



NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL BUSINESS ADVISER PROGRAMME PROJECT UPDATE JANUARY 2 TO April 30 , 2022

Project Performance from January till April 2022

	Feb- Dec 2021	Jan – April 2022	Total
Total Businesses Engaged	333	134	467
Grant Enquiries (COVID)	251	113	364
Business Support Enquiries	71	32	103

Since the start of the contract a total of 467 unique businesses have been supported through the North East Derbyshire District Council Business Adviser contract.

A total of one hundred and three business have been in contact for business support from January to April. These businesses are mainly looking at growth grants for their businesses. The type of organisation ranged from:

- Accommodation Business
- Cleaning Business
- Professional Services
- Taxi business
- Personal Care Sector

Business Adviser Update

During January and February support was predominantly focused on COVID grants for businesses to deal with the 'Omicron' variant and helping businesses to make applications and check submissions. Since March the focus has moved towards more mainstream business support, especially identification of grants and other business support services. All the funding teams at NEDDC have been very helpful when dealing with client enquiries.

Assistance during this period has included a series of one-to-one business advice and diagnostic support sessions; this has led to several businesses developing action plans enabling the NEDDC businesses to focus on their growth ambitions.

An example of the types of enquiries now coming into the adviser are:

- Clients discussing range of grants and growth opportunities including the 'Vision Derbyshire Grant' and 'Marketing Peak District'.
- Business Owners have been discussing the cost of living impact, especially relating to staff. In addition the sub-topics causing concerns to businesses, include the costs of food, energy and impact on wages. A few businesses predict this will contract their growth in the short-term, especially with the current issues of a possible recession and GDP/ economic growth reductions.
- There were also several clients wanting to plan more effectively in 2022 for growth and scale in their business.

The adviser sends a regular update on the D2N2 Growth Hub events calendar for promotion by NEDDC to businesses.



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The Business Adviser and Chamber have undertaken activities to raise awareness of the support via a dedicated campaign to actively promote the NEDDC Adviser Service and other offerings such as 'Peer Network', D2N2 Training and events, Kickstarter Programme, scale up support, Innovate UK, and Business Start-up training sessions.

NEDDC Businesses and start-ups have also been directed to the following support initiatives for June and concurrently running programmes:

- East Midlands Manufacturing Network
<https://www.emc-dnl.co.uk/supporting-growth/business-advice-and-support/east-midlands-manufacturing-network/>
- International Peer Network
<https://www.emc-dnl.co.uk/supporting-growth/business-growth-events-and-workshops/peer-networks2/d2n2-peer-networks/?VariantID=5299>
- Business Start-Up Support (workshops)
25 April 2022 – 29 April 2022
20 June 2022 – 24 June 2022
<https://www.pushthebuttontoday.com/>
- Net Zero Essentials, Nottingham Trent University
9th June 2022 at 12:30pm - 1:30pm
21st June 2022 at 12:30pm - 1:30pm
Online
<https://www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk/events/net-zero-essentials/>
- Carbon Literacy for SMEs
<https://www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk/events/carbon-literacy-for-smes/>

Start Up Workshops

The project is engaging with the D2 Business Starter Programme which is part-funded through the Chamber, Derbyshire County Council and Derby City Council. The project provides workshop plus 1:1 mentoring to support residents wishing to start a business.

To date 30 individuals have contacted the Start-up team for advice on starting a new business and 12 have now enrolled to receive active business support. D2 Business Starter Programme offers people the essential foundations to get their business off to a great start, through a series of workshops and 1-2-1 business adviser support.

Partnership Meetings

The Business Adviser continues to meet with partners to promote the business support available, as well as understanding how it complements and supports other local projects. Meetings are held with Bryan Harrison at NEDDC fortnightly, and the Adviser now attends regular Economic Development Team meetings.

Mark Ross 27 May 2022