



Best Practice Clubs

Local networking on 'hot' topics

November 2007

Introduction

You can improve the competitiveness of your business by recognising the ideas and work practices that prove particularly effective for others, and then finding ways of disseminating and applying them across your own business. Our Best Practice Clubs can help you to do that.

The clubs specialise in sharing and distributing up-to-date information on the 'hot' topics affecting small to medium-sized businesses in Northern Ireland today.

How will they help me?

Aside from the value of the information itself, our Best Practice Clubs provide an opportunity for you to network with other businesses in your local area, as well as getting to know your Invest NI representatives.

How do they work?

There are usually seven club meetings per year in each of the following areas:

- Ballymena
- Belfast
- Londonderry
- Maghera
- Newry
- Omagh

All club meetings start at 12 noon with lunch, and finish at 2.00pm. Each meeting deals with a specific topic or issue and includes a presentation delivered by an invited expert. This is followed by a question and answer session and networking opportunities with other members of the group. A list of topics and previous presentations can be accessed at:

www.investni.com/bestpracticeclubs

How much do they cost?

There is no direct cost to participating businesses. However, a commitment of time is required.

Who is eligible?

Our Best Practice Clubs are open to all Invest NI clients and are most relevant to those businesses keen to learn new methods and techniques to improve their business.

The clubs are most likely to be of benefit to small businesses with formalised management structures, but with limited resources and in need of specialist assistance.

Becoming an Invest NI client

To qualify as an Invest NI client company, your business must meet certain criteria.

You should typically be from the manufacturing or international tradeable sectors and be able to demonstrate that currently, or over the next three years, your business will have:

- total sales of over £100,000 a year;
- sales outside Northern Ireland of greater than 25 per cent of turnover **or** greater than £250,000 a year; and
- the capability and willingness to work with Invest NI.

If you are not an Invest NI client, but can satisfy the above criteria and would like to become one, please contact the Invest NI office in your area.

Full details can be found at www.investni.com.



Contact

Please contact your Client Executive if you feel your business will benefit from this service. Alternatively you can also contact:

Business Improvement Services
Invest Northern Ireland
Bedford Square
Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7ES

T: 028 9069 8100

E: BSinfo@investni.com

nibusinessinfo.co.uk

Invest NI has launched a new online information and support facility, **nibusinessinfo.co.uk**

This web site provides all Northern Ireland businesses and entrepreneurs with free access to an extensive source of essential business information.

nibusinessinfo.co.uk provides 24x7 advice, information, guidance and signposting, with over 5,000 fact sheets and over 70 interactive tools on offer. Every aspect of setting up and running a business is covered, from the earliest days of developing a business idea to the legal issues involved in selling a business concern.

nibusinessinfo.co.uk also features case studies showing how local businesses have handled particular business challenges.

nibusinessinfo.co.uk provides you with a single point of access for all your business information needs, freeing up time for to concentrate on running operations.