



March 2nd - 6th

Local Enterprise Week 2026

Making it Happen

LOUTH - EVENT GUIDE

Find out more at: LocalEnterprise.ie/Louth



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Local Enterprise Office
LOUTH





Local Enterprise Week Louth 2026 is back!

From **Monday 2nd to Friday 6th March 2026**, businesses from across Louth and the wider region are invited to take part in a dynamic week of events designed to inform, inspire and support business growth.

Delivered by the Local Enterprise Office Louth team in partnership with business organisations across the county, Local Enterprise Week is an annual celebration of entrepreneurship and enterprise. It offers a packed programme for everyone, from early-stage start-ups to established businesses ready to scale.

This year's programme has been developed in partnership with a range of leading business organisations across the county and features **expert speakers, practical workshops, insightful masterclasses and valuable networking opportunities**.

Local Enterprise Week is your opportunity to step back from the day-to-day, focus on your business, gain fresh perspectives, build new connections and discover the supports available to help you grow and succeed.

Places are limited and always in high demand. **Book now at LocalEnterprise.ie/Louth.**

We look forward to welcoming you to Local Enterprise Week Louth 2026.

Nikki Campbell

HEAD OF ENTERPRISE

Find out more



Local Enterprise Week 2026



EVENTS SCHEDULE

March 2nd - 6th

DATE	EVENT NAME	EVENT TIME	HOSTED BY	LOCATION	
Monday, 2nd March	LAUNCH: Business Boost - Practical digital tools to move your business forward	9.00am - 1.00pm	LEO Louth	Bellingham Castle, Castlebellingham	Book for FREE
Tuesday, 3rd March	Cross Border Trade & Economic Conference 2026: Building a Sustainable All-Island Economy	8.00am - 1.30pm	Dundalk Chamber	The Carrickdale Hotel, Ravensdale	Book for FREE
Tuesday, 3rd March	Local Enterprise Week National Development Summit	9.00am - 3.30pm	Google and Enterprise Europe Network	The Foundry, Google Dublin	Click to book
Wednesday, 4th March	Make Your Idea Happen: Your First Step into Business	10.00am - 12.00noon	Michael Quigley	Online	Book for FREE
Wednesday, 4th March	Food Business Beginnings – Real Producer Journeys	5.45pm - 7.30pm	Boyne Valley Flavours	Food Hub @ NEST Ardee	Book for FREE
Thursday, 5th March	Secrets To Success	7.30am - 9.15am	Drogheda Chamber and The Mill Enterprise Hub	Scholars Townhouse Hotel, Drogheda	Book for FREE
Thursday, 5th March	Business and Finance Advice Clinics	10.00am - 3.00pm	LEO Louth	Drogheda Digital Hub	Book for FREE
Thursday, 5th March	From Start-up to Scale Up: Practical supports, powerful stories, and pathways to growth.	6.30pm - 9.00pm	LEO Louth and Network Louth	The Gateway Hotel, Dundalk	Book for FREE
Friday, 6th March	Louth Enterprise Awards 2026: Making It Happen	12.00 noon - 3.00 pm	LEO Louth	The Marcy Hotel, Drogheda	Book for FREE

Find out more at localenterprise.ie/louth



MONDAY 2 MARCH

9.00am
- 1.00pm

Open to all
Price: FREE

Click to book



BUSINESS BOOST

Practical digital tools to move your business forward

Location: Bellingham Castle, Castlebellingham, A91 RP44

Hosted By: Local Enterprise Office Louth

9.00am Registration and refreshments
9.30am Seminar starts
1.00pm Seminar ends and light networking lunch

Our opening event “Business Boost” is a focused, practical workshop designed for local business owners who are open to positive change & adopting new digital business approaches to enhance their business operations.

Through guided discussion and practical exercises, you will step back from the day to day, identify priority areas your business could implement new or enhanced digital solutions and leave with a clear & achievable next step.

A facilitated fireside chat with local SMEs and an inspiring keynote address by Mark Kelly of AI Ireland will share real examples of what works, what doesn't, and how practical digital changes can make businesses stronger, more efficient, and ready to grow.

You will also learn about relevant Local Enterprise Office supports available to help you.

