

Growth Hub Newsletter

July 2025

Support for your business

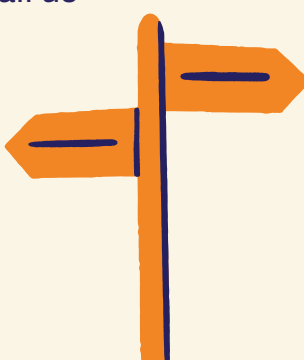
We offer SMEs within Oxfordshire fully funded businesses support. Complete the Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Support Tool today, to get started and receive your business support plan signposting you to profit boosting, market growing business support.

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**



★ Marketplace and Celebration Event 2025

Expressions of interest for the marketplace and award entries have now closed, as of 12pm on 24th June, thank you to everyone who has expressed an interest and good luck to all our award nominees – we look forward to the 18th September when the award category winners will be announced.

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

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

[Book](#)

Curious about what's in store for this year's Marketplace and Celebration 2025? Take a look back at the highlights from last year's event in our 2024 recap and gallery.

[View Last Year's
Highlights](#)



Rural England Prosperity Fund Cherwell Grant Showcase

Enterprise Oxfordshire was pleased to have been able to offer funding to the Cherwell District, through the Rural England Prosperity Fund on behalf of Cherwell District Council.

Through this Business Grant Scheme, rural-based small businesses in the Cherwell area could access grants for capital projects. The scheme was designed to boost businesses operating within Cherwell District's rural economy.

The grant scheme was completed in March 2025, so we are pleased to now be able to share some early results that businesses have achieved. We are delighted to be celebrating these outcomes:

- 13 jobs created
- 34 jobs safeguarded
- 5 businesses have carried out a diversification project and 7 have diversified into new markets with 2 increasing export capacity
- 40 increases in R&D and product development
- 4 transitions of business operations to net zero and lower carbon footprint
- 11 adoptions of new to firm technologies

Above and beyond the numbers we can report, the quotes we have received from the supported businesses speak for themselves:

***"The support from Enterprise Oxfordshire has been vital in helping Barbour Energy strengthen its green infrastructure. The grant funding allowed us to install nine EV chargers across Oddington Grange Farm, offering tenants and visitors convenient access to electric vehicle charging facilities. This investment complements our existing solar energy setup and supports our goal of promoting sustainable transport options for our business community.
Barbour Energy Ltd."***

[Read the Full Showcase here](#)

Other resources available to businesses:

As part of Enterprise Oxfordshire's ongoing commitment to provide the best possible service to Oxfordshire's SMEs, we highlight other services and grant opportunities which may be available to businesses within Oxfordshire. These are highlighted and signposted on our 'External Resources' website page.

External Resources

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



Events

All our planned fully funded events can be accessed and booked here:

[View Events](#)

Taking Your Sales Team from Analogue to Digital
Tues, 22 July 2025 12:30 - 13:30 BST. Online

[Book](#)



In today's world, the market has shifted. To meet customers' new buying preferences and if you want to succeed at social selling, sales leaders must adopt a digital mindset.

We now have a younger generation of decision influencers and decision-makers. By the end of 2025, 80% of B2B sales interactions between suppliers and buyers will occur in digital channels. In-person interactions are shifting to online face-to-face. With digital platforms and the adoption of social selling, sales professionals can sell anywhere and at any time. So why stay analogue when your customers, prospects and even your competitors are going digital?

**Grant Funding for Game-Changing
Technology Innovation**
Tues, 29 July 2025 10:00 - 11:00 BST. Online

[Book](#)



Discover how to secure the funding your innovative business needs to scale. This event is designed to help Oxfordshire SMEs explore and understand how to 'get your ducks in a line' towards making a grant funding application to support your breakthrough technology and innovation.

Whether you're developing a pioneering product, service, or process - or already generating revenue - aligning your funding strategy with your business goals is critical to long-term success.

Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills

Oxfordshire Careers Hub is funded by Enterprise Oxfordshire and the Careers & Enterprise Company to support schools and colleges to provide their students with a careers programme which enables them to make informed decisions about their best next step.

Businesses play a vital role in this by equipping future generations with the inspiration and skills they need for work and there are numerous ways that you can support schools and students across the county, including volunteering to support careers events and initiatives, offering experiences of the workplace and becoming an Enterprise Adviser.

