8d0b56f419033cd%7C0%7C0%7C637575505159655077%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=gwe3Sipnhg%2B3kcUHNdVwg%2BTcHa0949kC6gPXGG8bt%2B8%3D&reserved=0)  **Business Finance queries:** Laura McCourt  [Laura.McCourt@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:Laura.McCourt@midandeastantrim.gov.uk)  **Digital/Remote Working queries**: Barbara Orr [Barbara.Orr@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:Barbara.Orr@midandeastantrim.gov.uk)  **Human Resources queries:** Allastar McGarry [Allastar.McGarry@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:Allastar.McGarry@midandeastantrim.gov.uk) Online webinars from 2020Digital/Online Business Live Webinar 1 - Working from Home Get assistance on how to work from home to (set up a remote office/stay connected with staff/ensure the security of your home office) with live Q&A session. Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xameVK-_oeI&feature=youtu.be>  Live Webinar 2 - Delivering Services Online Deliver your services online Develop new ways of delivering your services online/quick e-Commerce /Facebook shops/accept payments) with live Q&A session. Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SIeCvodROXc&feature=youtu.be>Live Webinar 3 - Connect with Customers Stay connected with your customers/get your social messaging right/use online tools such as Facebook Live, Zoom, Creating videos, setting up Facebook community groups with live Q&A session. Visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fG25J59dIkc&feature=youtu.be> **Eligibility Criteria** - businesses must be based in the Mid and East Antrim District Council area and employ less than 50 people.  ***This project is part-funded by Invest Northern Ireland and the European Regional Development Fund under the Investment for Growth & Jobs* Northern Ireland (2014-2020) Programme.** |
| **Business Support** | Masterclass including: | * Digitisation and Digital Awareness * Health and Safety Environment * LEAN and Continuous Improvement * Capacity Planning and Forecasting * Purchasing and Procurement * Quality Assurance and Control |
| **Town Centre property revamp scheme now open in Mid and East Antrim** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Town Centre Property Repurposing Pilot Grant Scheme, launched by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council in collaboration with the Department for Communities (DfC) **is now** **open.** | | | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The scheme’s focus is on provision of support across the three main town centres within the Borough: Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne.   The new funding assists capital development and repurposing works on vacant commercial properties within the town centres.  In order to apply, total costs must be in excess of £10,000, with applicants contributing at least **50% match funding** towards the project.  Whilst there is no maximum total project cost, the scheme will provide funding up to a maximum of £30,000 per project.   The funding is through the DfC Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Programme, in addition to funding provided directly from Council to support this initiative.   **Applications for the grant scheme open from 12noon on Friday, 30 April 2021 before closing on Wednesday 30 June 2021 at 4pm.**  This is a competitive funding call so we would recommend that anyone who is interested in applying should access the guidance notes available online, check their eligibility for the scheme and apply via the online Grant Portal <https://mea.eformz.info/>   For further information on the scheme please contact **Connor O'Dornan, Strategic Projects Officer** via Email: [invest@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:invest@midandeastantrim.gov.uk?subject=Town%20Centre%20Property%20Repurposing%20Pilot%20Grant%20Scheme) | | | | |
| **Agri Food Demonstrator Pilot Grant** | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The scheme will enable eligible businesses in the agri-food sector within Mid and East Antrim, to access support for small scale demonstrator projects.  Eligible projects include those which allow applicants to scope out, develop, test or demonstrate new products, services and techniques.  Companies with an idea for an agri-food project can avail of funding with the Scheme providing financial support of **up to 50% of eligible costs** to a maximum of £1,500 to successful applicants. (Minimum project cost £500, Maximum project cost of £10,000)  This is a competitive funding call so we would recommend that anyone who is interested in applying should access the guidance notes available online, check their eligibility for the scheme and apply via the online Grant Portal https://mea.eformz.info/.  For further information on the scheme please contact **Connor O'Dornan, Strategic Projects Officer** via Email: [invest@midandeastantrim.gov.uk](mailto:invest@midandeastantrim.gov.uk?subject=Agri-Food%20Demonstrator%20Pilot%20Grant%20) | | | | |