MC & Workshop Facilitator:

Denise Horan, The Entrepreneurs Academy

Denise is the Owner and Director of Inspired Design and trainer with The Entrepreneurs Academy. An expert facilitator, Denise will guide us through a digital workshop, using her experience and expertise in digital planning and strategy to help identify the priority areas where digitalisation can streamline your operations, save you time, and empower you to scale with confidence.



Denise Horan

Keynote Speaker:

Mark Kelly, Alldus CCO / AI Ireland Founder

Mark Kelly is an AI expert with over fifteen years of experience in how digital transformation and AI is reshaping the world of work. Mark helps businesses navigate the rapidly evolving digital landscape by cutting through the noise to identify the digital trends that will truly matter over the next few years. As our keynote, Mark will focus on practical foresight, helping you understand which emerging tools and trends will drive efficiency to stay ahead of the curve. His mission is to help every business embrace AI and digitalisation as a powerful engine for scale.



Mark Kelly

Find out more at:

LocalEnterprise.ie/Louth

TUESDAY 3 MARCH

8.00am -
1.30pm

Open to all
Price: FREE

Click to book



MC Mark Simpson

CROSS BORDER TRADE & ECONOMIC CONFERENCE 2026: Building a Sustainable All-Island Economy

Location: The Carrickdale Hotel, Ravensdale

Hosted By: Newry Chamber and Dundalk Chamber

This year's conference will once again focus on its central theme, "Building a Sustainable All-Island Economy", taking place on Tuesday 4th March in the Carrickdale Hotel & Spa.

At a time of significant local and global economic uncertainty, and with the rising cost of doing business creating an increasingly challenging environment, businesses must look ahead, plan strategically and play their part in building a sustainable and successful all-island economy.

The conference will bring together government representatives, keynote speakers, policy makers and business advisors to explore the future of cross-border cooperation and set out priorities for the region across three key themes:

1. The All-Island Economy
2. Skills & People: A Cross-Border Partnership Approach
3. Collaboration & Infrastructure at the Heart of the All-Island Economy

With Newry and Dundalk at the centre of the Dublin–Belfast Economic Corridor, cross-border cooperation is fundamental to economic success on both sides of the border.

The packed conference programme will provide you and your business with a unique opportunity to hear directly from experts on the issues that matter most, and to explore new opportunities for collaboration across the cross-border economy.

A wide range of exhibitors will also be in attendance, offering information on the supports and resources available and the chance to speak directly with organisations that can help your business grow and develop.

The conference is typically attended by 300+ business leaders and decision-makers from both North and South. Places are free and limited, so early booking is strongly recommended.



Dundalk
Chamber
Advancing business together



NEWRY
CHAMBER
SINCE 1820

TUESDAY 3 MARCH

9.00am -
3.30pm

Open to all
Price: €20.00

Click to book



LOCAL ENTERPRISE WEEK NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT Hosted by Google and Enterprise Europe Networking

Location: The Foundry, Google Gordon House, Barrow St, Dublin 4, D04 V3AO

Hosted By: Google and Enterprise Europe Network

We're pleased to invite you to AI Works for Ireland, a Local Enterprise Week National Development Summit taking place at Google.

This event is designed to empower Irish SMEs to define and execute a strategy for sustained growth using the best of AI. Through a blend of strategic insights from fellow SMEs and practical workshops, you'll gain a clear understanding of how to drive meaningful growth and achieve tangible business outcomes, leveraging the efficiencies of AI.

The mix of content is designed to engage attendees with all levels of AI knowledge and includes motivational keynotes, expert-led panels and workshops, as well as interactive demonstrations.

Places are very strictly limited. Book now to avoid disappointment.

