

# Business Support

Leeds Chamber of Commerce  
Leeds City Council - Business and Enterprise  
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West Yorkshire Employer Coalition  
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ABDN Minority Ethnic Enterprise Network  
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Manufacturing Advisory Service  
Other sources of business advice

**Enterprise Leeds** has been established to provide a single gateway to business support services in Leeds. It brings together Leeds Chamber of Commerce, the Council's Business & Enterprise and Tourism teams and a range of partner organisations, which are now co-located at White Rose House, in the heart of the city's business community. Co-location of these partners means that Enterprise Leeds can play a stronger role in promoting the economic well-being of the city and helping businesses to develop and prosper. See [www.enterpriseleeds.co.uk](http://www.enterpriseleeds.co.uk)

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## Leeds Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ltd

Leeds Chamber works with a range of partners to position Leeds as a leading business location by supporting the city's business community and its entrepreneurs. It plays an active role in the key economic development activities in the city, ensuring the views and needs of business are represented.

It is one of the city's largest business membership organisations in the north of England with over 2,000 member companies representing 450,000 employees. It provides support services to promote business growth and efficiency. Opportunities also exist for firms to raise their profile through sponsorship and advertising, as well as numerous networking opportunities to increase business.

### Leeds Media

Leeds Media and Leeds Chamber joined forces in May 2008. Leeds Media is now the specialist media arm of the Chamber and offers a variety of services including breakfast briefings, networking events and a job search message board.

### Leeds Skills Board

The Chamber facilitates the Leeds Skills Board which influences and demystifies initiatives in the city that aim to upskill and prepare both current and future workforces. This will ensure that skill levels within the city meet the demands of businesses across Leeds and the Yorkshire region.

### Leeds Chamber Property Forum

This Forum was set up by the Chamber with its main objective being to contribute positively and effectively to the future growth and development of the Leeds Metropolitan District. It has over 500 members and works closely with Leeds City Council to achieve this vision.

### Leeds City Centre Retail Association

Leeds City Centre Retail Association has been formed as a voice for the retail sector. It provides a platform for retailers to promote their businesses and to communicate with each other. The association holds bi-monthly meetings, distributes a newsletter and organises retail specific events and seminars.

Key service areas:

- Information and advice
- Events, training and networking
- Benefits and opportunities
- International trade
- Policy and representation

T: 0113 247 0000      info@leedschamber.co.uk      www.leedschamber.co.uk

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## **Leeds City Council – Business and Enterprise**

### **Inward Investment and Marketing**

Inward investors, new and established businesses, can call upon the services of Leeds City Council's business and enterprise team for support and advice.

A comprehensive property search service is available for those looking for commercial premises in the Leeds area. This includes businesses moving into the area from outside the city and those needing to relocate or expand their operations.

The team maintains a comprehensive database of available land and commercial property in Leeds, which brings together information from over 70 commercial property agents based in the city. Searches can be done by contacting the team direct or online.

Business information, presentations and tours of the city can be provided at all stages of the decision-making process and can be tailored to meet specific needs of the company.

Other services include support for key sectors of the Leeds economy and marketing Leeds as a location for business and investment.

T: 0113 220 6350      info@locateinleeds.co.uk      www.locateinleeds.co.uk

### **Sharing the Success, the Leeds LEGI programme**

Leeds has received £20.6m from the government's £300m Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI). Branded 'Sharing the Success' the Leeds LEGI programme is helping to develop enterprise, create new jobs and boost the prosperity of the city's most disadvantaged communities.

See the Strategies and Funding chapter for more details of the programme.

T: 0113 220 6350      info@enterpriseleeds.co.uk      www.sharingthesuccess.co.uk

### **Visit Leeds**

The team at White Rose House is responsible for marketing Leeds to leisure visitors, be they on a short break or a day visit; from the UK or overseas; or travelling alone, with friends, family or as part of an organised coach group. Visit Leeds works with local partners such as hotels, attractions, retailers and events organisers to develop campaigns to raise the profile of the city and increase leisure tourism visits to Leeds. Many of the campaigns are undertaken in partnership with the regional and national tourist boards – Yorkshire Tourist Board and Visit Britain.

The team also includes the Leeds Visitor Centre. This busy centre serves residents and around half a million visitors to the city each year.

The team has a wealth of knowledge to make any visit to Leeds exciting, interesting and informative.

T: 0113 220 6350      info@visitleeds.co.uk      www.visitleeds.co.uk

## **Conference Leeds**

Conference Leeds is responsible for promoting Leeds and West Yorkshire as a destination for conferences, seminars, meetings, training events, corporate hospitality and incentive packages. The team works in partnership with organisations including the British Association of Conference Destinations, Meet England, Yorkshire Tourist Board, Leeds Hotels Association and Jet2.com to promote the city.

