

Carmarthenshire Business Launchpad Bursary Information

The Fund

- The Carmarthenshire Business Launchpad is a fully funded payment of up to £1,000 available to any Carmarthenshire-residing individuals over the age of 18 interested in test trading a business idea and have little or no prior business experience
- Applicants **must** attend a Start-Up Workshop, organised by Carmarthenshire County Council, that will support the production of a suitable business plan and cashflow forecast. This session must be attended prior to submission of application. Successful bursary recipients must also agree to attend two 1:1 follow-up sessions after bursary has been paid
- Applicants are assessed regularly on a case-by-case basis and approval of the bursary is awarded by a panel from within the Economic Development team

Application Process

Download the application form on the website:

<https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/business/business-engagement/business-launchpad-bursary/>

Complete and return the completed application form to:

businessengagement@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

A member of the Business Engagement team will then make contact to discuss your business idea and proposed spending in detail and begin support with your application.

Applicants are required to complete an application form, providing a breakdown of planned spending with the name of the supplier(s) and individual values. We encourage the use of Carmarthenshire-based suppliers wherever possible.

Eligibility Criteria

The Carmarthenshire Business Launchpad is designed to support individuals to 'have a go' at testing their business idea and as such, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Not ready to start test-trading activities without financial support
2. No prior self-employment/test-trading experience OR some limited experience but require financial support to further develop test-trading activities
3. Not currently undertaking test-trading activities during the application process
4. Not currently self-employed – individuals with any other employment statuses are eligible to apply including full-time employed

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Terms and Conditions

1. The Carmarthenshire Business Launchpad is a fully funded payment of up to £1,000 available to any Carmarthenshire-based individuals over the age of 18 interested in test trading a business idea
2. Business plans and financial forecasts, including 12 month's cashflow forecast, must be submitted along with a completed application form. These must be submitted to on or before the final deadline for applications which is 30th September 2025. Any applications received after this date will not be considered
3. The fund may close before the 30th September 2025 if fully committed
4. Upon receiving your application, we will invite you to attend one of regular 'Start-up Workshop' to choose from. We will attempt to accommodate your circumstances as much as possible, however please note that your application will not be processed until you have completed a workshop
5. The financial offer of the Launchpad Bursary will be subject to the following conditions: 100% of the award will be released upfront, with evidence of the expenditure, including receipts and matching bank statements to be provided within 2 months of payment.
6. Evidence of test-trading activities must be provided within 6 months of the bursary award date respectively, or 27th February 2026 (whichever is earliest). An extension to this period may be applied for with reasonable explanation and such cases will be decided on at the discretion of the Economic Development team but will not exceed 27th February 2026
7. Successful applicants **must** utilise 1:1 business mentoring support, organised by Carmarthenshire County Council. A minimum of two sessions must be attended
8. The Organisers freely reserve the right to cancel or to alter the dates of the funding for any reason or to make changes to how the funding is conducted

Expenditure

The financial award will apply to capital and/or revenue expenditure included in the following list:

Capital expenditure:

- Purchase of new or second-hand equipment (machinery, specialist equipment, etc.)
- IT and Telecom hardware if linked directly to the delivery of the project
- Purchase and installation of equipment for the purpose of creating a trading space, e.g. shelters, gazebo, trading table etc.
- Consumable materials for creating products
- Stock

Specialist revenue expenditure:

- Specialist / technical training (not necessarily accredited)
- Specialist consultancy (assessed on a case-by-case basis)
- Quality Assurance Certification, e.g. food hygiene certification (assessed on a case-by-case basis)
- Public Liability Insurance Certification or National Market Traders Federation membership (one-off annual payment only)
- Bi-lingual website development, e-commerce development and purchases of software

Ineligible expenditure includes:

- General revenue expenditure such as, staff costs or any other taxes, hire purchase/lease purchases
- Contingency fees and costs which were committed or spent before the offer and acceptance of the bursary
- Working capital costs such as rent, rates, administration
- Costs of work being carried out on a property as a legal statutory requirement, Inc. planning permission
- Items to be used in invasive cosmetic or medical practices, such as Botox equipment

No expenditure should be incurred before bursary approval as the bursary cannot be awarded retrospectively. Cash purchases are not eligible.

Ineligible Sectors

Applications containing a business idea relating to any of the below will not be considered:

- Party political purposes
- Promotion of particular secular, religious or political views
- Gambling
- Pornography
- Offering sexual services
- Any kind of illegal activity; or
- Any kind of activity which in the opinion of the Council could bring the Council into disrepute which includes but is not limited to non-regulated and invasive procedures, products and treatments, nude or semi-nude modelling, gaming centres, sun bed services, alternative therapies, products and medicines, acupuncture, vape shops, tobacconists, social media influencing, counselling, life coaching, tattooists, speculative building, complimentary medical treatments, cosmetic products, aesthetic procedures, CBD oil products and cryptocurrency

Please contact the Business Engagement Inbox with any queries:

BusinessEngagement@carmarthenshire.gov.uk