



DELIVERING ECONOMIC IMPACT

A DECADE IN REVIEW
2010-2020



At Down Business Centre, our mission is to support the economic development of the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area. Although we are involved in projects throughout the Council area, we focus primarily on the east of the region which encompasses Ballynahinch, Saintfield, Killyleagh, Strangford, Downpatrick, Castlewellan, Newcastle and the surrounding areas.

Our role is three-fold:

- to provide and manage a business centre of serviced light industrial, commercial and office accommodation for fledgling and growing SME businesses
- to promote self-employment and to encourage local people to explore the potential for setting up their own businesses and thereafter to support them as they move forward in turning their business dream into a reality
- to support local businesses as they seek to grow, enhancing the skills of their management and staff, helping them on their journey to developing new products, new processes and new markets and signposting potential sources of business finance.

Down Business Centre was established in 1986. We are a charity and we are self-financing. We do not receive direct Government aid. Throughout our nearly 35 year history we have sustained the organisation through rent received from our tenant businesses and by delivering a wide range of economic and social development programmes. Our partners in the delivery of such programmes includes Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency, Invest Northern Ireland, Enterprise Northern Ireland, InterTradeIreland, Neighbourhood Renewal and the South East Area European Maritime and Fisheries Fund. Any surplus funds are reinvested in the organisation and also used to engage and support the local business community often free of charge

The past decade was a particularly busy one for us. 2010 saw the local economy continue to grapple with the impact of the Financial Crisis. Slowly confidence began to return and with it came a renewed interest in starting up new businesses and, for existing firms, an enthusiasm for growth and for building

Now in 2020 we have all been hit with an economic crisis the nature of which has never been witnessed before. The economic impact of the Covid 19 Crisis will be far reaching and the extent of the downturn in business that it will bring is still to be realised. At Down Business Centre we will play our part in helping the people and businesses of the area recover. Never before in our history has there been a more important time for us to focus our efforts in supporting would be and existing entrepreneurs.

This document highlights the economic achievements of Down Business Centre in the period 2010 – 2020. We are committed to building on this performance in the difficult times ahead.

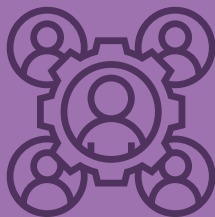
BUSINESS ACCOMMODATION

Providing light industrial units and office accommodation for manufacturing, service and social enterprises.

Industrial space **25,140 sq. ft**

Office space **8,373 sq. ft**

Total 34,043 sq. ft



203 people are currently employed on site.



BUSINESS START-UP

Providing the experience, advice and guidance needed to turn an aspiration or idea into a successful and profitable business.



2,500 new businesses
supported in **2010-2020**

Start a Business Programme	1041 offers approved
Enterprise Development Programme	247 business plans developed
Regional Start Initiative	693 business plans developed
NI Business Start Up Programmes	400 business plans developed

Pre-Start Support

Helping people explore the idea of starting their own business

- 19 exploring enterprise workshops
- 200 assessments
- 120 CCEA level 1 'Understanding Business & Enterprise Awards'

Business Start Up

A step-by-step approach to helping people make the right decisions, access financial support and put in place a sustainable plan for their new business

BUSINESS GROWTH

Supporting and mentoring business owners as they seek to grow their businesses and enhancing skills through seminars and masterclasses.



1,300

Businesses **mentored**



2,500

Businesses represented at
workshops and masterclasses

£

£700,000

Value to the **local community**

Delivered under the Tradelinks, Beyond, IOTA, NMD Growth Programmes

BUSINESS FINANCE

Helping business start-ups and growth businesses access the finance they need for a sustainable future.

175 loans secured

£1,521,931 successfully accessed

ENI Loan Fund: 89 successful applicants secured

£441,700

Start Up Loans: 65 successful applicants secured

£511,381

NI Small Business Loan Fund: 21 successful applicants secured

£568.850



> Mark Curran Dental



> POS Electrical



> Fast Tyre



Down Business Centre
Down Business Park
46 Belfast Road, Downpatrick
BT30 9UP

028 4461 6416 | www.downbc.co.uk
business@downbc.co.uk