The team is equipped to deal with a wide range of conference needs and has links with over 220 venues across West Yorkshire, catering for up to 1,200 delegates, as well as smaller venues for meetings and training seminars. From enquiry to proposal, the team offers a 48-hour turnaround and works closely with clients to match their specific needs. The venue finding service is free of charge. They also offer a full accommodation booking service and can deal directly with delegates as appropriate. If you need help finding a venue or organising an event then contact the team today.

T: 0113 220 6351      [info@conference-leeds.com](mailto:info@conference-leeds.com)      [www.conference-leeds.com](http://www.conference-leeds.com)

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## **Business Link Yorkshire**

Individuals thinking of starting a business, or existing companies that would like to grow their business, should contact Business Link. They assess business needs and provide access to business support across the whole of Yorkshire and the Humber.

There is a tremendous amount of support available for new and growing businesses. Business Link provides an objective and impartial service and provides access to a wide variety of information, guides and self-help material that can help any business, at any stage of their development, and on any topic.

Information can be accessed by phone or email through the Customer Information Centre, or through the website and online services; or in person at our local access points, situated in local communities.

Face-to-face support is available through an events programmes and adviser teams. Business Link events are delivered locally throughout the region, and offer a wide range of presentations, seminars and workshops, covering all aspects of starting and growing a successful business. Its adviser services provide tailored, one-to-one support to help businesses identify options for growth and development and access specialist help to address those business needs.

T: 08456 048 048      [info@businesslinkyorkshire.co.uk](mailto:info@businesslinkyorkshire.co.uk)      [www.businesslinkyorkshire.co.uk](http://www.businesslinkyorkshire.co.uk)

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## **West Yorkshire Employer Coalition**

Part of Working Ventures UK Ltd, the West Yorkshire Employer Coalition is a proactive employer network which works to support Jobcentre Plus and the Learning & Skills Council in West Yorkshire. Led by local employers and responsive to the needs of the local labour market, the Coalition develops initiatives that provide employers with improved access to labour sources. In turn, the Coalition helps members to increase the opportunities for disadvantaged and unemployed people to gain employment and self-sufficiency.

Its work is currently focused on contact centres, hospitality, retail and transport. These groups allow employers to consult with each other on their recruitment and retention practices, discuss gaps in the market and barriers to employment.

WYEC has also formed the West Yorkshire Diversity Forum which enables employers to share best practice on diversity issues and help increase understanding of disadvantaged groups and a pioneering new Flexible Working Group, which aims to explore and champion the business benefits of flexible working options.

T: 0113 247 0000      [anj.handa@leedschamber.co.uk](mailto:anj.handa@leedschamber.co.uk)      [www.wvuk.co.uk](http://www.wvuk.co.uk)

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## China-Britain Business Council

The China-Britain Business Council (CBBC) is the UK's leading source of China business information, advice and consultancy.

CBBC supports British companies of all sizes - new entrants and established operations - providing Business Services, Practical In-Market Assistance and Industry Initiatives. Services are designed to allow companies to gain access to the potential of the Chinese market and develop a sound business strategy. Delivered through a network of six offices in the UK and a presence in 11 Chinese cities, CBBC services are available to all UK based companies.

Membership offers further benefits including discounts and members only events and information. CBBC enjoys strong support from the UK government for which it provides a number of business support services. CBBC's status allows it to play a vital role in lobbying both UK and Chinese officials on matters important to the success of British business in China.

T: 0113 247 1584      giles.blackburne@cbbc.org      www.cbbc.org

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## ABDN Minority Ethnic Enterprise Network

ABDN is a membership organisation established in 1997. Led by a Board of successful business professionals ABDN strives to assist and promote the development of BME businesses in the Yorkshire region.

The objectives of ABDN are:

- To facilitate communication and interaction between ethnic minority organisations and mainstream business through networking events and publications.
- To educate and inform key business areas and identify opportunities for trade
- To promote International trade opportunities
- To promote and celebrate the success of BME business in the region.

ABDN along with its Enterprise Manager will raise awareness about enterprise amongst ethnic minorities living or working in LEGI areas through events. The Directors /members of ABDN will act as mentors in order to build confidence and act as a strong support to those who are about to start the business. ABDN aims to support the work of other LEGI projects within the Sharing the Success programme to encourage attendance and representation at ABDN events and to network with established businesses.

T: 0113 248 1778      info@abdn.org.uk      www.abdn.org.uk

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## Business Enterprise Fund

The Business Enterprise Fund provides assistance for businesses seeking to access finance from mainstream lenders or for those who have been turned down by high street banks.

