

Growth Hub Newsletter

August 2025

Support for your business

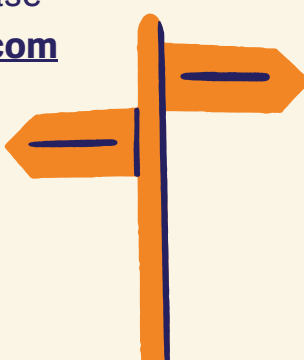
We offer SMEs within Oxfordshire fully funded businesses support. Complete the Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Support Tool today, to get started and receive your business support plan signposting you to profit boosting, market growing business support.

Get started...

Complete Enterprise Oxfordshire's Business Support Tool:

[Business Support Tool](#)

If you have any questions or requests for support please email us directly at: **business@enterpriseoxfordshire.com**



Unlock Your Business Potential in West Oxfordshire and Cherwell – Join the SPARK or ACCELERATOR Programme Today

Are you ready to start your dream business, or take your existing one to the next level?

If you're based in the West Oxfordshire or Cherwell area, an exciting opportunity awaits you. The West Oxfordshire and Cherwell Business Support Programmes, SPARK for start-ups and ACCELERATOR for growing businesses, are here to provide tailored, expert-led support to help you succeed.

Start Strong with the SPARK Programme

The SPARK Programme is designed for aspiring entrepreneurs and early-stage business owners. Whether you're still developing your idea or have just launched, this five-part workshop series will equip you with essential skills in:

- Business planning and the Business Model Canvas
- Understanding your customers and marketing your offer
- Financial planning and cash flow management
- Creating an actionable Year 1 business plan
- Pitching your business in a friendly, supportive environment

You'll learn alongside 30 like-minded entrepreneurs in engaging sessions led by experienced professionals. From crafting your value proposition to managing finances, you'll leave with practical tools and a clear roadmap to launch and sustain your business. Better yet, after the core programme, you'll receive 1:1 support and join a peer network to continue your growth journey.

Accelerate with Confidence: The Business ACCELERATOR Programme

Already running a business and looking to scale? The Business ACCELERATOR Programme offers a bespoke, intensive development pathway for trading small businesses ready to grow. Over the course of four strategic workshops, you'll gain high-impact insights in:

- Advanced marketing strategies
- Business planning for sustainable growth
- Innovation and product development
- Investment readiness and funding opportunities

Led by expert facilitators, you'll learn to design systems, empower your team, and attract funding. Complementing the workshops is access to peer-to-peer learning sessions, 1:1 mentorship with sector-specific business advisors, and a leadership development course to sharpen your management skills.

Why Join?

- Expert Guidance – Learn from specialists with decades of experience
- Peer Support – Connect with a network of local entrepreneurs and leaders
- Tailored Resources – Receive targeted advice relevant to your business stage
- Fully Funded – All workshops and support services are FREE, thanks to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Whether you're just starting out or ready to grow, these programmes offer a unique blend of learning, networking, and personal support, all right here in West Oxfordshire and Cherwell.

Ready to take the next step?

Complete the quick and easy application form for SPARK or ACCELERATOR:

[West Oxfordshire Business Support](#)

[Cherwell Business Support](#)

Fuel your ambition. Join the movement. Let's build West Oxfordshire and Cherwell's business future, together.

Marketplace and Celebration Event 2025 (MAC25)

With thanks to our Headline Sponsor, Darcica Logistics, as well as our award sponsors and event supporters.

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[13th Theatre Co.](#)

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[Sylo Beyond HR](#)

[The Triple Shift](#)

To see who will be exhibiting at the Marketplace and Celebration Event (MAC25) on 18th September:

[Exhibitors](#)

For more information about MAC25 visit this link, places are filling up quickly so if you'd like to attend book your ticket asap:

[MAC25 Tickets](#)



Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Directory

Join our fast growing Oxfordshire Business Directory.

Enterprise Oxfordshire have developed a Business Directory platform for businesses to support each other and promote themselves.

[Business Directory](#)

Oxfordshire Networking Groups

Looking to make valuable connections and boost your business success? Discover the best ways to find networking groups and events near you.

[Oxfordshire Netowrking Groups](#)

Other Resources available to businesses

As part of Enterprise Oxfordshire's ongoing commitment to provide the best possible service to Oxfordshire's SMEs we always try ensure that other services and grant opportunities which may be available to business within Oxfordshire are highlighted and signposted on our 'External Recourses' website page.

[External Resources](#)

Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills

Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills is here to help local people and businesses in Oxfordshire achieve their full potential. Find out about our programmes and the support available to you below.

