



To allow for the continuation and development of small to medium sized enterprises and micro enterprises in your parish the Neighbourhood Development Plan should have policies for the provision of additional business space.

An option that could be looked at is extending existing business parks and improving vehicle access and parking and/or supporting the establishment of discrete small business parks in other areas of the parish. Your plan could also look at whether you want to encourage renewable energies in new builds or better business infrastructure such as superfast broadband.

Your Plan could also consider areas like how to encourage more business to come into the area, look at what training existing business undertake and how many apprenticeships are being undertaken in the area.

When looking at types and sizes of businesses in your community it is helpful to understand the definitions of a business.

Micro enterprises are defined as enterprises which employ fewer than 10 persons and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed 2 million euro.

Small enterprises are defined as enterprises which employ fewer than 50 persons and whose annual turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed 10 million euro.

Medium enterprises are defined as less than 250 persons and turnover of less than 50 million euro.

SME thresholds	
Micro enterprise	Staff: < 10
	Turnover: ≤ € 2 million
	Balance sheet: ≤ € 2 million
Small enterprise	Staff: < 50
	Turnover: ≤ € 10 million
	Balance sheet: ≤ € 2 million
Medium-sized enterprise	Staff: < 250
	Turnover: ≤ € 50 million
	Balance sheet: ≤ € 43 million

In one of the questions below we mention Smart Specialisation the following definition may help you understand this:

Smart Specialisation is a strategic approach based on a more effective spending of public resources, concentrated on certain domains of knowledge or expertise. Those knowledge domains and innovation projects for entrepreneurship and growth are selected through a careful analysis of the existing capabilities, assets, competences, competitive advantages in a city, region or country. It also implies developing multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms and synergies between public support mechanisms. Through this approach, countries and regions can become and remain competitive in the global economy.

<http://epthinktank.eu/2013/08/14/smart-specialisation/>



This Advice Note seeks to encourage communities to consider what Neighbourhood Plans can do to help consider business growth, skills and training issues facing communities. The following questions may help identify how your Plan could help.

- Do you work or own a business in the parish? What is your occupation?
- Should the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) have policies to encourage existing and new small to medium sized businesses and micro businesses to develop in the parish?
- Do you think the parish is well served with industrial units and local business opportunities?
- What else is needed in your community?
- Should we look to increase space at existing business parks or create new?
- Where would you locate new businesses?
- Where viable, should the NDP promote sustainable features for industrial new build, redevelopment and extensions?
Options could be: Renewable energy generation (*eg solar pv/wind turbines*);
Renewable sources of heating (*biomass/air & ground source heat pumps geothermal/district heating*)
Water harvesting
Communal waste separation facilities
Electric vehicle charging points
Local sourcing of materials
- Should better communications infrastructure for all businesses be encouraged throughout the parish? (eg Superfast Broadband were possible)
- Should the NDP where appropriate, support the use of empty retail shops as a priority over building new?
- Which of the following business sectors should be encouraged to develop in the parish?
Agriculture and food processing
Marine and Maritime industries
Renewable energy
Tourism and hospitality
Service Industry and Local Government
Manufacturing
Retail
Environmental technologies
Health/Medicine
Community Sector
- Should any of the following smart specialisation sectors be promoted in the area?
Marine Technology
Digital Economy
E-Health
Agri-Tech
Space/Aerospace assets
- How should visitors be encouraged to enjoy and spend money within the Parish/Town?
- The NDP should include policies to co-ordinate development and promotion of tourism across the parish?
- Would you support a local produce and craft market?
- If you own a business how many people do you employ?
- Does your organisation employ apprentices and/or trainees?
- Over the past four years, has your organisation accessed any type of external training? And if so what?
- Could you please tell us your organisation's anticipated training needs over the next two to three years?
- What types of information, advice and guidance would be most useful to your organisation in relation to training? Options could be: Website with information about training courses, free training and funding for training Or info via a newsletter (post/email); Links via social media such as Twitter; Information received through the post e.g. brochure from a training provider Free information event about training in the local area or Information received via email; Don't know;
- What might hold you back from starting up or relocating your business into the town/parish?
- Should the NDP contain policies that support EU economic investment after 2013? How and what?