Their support is available to businesses in Leeds, Bradford and North Yorkshire where they can offer loans from £5,000 up to £30,000. The Fund ensures that all businesses taking out a loan with them have access to a business mentor who will work with them to develop business management skills including help with their business plan.

The Business Enterprise Fund believes that it is important to fill the funding gap for those who are unable to draw on the main sources of funding for one reason or another. Businesses of all maturities from start up to established are eligible and simply need to show their sustainability to be considered for a loan.

Two dedicated mentors are based at White Rose House to assist businesses in Leeds through this loan fund.

They are also there to assist people source funding through the banks or other reputable finance institutions. Any enquiries can also be directed to our mentors.

## Manufacturing Advisory Service – Yorkshire & Humber (MAS)

Funded by Yorkshire Forward, MAS provides access to practical manufacturing advice and support to help businesses improve their productivity and efficiency levels. Support offered includes:

- Free impartial manufacturing advice from experienced specialists
- Free on-site manufacturing reviews highlighting actions to improve operational performance
- Free on-site focussed research to address specific issues already identified
- Low cost factory visits to meet with other successful manufacturers and develop knowledge in best practice tools and techniques
- 50% subsidised manufacturing improvement projects providing longer term on-site, practical support from experienced manufacturing specialists.

T: 08700 111 875

enquiries@mas-yh.co.uk

www.mas-yh.co.uk

## Other sources of business advice and support

Name	Activity	Contact Number	Web Address
Aire Valley Leeds	Aire Valley Leeds is immediately south-east of Leeds city centre extending from the Royal Armouries and Clarence Dock eastwards through Cross Green and Stourton to the M1 motorway. Businesses in the Aire Valley Leeds area can access the following business support through the team: direct support for recruitment and training; signposting to other services, e.g. Business Link Yorkshire; Manufacturing Advisory Service; Print Yorkshire & other sector specific support.	0113 214 1965	www.airevalleyleeds.com
Belle Isle Foundation	The Foundation is a Matrix accredited training centre specialising in delivering information, advice and guidance, for adults, in matters relating to learning and work. A British Computer Society accredited Test Centre the Foundation offers bespoke ICT training packages for individuals and companies, from basic introductory modules to ECDL level 2. A modern fully equipped conference suite is available for hire along with in-house catering facilities and free parking.	0113 276 0008	www.belle-isle-foundation.co.uk
The Business Incubator	The Centre offers office space and tailored business support for start up businesses. Young companies (less than 36 months old) gain access to a pool of experts, mentors and investors to help them develop their business.	0113 281 6779	www.leedsmet.ac.uk/businessincubator/
Business Start-Up @ Leeds Met	Promotes innovation and entrepreneurship across the university. They run a business idea competition, newsletter and website, free workshops and a summer school. Their goal is to help students set up and run their own business.	0113 283 1752	www.lmu.ac.uk/business-start-up
The Cardigan Centre	The centre combines numerous business and community functions including: rooms for hire for business, recreational and educational uses, training and work placements, offices to rent for start-up businesses, secretarial and data services and publicity, print and telematic services.	0113 275 9282	office@cardigancentre.org.uk
Chapelton Enterprise Centre (CEC)	Provides opportunities for local business people in the Chapelton/Harehills area and Leeds residents wishing to set up a business within this area. The centre offers: business support, financial assistance and practical business resources.	0113 262 6333	www.cec-resources.co.uk
Groundwork Leeds	The Environmental Business Services team provide support, information, advice and training to companies on environmental business issues. The team aims to encourage	0113 238 0601	www.groundwork-leeds.org.uk

	companies and their employees to be more aware of the environmental impact they may have on the community.		
HOST Media Centre	The centre has managed workspace available for occupation by small businesses. It also has preferential rates for hire of meeting/conference rooms and all technical facilities.	0113 200 7000	www.hostleeds.com
Leeds Ahead	Leeds Ahead enables businesses to contribute to regeneration in the city. Corporate Social Responsibility is important for any size business, Leeds Ahead provides one easy access point bringing together a wide range of opportunities that are available. Support from businesses is targeted at areas of multiple deprivation in the city.	0113 246 7877	www.leedsahead.org.uk
Leeds Innovation Centre	The Centre provides quality office and laboratory accommodation across 3 sites. Close links with the University of Leeds enable occupants to tap into many resources, expertise and business support and which to date has proved invaluable for the young up-and-coming companies accommodated. The Centre welcomes most types of business but two of the sites have emphasis on health and bioscience.	0113 384 5845	www.leedsinnovationcentre.com
Business & Patents Information Service	A range of services for established businesses and start ups including company information, market research reports, trade directories (UK & overseas), trade & business journals, statistics and legislation. Other services include the creation of tailored mailing lists, Companies House searches, patent and trademark searching and advice.	0113 247 8266	www.businessandpatents.org

Additional sources of support for those in Leeds LEGI areas (i.e. Harehills, Chapeltown, Gipton, Bramley, Armley, Middleton, Belle Isle, Halton Moor, Richmond Hill, Little London, Seacroft, Beeston, Beeston Hill). See the Strategies and Funding chapter for details of LEGI.