Opportunities to support schools and colleges

Our schools and colleges list their opportunities for employers to engage, including careers events and requests for work experience, on our website, so you can find out how you could support students in your area:

[View Events](#)

Employer newsletter

We send out a regular newsletter that includes useful updates for employers and links to forthcoming events.

[View June Newsletter](#)[Subscribe to the Newsletter](#)[LinkedIn Page](#)

Get in touch

If you are looking to develop your school outreach, perhaps as part of your CSR programme, to offer volunteering opportunities for staff, or to develop your future talent pipeline, please get in touch with the Careers Hub team at: skills@enterpriseoxfordshire.com. We are very happy to talk through your ideas and see how we can support you.

The Oxfordshire Careers Hub team (from left to right): Aoife Roughneen, Fiona Rogers, Nikki Wakefield, Susan Ledgard-Hoile, Eleanor Gordon-Martin and Imaan Yaqub.



Celebrating the success of the Social Contract Programme: 2022 - 2024

Enterprise Oxfordshire is proud to celebrate the achievements of the Social Contract Programme 2022 – 2024. Funded by the government's Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) via Oxfordshire County Council and led by Enterprise Oxfordshire, this £1.7 million initiative was launched to address the impacts of Covid-19 by tackling health and wellbeing challenges linked to unemployment and barriers to employment, education, and training.

The programme has focused on supporting people aged 16 to 24, minority ethnic communities, those furthest from the labour market and individuals over 50. Through a suite of initiatives, including apprenticeship support for employers, the 'No Limits' Programme, Community Employment Plans (CEPs) and the OxGROW Virtual Mentoring and Learning Platform, it has created meaningful pathways to sustainable employment and personal development.

The Social Contract Programme has made – and continues to make – a lasting impact on Oxfordshire's communities. By bridging employment gaps, equipping individuals with essential skills, and fostering inclusive growth, the programme has laid the foundation for a more resilient and connected workforce.

Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills extends its thanks to all partners, stakeholders, and participants who contributed to the success of the programme to date. Together, we are building a stronger, more inclusive Oxfordshire.

[Read the Full Impact Report](#)



Oxfordshire Net Zero Business Support

Get Your Business Net Zero Ready!

Thu, 17 Jul 2025 13:00 - 15:00 BST. Online

This event from Enterprise Oxfordshire will help you to take the critical first / next step on your net zero journey.

Market pressure is mounting, and this is only going to increase. For instance, every supplier to the NHS (with a contract over £10,000) now has to have a carbon reduction plan and commit to net zero. Soon enough, this will spread to every contract and market across the UK and beyond.

But don't panic, there are tools and experience available to help small businesses to take action, and this masterclass will walk you through a selection of these.

Expert 1:1 support is available post-workshop to help you to firm up your plans for net zero action.

The workshop will be led by Phil Curtis, a specialist in transforming businesses towards a high-performance culture with a sustainable future.

He has a toolkit built through 30 years leadership in global companies, small and large, across multiple sectors. His approach will help you to simplify your thinking, prioritise, and deliver meaningful changes that contribute to the global net zero transformation.

[**View Event**](#)

Free Energy Assessments for Oxfordshire businesses

Kickstart your organisation's sustainability journey with a free energy assessment from Energy Solutions Oxfordshire (ESOx).

Free workplace energy assessments are still available through ESOx for all small businesses in Oxfordshire. Normally worth £1,500, assessments are being fully funded through the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and Low Carbon Hub's renewable portfolio project surpluses.

Businesses will receive a report with practical recommendations for energy saving and renewable energy measures, specific to their business, that typically result in a 19% saving on energy bills, as well as reduced emissions, all at no cost.

[Learn More](#)

An energy assessment opens up eligibility to apply for up to £10,000 in match funding from the ESOx Green Fund towards the costs of implementing measures in the report.

[Learn More](#)



Sustainable business workshops for Cherwell businesses

Calling Cherwell SMEs. Find out about practical steps, local support, and hear from inspiring real-life examples from local businesses to help you with exploring sustainability in two free sustainable business workshops taking place online in July.