Visit 'About Our Programmes' to find out more:

[About Our Programmes](#)

Oxfordshire Net Zero Business Support

Are you a business providing net zero products or services?

Innovate UK are launching a Net Zero Supplier Directory – an online directory that will help connect businesses delivering net zero solutions with local authority and other public sector organisations across the UK who are seeking suppliers to support their climate and sustainability goals.

Why should you join?

- Joining only takes a few minutes
- Public sector organisations will be able to browse suppliers and request introductions, meaning once listed, your business will be better positioned to access public sector procurement opportunities and to connect with potential collaborators
- Receive tailored support to strengthen your offer

The directory is a great opportunity to raise your visibility, showcase your expertise and become part of the UK's growing net zero supply chain.

Sign up by completing the short registration form below 📌

[Registration Form](#)

Free energy assessment and match funding still available

All SMEs in Oxfordshire are entitled to apply for a fully funded energy assessment from Energy Solutions Oxfordshire (ESOx).

Businesses will receive a report with advice on a range of low and no cost actions they could take, with estimated costs and carbon savings, tailored to their business, along with recommendations for which low-carbon technologies are most suitable to their premises.

[Free Energy Assessment](#)

Businesses can then apply to the ESOx Green Fund for match funds of up to £10,000 towards the cost of measures recommended. The Fund has already funded over £25,000 of energy efficiency improvements for local SMEs.

If you know of a business that could benefit from this opportunity, please do share this with them.

[Green Fund](#)

THE HEAT Climate-tech Festival 2025

Have you got your ticket? Less than two months to go!

Everyone working in climate tech is invited to THE HEAT 2025 climate-tech festival, taking place at the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus on Friday 19th September.

THE HEAT is not a conference. It is a hands-on, practical, mind-expanding, friendship-building, exploratory, curiosity-led, science-based, creative, artistic, participatory, decentralised, experimental, edgy, live, risky, urgent and unpredictable gathering of 600+ talented people working on climate technologies.

Oxfordshire businesses can apply to present a product demo, to speak or lead a workshop, or for a booth/stand to showcase their innovation:

[Get Involved](#)

As an ecosystem partner, Enterprise Oxfordshire has secured a 15% discount off the ticket price for all businesses, by using the discount code ENTO15 at the checkout.

[Get Tickets](#)

Sustainable Tourism Grant Scheme

The Cotswold Tourism will soon be launching a new Sustainable Tourism Grant scheme where capital funding from £1,000 to £10,000 will be available for eco-friendly improvements.

Full details will be released soon - don't miss out! Sign up to our newsletter to be the first to hear when applications open.

[Sign Up](#)

Business Resilience

Be ready for the next heat wave!

The chance of extreme heatwaves is rising in our changing climate, with flooding from rivers and surface water and putting pressure on infrastructure systems and environment.

Ice cream is always a good way to keep cool, but here are some other tips to help protect your business:

- Check your postcode to see if your area is vulnerable to extreme heat
- Sign up for email warnings from the Met Office of severe weather including thunder storms
- What to do if you get caught in a flash flood driving
- Know who to call in a power cut (call 105) and have a backup generator, battery equipment or power packs for if the power does go out

Find further advice on our resilience page:

[Business Resilience](#)

National Emergency Alert Test 7th September

At around 15:00 on Sunday 7th September 2025 an Emergency Alert will be sent to mobile phone across the UK in the second ever national test of system, as part of plans to strengthen the country's preparedness for emergencies.

The Emergency Alerts system is used to warn if there's a danger to life nearby, including extreme weather. It allows vital information and advice to be sent to people rapidly in an emergency.

Find out more about the alert and why the alert is happening:

[National Emergency Alert Test](#)

Oxfordshire Business Support

Made Smarter - Funding and support for SME manufacturers and makers

Calling all manufacturers and makers - Made Smarter is a government-funded programme to help drive growth amongst South East manufacturing SMEs. It's been developed to help you boost productivity and increase your competitive edge through the adoption of new industrial technologies and tools.

After running successfully in selected areas of the UK for a number of years, the programme has now rolled out nationally in 2025, making it available to South East makers for the first time.

Made Smarter South East Technology Adoption Specialists and Organisational Workforce Development Advisers will provide advice and support to manufacturing businesses and makers to help you and your workforce switch to advanced and automated technologies.

The team will help you to identify the right technologies and tools, and then support you in introducing them into your business to make everyday improvements to your business.