Name	Project	Activity	Contact no	Web address
ATL (Yorkshire) Ltd	Enterprise Awareness in West Leeds	ATL will raise awareness of enterprise, and provide access and support to diverse groups in West Leeds	0800 587 5874	www.atlenterprise.co.uk
Barca Leeds	West Leeds Catalyst Centre	Office space and business support available at the Cubic Business Centre in Bramley	0113 218 0121	www.barca-leeds.co.uk
Bradford Enterprise Agency	Business Enterprise Fund	A £400,000 loan fund aimed at start-up and existing businesses unable to access high street lenders	0113 247 0000	www.befund.org
Construction Leeds	Building on Business	Help and support for those wanting to start a construction business	0113 247 0913	
Development Trusts Association	Development Trusts Support Programme	This project supports and advises development trusts	0113 220 6350	www.dta.org.uk
Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs	UnLtd	UnLtd is a charitable organisation which supports social entrepreneurs.	01274 750 630	www.unltd.org.uk
Harehills Community Interest Company (CIC)	Shine (Harehills Middle School)	An enterprise centre offering easy rental terms and meeting/conference facilities.	0870 851 8677	www.shineinharehills.co.uk
Leeds Chamber of Commerce	Community Motivators	Community Motivators work in a non-traditional manner to proactively identify individuals in the most deprived areas to encourage them to think about starting a business.	0113 247 0000	www.leedschamber.co.uk
Leeds Chamber of	Intensive Business	Providing intensive, hands on support to residents thinking	07734 598002	www.leedschamber.co.uk

Commerce	Support	about starting a business.	or 07740 835799	
Leeds City Council	Local Investor Development Officers	Advice and signposting for existing businesses.	0113 220 6350	<a href="http://www.sharingthesuccess.co.uk">www.sharingthesuccess.co.uk</a>
Leeds City Credit Union	Enterprise Loans	A £1m loan fund to provide access to finance exclusively for start up businesses in disadvantaged areas.	0113 247 0000	<a href="http://www.leedscitycreditunion.co.uk">www.leedscitycreditunion.co.uk</a>
Leeds College of Building	Rise	Catalyst centre, construction training facility and managed workspace. Support and advice for new local start ups.	0113 214 4947	<a href="http://www.sharingthesuccess.co.uk">www.sharingthesuccess.co.uk</a>
Leeds Voice	Enterprise Awareness	Leeds Voice will support projects in the programme through their network of 2,000 voluntary, community and faith organisations.	0113 277 2227	<a href="http://www.leedsvoice.org.uk">www.leedsvoice.org.uk</a>
Park Lane College Leeds	Artsmix	The Mosaic project supports arts and crafts practitioners in Leeds providing advice, training and equipped workshop.	0113 216 2634	<a href="http://www.mosaic-arts-market.org">www.mosaic-arts-market.org</a>
Places for People	Enterprising Communities	Enterprising Communities works with social housing tenants and the wider communities to raise awareness of self-employment and promote the support available	0800 783 5450	<a href="http://www.placesforpeople.co.uk">www.placesforpeople.co.uk</a>
South Leeds Health For All	Enterprise in South Leeds	Providing a programme of activities to raise awareness of the potential for enterprise among individuals and communities in South Leeds, in particular Middleton and Belle Isle.	0113 270 6903	<a href="http://www.slhfa.org.uk">www.slhfa.org.uk</a>
Tiger 11	Hillside School Redevelopment	Tiger11 is a development trust for Beeston and Holbeck in South Leeds.	0870 185 5810	<a href="http://www.tiger11.org.uk">www.tiger11.org.uk</a>
Urban Biz	Enterprise @ Work	To help residents of Chapeltown into employment and business through support, advice and training. Help also for existing firms.	0113 200 7970	<a href="http://www.urbanbiz.org.uk">www.urbanbiz.org.uk</a>
Winning Moves	Enterprise Awareness	Working with individuals and communities to develop enterprise thinking in Beeston, Harehills, Gipton and Seacroft.	01785 827 600	<a href="http://www.winningmoves.com">www.winningmoves.com</a>