 **Date: Thursday 10 July**

Time: 1.30pm – 2.30pm

 **Date: Thursday 17 July**

Time: 4.00pm – 5.00pm

The first workshop on 10 July will feature:

- **Melanie Tattersall** (Darcica Logistics) – on embedding sustainability into logistics and operations
- **Steph Reece** (Cleenol, B Corp) – on product innovation and community impact
- **Michael Esvelt** (Oxford Brookes University, EiE) – on practical energy, water, and waste reduction strategies

Attendees will leave with:

- Actionable ideas to reduce costs and environmental impact
- Insights into how sustainability can attract more customers
- Awareness of local support and funding opportunities

[**View Events**](#)

Take part in the 2025 UK Net Zero Business Census!

Join thousands of other businesses in adding your voice to the second largest known national UK industry survey of business progress on net zero, endorsed by the DESNZ Net Zero Council, and led by the UK Business Climate Hub, in partnership with Planet Mark and Sage.

Designed to capture the voice of UK businesses on their journey to net zero, this is a critical moment to understand where we stand as a business community, what's working, and where support is needed.

Whether you're just starting out or are already taking steps to a more sustainable future, your insights will help shape future climate policy and support mechanisms for businesses like yours.

Why take part?

- Help shape decisions around national policy, investment, and business support.
- Benchmark your business in the UK's climate journey.
- Contribute to the most important net zero dataset of its kind.

Take part. Be heard. Be counted.

Take the census before it closes on 18 July:

[Take the census](#)

Business Resilience

Keep your business running in hot weather

As temperatures rise, it is easy to think about barbeques and ice cream!

But there are summer-related risks that could affect your business, and that it is helpful to be aware of, so that you can keep your business going, as well as ensure your comfort, and that of your staff.

Temperature is only one risk to think about in the summer – and can affect equipment, as well as wellbeing.

We have pulled together at the link below information on keeping cool, summer-risks, and practical steps that you can take:

[Learn more](#)



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

[Learn more](#)

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](#)

Oxfordshire Business Support

The Collaboration Exchange is back!

As part of B Corp Month back in March, the Oxfordshire+ B Local ran a tremendously successful event, which saw charities, community groups and social enterprises matched with businesses and other employers to share skills and resources.

Due to popular demand, it's back! Whether you are a business or a charity/group, find out more and register to attend here:

[Learn more](#)

West Oxfordshire District Council: Funding to help rural businesses invest and grow in West Oxfordshire

Four new district-wide grant schemes to support local businesses, revitalise town centres, and back community-led projects

·Shop Front Improvement Grant

Up to £1,000 in capital funding to improve shopfronts, enhance accessibility, and help revitalise our high streets. Applications open 8 to 14 September

·Visitor Economy Grants

Grants between £1,000–£10,000 for businesses in tourism sector to boost sustainability and improve visitor experiences.

·Rural Enterprise Growth Grants

Grants from £5,000 to £20,000 for rural and agricultural businesses to diversify, grow, and build resilience. Applications open 20 June to 18 July

·Westhive Community Infrastructure Fund

A £60,000 investment in the Westhive crowdfunding platform to support community-led initiatives, particularly those helping vulnerable residents and young people.

[**Learn More**](#)

Non Enterprise Oxfordshire News/Events

Point of Difference

Make the Most of the Summer Holidays at Perch Coworking, Bicester

The summer holidays can be a juggle – especially when you're working from home.

Whether it's noisy households, endless distractions, or the temptation of the garden calling your name, staying focused isn't always easy. That's where Perch Coworking in the centre of Bicester comes in.

Its flexible co-working space is designed to help you stay productive, even during the school break. Located just a short walk from Bicester Village and local transport links, Perch offers a calm, professional environment with everything you need to work well – fast Wi-Fi, comfortable desks, meeting rooms, and great coffee on tap.

Need a change of scene without committing to a long-term office? Its day passes and off-peak deals on Mondays and Fridays are perfect for freelancers, remote workers, and small business owners.

And if you book a meeting room on a Friday, they'll throw in complimentary biscuits – because every good meeting needs snacks!

Plus, once a month, its members are invited to enjoy a delicious breakfast spread – think fresh fruit, pastries, and good conversation with like-minded professionals.

So if you're looking for a productive escape this summer, join us at Perch Coworking. It's the perfect place to get things done, meet others, and enjoy a little peace and quiet (with air con, too!).

Find out more via: pointofdifference.co.uk.



The Oxford Magazine: What's on in Oxfordshire

[Learn More](#)

Oxfordshire County Council News

[Learn More](#)

Experience Oxfordshire: What's on

[Learn More](#)

**If you have anything you would like sharing in future editions, please
email: business@enterpriseoxfordshire.com**