Support includes:

- Match-funding of up to £20,000 (up to 50% of item cost)
- Expert advice, guidance and support
- Bespoke digital roadmap for your business
- Leadership training
- Workforce training
- Fully-funded student internship (up to 300 hours)

Get ready to improve productivity, reduce downtime and boost your competitive edge with the adoption of new digital technologies. Find out more and register for a free, personalised assessment

[Made Smarter](#)



Get Ready: Shop Front Improvement Grants Opening Soon

If you are in West Oxfordshire and have been thinking about giving your shop front a facelift - now's the time to start planning.

This September, a new Shop Front Improvement Grant Scheme will open to support local independent businesses in upgrading and enhancing their premises. Whether it's a bold new sign, increasing customer seating, or restoring a traditional shopfront to its former glory, this scheme could help turn your plans into reality.

Funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund, the scheme will offer match-funded capital grants for projects that boost visual appeal, support footfall, and celebrate local character. It's all about helping high streets thrive — and it starts with great-looking businesses.

"Our high streets are the heart of our communities — vibrant, welcoming, and full of potential. This grant scheme is a fantastic opportunity for local businesses to invest in their premises and showcase the unique character that sets our towns apart.

By improving shopfronts, we're not only helping businesses attract more customers but also strengthening the fabric of our local economy. Now is the time to prepare and get ready to bring fresh energy to our high streets."— Cllr Duncan Enright, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development

What can the funding cover?

- Access improvements for accessibility
- External signage and lighting (with approvals)
- Awnings, canopies, umbrellas
- Planters and decorative street-level features
- New shopfront doors/windows

What should businesses do now?

With the application window opening in September, now is the ideal time to start preparing. That means:

- Thinking through design ideas
- Gathering quotes from suppliers
- Checking planning permission requirements and applying if necessary
- Getting your documents and business details in order

Grants will be awarded based on the project's impact, creativity and originality, and how well it enhances the character of the area — so strong, well-prepared applications will really stand out. With a total budget of £45,000, we're excited to support at least 45 local businesses with grants of up to £1,000 each. As demand is expected to be high, this will be a competitive process, so preparing your application early and making it shine will truly pay off!

Don't wait until September — get ready now so you can hit the ground running:

Finance and Funding - West Oxfordshire Council

Oxfordshire Business Support

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide the best possible service to Oxfordshire's SMEs, we always ensure that other services and opportunities which may be available to business within the county are highlighted and signposted.

Business & IP Centre Oxfordshire

At the Oxford Westgate Library

Supporting Oxfordshire residents to start, protect and grow their own business.



Recently BIPC was recognised on a global stage at the Global Entrepreneurship Congress USA, for its monthly Startup Huddle networking event's success (running third Thursday of each month). For more details on this networking event please visit:

[Learn more](#)

OSEP

OSEP provides support, empowerment, and advocacy for local social enterprises, enterprising charities, and purposeful businesses in Oxfordshire. Email: hello@osep.org.uk

Are you thinking of setting up a social enterprise? Or are you an existing social enterprise looking for some extra support? Anyone living in Oxford City, or the districts of South Oxfordshire or Vale of Whitehorse is eligible to apply for support via the OSEP website.

You can book small group training sessions covering a range of topics including:

- How to register your Community Interest Company
- Developing an impact driven business idea
- The basics of bookkeeping for social businesses
- Setting up the right legal structure for your social business
- Marketing with a mission
- Raising investment
- Finding space
- Cooperatives and shared ownership



[Book Here](#)

For 1-1 or intensive business support please complete this form to register your interest in support here:

[Registration Form](#)

District Council Support for Businesses

[Cherwell District Council](#)

[Oxford City Council](#)

[South Oxfordshire District Council](#)

[Vale of White Horse District Council](#)

[West Oxfordshire District Council](#)

Non Enterprise Oxfordshire News/Events

Justice in Motion: A professional physical theatre company that is passionate about art and social justice. They make theatre a powerful, thought-provoking, visual type of theatre. They tell stories about people who are victims of social injustice.

This summer they are performing CODE, Justice in Motion's urban odyssey into County Lines and Knife Crime, is a spectacular blend of physical theatre, parkour and trials bike stunts with live rap and music. On an urban playground, skilled athletes and performers show what is happening to our young people exploited by organised drug crime gangs.

This story could be happening right now. See inside the County Lines through up-close, dazzling, adrenaline-fuelled, audacious story-telling inspired by true case studies.

[Book Here](#)

The Oxford Magazine: What's on in Oxfordshire

[Learn More](#)

Oxfordshire County Council News

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email: business@enterpriseoxfordshire.com**