Agenda

9.00am	Registration & Breakfast
10.00am	MC Noel Davidson to open
10.00am	Keynote address by Brian Larkin, CEO AgencyX
10.35am	Google Cloud Keynote and Google AI Demo
11.05am	SME Panel Discussion
12.00noon	Networking Lunch
1.00pm	Deepdives 1 and 2
2.45pm	Fireside Chat: Next Steps for AI Implementation
3.15pm	Closing remarks and event close



MC Noel Davidson

March 3, 2026

AI Works for Ireland

Local Enterprise Week National Development Summit

Brought to you by the Local Enterprise Offices and Google



March 2nd - 6th
**Local
Enterprise
Week 2026**
Making it Happen

Google

Oifig Fiontais Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office

enterprise
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Find out more at:

LocalEnterprise.ie/Louth

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH

10.00am -
12noon

Open to all
Price: FREE

Click to book



MAKE YOUR IDEA HAPPEN: Your first step into Business with Michael Quigley

Location: Online
Hosted By: Michael Quigley

Do you have an idea that you've been quietly wondering... "Could this actually be a business?" If so, our **Make your Idea Happen: Your First Step into Business** online workshop is the perfect place to begin.

This free 2-hour online interactive workshop is designed specifically for individuals who are curious about self-employment and want to explore whether their idea has real potential. Whether you're considering new opportunities, have spotted a gap in the market, or simply dream of being your own boss, this session will give you the confidence to take the very first step.

In just one session, we'll help you gauge the viability of your concept and just as importantly; help you decide if your idea fits in with what you want. The workshop provides a supportive, low-risk environment in which to explore and refine your business idea before committing to the next stage. Whether you are considering a part-time venture or a complete career change, this session will help you move from a tentative "What if?" to a clear and confident "What's next."

Start Your Own Business Programme

WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH

5.45pm
- 7.30pm

Open to all
Price: FREE

Click to book



FOOD BUSINESS BEGINNINGS – REAL PRODUCER JOURNEYS

hosted by Boyne Valley Flavours

Location: Food Hub @ NEST Ardee, Ardee Business Park, Ardee A92 C7RW
Hosted By: Local Enterprise Office Louth & Boyne Valley Flavours

Join Darragh McCullough for a fireside chat with real food producers who have been through the journey of starting and running a food business. This event is for anyone with an idea for a food business, as well as those already in business and navigating the early stages.

The session brings together food producers including;

Gerry Scullion, King of Kefir

Helen McManus, Coole Farm

Eimear Reynolds, Bakealicious



Darragh McCullough

Together they will share their experiences of starting out – from first ideas and early challenges to building a business over time. Attendees will also hear about the supports available to food businesses locally, including those offered by the Local Enterprise Office and Boyne Valley Flavours, and how these can support businesses at different stages of their journey.

This event offers a chance to listen, learn, ask questions and gain practical insight into what starting a food business really involves, in a supportive and open setting.



Gerry Scullion



Helen McManus



Eimear Reynolds



**ROOTED
IN PEOPLE
INSPIRED
BY PLACE**

Find out more at:

LocalEnterprise.ie/Louth

THURSDAY 5 MARCH

7.30am
- 9.15am

Open to all
Price: FREE, but
pre-booking is essential

Click to book



Drogheda's Enterprise Hub

SECRETS TO SUCCESS

hosted by Drogheda Chamber in association
with The Mill Enterprise Hub

Location: Scholar's Townhouse Hotel, King Street, Drogheda, A92 ED71
Hosted By: Drogheda Chamber & The Mill Enterprise Hub

7.30am Registration
7.45am Breakfast followed by panel discussion
9.15am Event ends

Get your day off to a great start with breakfast & networking at this fast-paced Local Enterprise Week event. Then sit back and learn from three local entrepreneurs as part of the 'Secrets to Success' series, in partnership with Local Enterprise Office Louth.

Themes in this lively discussion will include:

- Creating a dynamic, agile approach,
- Encouraging creativity and problem solving,
- Assessing where you are versus where you want to be,
- The importance of investing in your employees,
- and so much more!

Facilitated by Drogheda Chamber CEO Hubert Murphy, the entrepreneur panel will feature:

Lindsey Kenny, Pet Bliss Drogheda: Pet Bliss is Ireland's first and only themed pet shop. A female-led, family-run business, Lindsey combines

innovative digital retail with expert advice, community focus, and a strong commitment to animal welfare.

Ronan Whitty, The Mill Enterprise Hub: As CEO of The Mill Enterprise Hub, Ronan brings over 15 years' senior commercial leadership experience across tourism, aviation, telecoms and healthcare, both in Ireland and internationally.

Richard Young, Managing Director, Forte Healthcare Ltd: Richard offers a practical, results-driven perspective on scaling and international growth, drawing on 25 years of experience building a market-leading business in the animal health sector.

Don't miss the opportunity to learn from members of the local business world who will share valuable lessons from their own experiences – good and bad!



Hubert Murphy



Lindsey Kenny



Ronan Whitty



Richard Young

THURSDAY 5 MARCH

10.00am -
3.00pm

Open to all
Price: FREE, but
pre-booking is essential.

Click to book



BUSINESS ADVICE CLINICS

Location: Drogheda Digital Hub, West Street, Drogheda, A92 A389

Hosted By: Local Enterprise Office Louth

Book a place at one of our Advice Clinics during Local Enterprise Week 2026. These in-person appointments with one of our expert advisors can help to address challenges and signpost you to additional supports that can benefit your business.

Choose from:

Business Advice Clinic: This clinic is ideal for anyone thinking of starting a business, or for start-ups and established businesses who would like some help with specific areas.

Finance Clinic: This clinic is dedicated to helping businesses understand the financing options open to them and is suitable for established businesses looking to scale as well as start-up businesses.



Our team looks forward to welcoming you to this year's Local Enterprise Week events.

THURSDAY 5 MARCH

6.30pm
- 9.00pm

Open to all
Price: FREE

Click to book



FROM START-UP TO SCALE UP

Practical supports, powerful stories, and pathways to growth

Location: The Gateway Hotel, Inner Relief Rd, Dundalk, A91 EF88

Hosted By: Local Enterprise Office Louth & Network Louth

To mark International Women's Day 2026, Local Enterprise Office Louth in collaboration with Network Ireland Louth, invites you to a powerful evening celebrating women in business at every stage of their journey.

Hosted by experienced business consultant and mentor Geraldine Johnston, this unique two-panel event brings together the key supports available to female entrepreneurs.

Featuring representatives from Enterprise Ireland, Awaken Angels, LEO Louth, Thrive, and Network Ireland the first panel will share insights on funding, mentorship and development opportunities available locally and nationally.

The second panel will spotlight four inspiring female founders at different stages of business - from start-up to scaling - as they share their experiences, challenges and the vital supports that have helped shape their growth journeys.

Whether you are just starting out, growing your venture, or planning your next expansion, this event will leave you informed, inspired and connected with a community of women committed to success.

Join us for an evening of insight, empowerment and opportunity.



MC, Geraldine Johnston



Pauline Clarke,
President,
Network Louth

About Network Ireland:

A progressive and dynamic organisation supporting the professional and personal development of women in business. Network Ireland is a non-profit, voluntary organisation, with over 1,000 members and seventeen very dynamic branches. membership is made up of a diverse group of women, from budding entrepreneurs, SME owners, professionals and leaders in indigenous and multinational organisations to non profits, charities, arts and the public sector. Discover more about Network Ireland Louth here.

<https://networkireland.ie/louth>



Find out more at:

LocalEnterprise.ie/Louth

FRIDAY 6 MARCH



LOUTH ENTERPRISE AWARDS 2026: MAKING IT HAPPEN

12.00noon
- 3.00pm

Open to all
Price: FREE

Click to book



Business Networking Lunch hosted by Local Enterprise Office Louth

Location: The Marcy Hotel, West St, Drogheda A92 A8XF

Hosted By: Local Enterprise Office Louth

12.00noon Registration & Refreshments

12.30pm Lunch and Awards Ceremony

The highlight of Local Enterprise Week is the **Local Enterprise Awards**.

Join us for a lively networking lunch celebrating Louth's most ambitious and resilient entrepreneurs - businesses that are innovating, adapting, and driving growth across the county.

Hosted by LMFM's Gerry Kelly, this flagship event promises to inspire and energise the business community. Our special guest entrepreneur will share their journey, offering insights, motivation, and practical lessons in enterprise and innovation.

On the day, we will announce the winners of the Louth Enterprise Awards across multiple categories. The overall winner will go on to represent Louth at the National Enterprise Awards this June in The Round Room at The Mansion House, Dublin.

Attendance is free, but spaces are limited, so early booking is strongly recommended.



MC, Gerry Kelly

Local Enterprise Office
LOUTH



National
Enterprise
Awards

Oifig
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