

Growth Hub Newsletter

October 2025

Support for your business

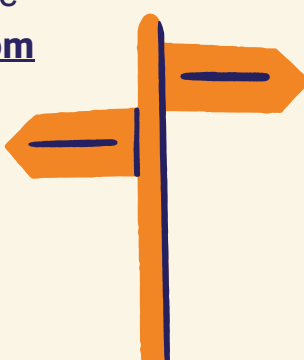
We offer SMEs within Oxfordshire fully funded businesses support. Complete the Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Support Tool today, to get started and receive your business support plan signposting you to profit boosting, market growing business support.

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

Enterprise Oxfordshire Marketplace and Celebration 2025 was held on the 18th of September at the Oxford Town Hall this year, it was an outstanding success! We were delighted to welcome over 40 stallholders, each bringing their unique offerings and contributing to the vibrant atmosphere of the event. It was truly inspiring to see such a diverse array of businesses showcasing their products and services.

Another highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the awards ceremony, where we celebrated the achievements and contributions of Oxfordshire's SME business community. It was a heartwarming experience to recognise and honour the hard work and dedication of these businesses, which play such a crucial role in our local economy.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated and made this event so memorable. Your enthusiasm and support are what make our community so special.

A special Thank you to Martin Reeves the Chief Executive of Oxford County Council and Councillor Ben Higgins for taking the time to say a few words and warmly welcome everyone to our event. Your presence and remarks significantly contributed to the success of the event and set a positive tone for the day. Additionally, Helen Brind, our Head of Business and Skills, gave an insightful welcome speech. Highlighting the importance of recognising the contributions and achievements of the SMEs within Oxfordshire.

A special thank you goes out to all our Sponsors, Supporters, and our esteemed guest speakers. Your involvement and generosity have been instrumental in our success, and we couldn't have achieved this without you.



Marketplace and Celebration Event 2025

Each award category is generously sponsored by a wide range of businesses, and we extend our sincere gratitude for their unwavering support and commitment to acknowledging and promoting local talent.

Firstly, the **Environmentally Sustainable Business of the Year**, sponsored by ALP Synergy, was awarded to ASM Auto Recycling. A huge congratulations to them! The highly commended businesses in this category are Velocity Cycle Couriers and Reborn.

In the category of **Socially Responsible Business of the Year**, sponsored by The Sky Wave Distilling Co, Y.O.U Underwear emerged as the winner. The highly commended businesses are WHEN and Driving Miss Daisy Didcot.

The **Manufacturer of the Year award**, sponsored by Cabinet & Frame, went to ReBorn, with Cherrywood Bespoke and Rumsey's Handmade Chocolates receiving high commendations.

For **Innovation in Customer Experience of the Year**, sponsored by Stephen Spencer + Associates, Ouroboros Clothing was the winner. Guides for Brides and Thompson and Terry Recruitment were highly commended.

The **Start-up of the Year award**, sponsored by Cypher, was given to Big Fish Project, while highly commended businesses include Flux Physiotherapy and Extractus.

In the **Business Leader of the Year** category, sponsored by the Institute of Directors, WHEN took the top spot, with After Cloud and Guides for Brides receiving commendations.

The **Growth Business of the Year** award, sponsored by Olamalu, was awarded to 5C Consulting. Oxford Sigma and Thompson and Terry Recruitment were highly commended in this category.

Last but certainly not least, the **Overall Winner**, sponsored by Darcica Logistics Ltd, was ASM Auto Recycling. Kudos to them for their outstanding achievement!

Congratulations to all the winners and highly commended businesses. Your hard work, dedication, and innovation have truly shone through.

It is our intention to continue hosting the Marketplace and Celebration event annually, designed to highlight the achievements, ambitions, and collaboration of Oxfordshire's business community. If your organisation is interested in becoming a sponsor or supporter of this exciting and vibrant event, please contact us at: business@enterpriseoxfordshire.com and we'd be delighted to discuss options with you.

Business Growth Service

Enterprise Oxfordshire partners with the Business Growth Service to transform support for local businesses.

We're pleased to announce our partnership with the UK Government's new Business Growth Service, designed to simplify how businesses access support. This collaborative approach creates a seamless experience for businesses in Oxfordshire, connecting our local expertise with national resources.

The Business Growth Service addresses a key challenge identified by businesses – that support is too fragmented, difficult to find and navigate. By bringing together local with national government support, we're going to collectively make it easier than ever for businesses to find the help they need to start, grow and succeed.

Find the right support for your business:

[**Visit Website**](#)

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 Networking 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 Business Events

We have lots of exciting events planned for October 2025, including the few listed below.

Cyber Security Essentials: Protecting Your Business in a Digital Age

Tuesday 7th October, 2:00pm - 4:00pm, Online

In today's digital world, cyber security is not a luxury - it's a necessity. Join us for this expert-led Cyber Security Workshop designed specifically for businesses and professionals across Oxfordshire.

This event is hosted by Bicester Vision, in collaboration with Banbury Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise Oxfordshire, and funded by a grant from Thames Valley Police.

[Register Here](#)

World Mental Health Day: Simple tools for Mental Health Wellbeing at Work

Friday 10th October, 12:30pm - 1:30pm, Online

In this interactive one hour webinar participants will learn how to boost their mental resilience and wellbeing through manageable, everyday tools and practices.

Participants will have chance to:

- Explore the evidence-based benefits and neuroscience behind mindful approaches in the workplace
- Learn short, practical tools they can turn to during the working day when they need extra support, energy or relief
- Reflect on how to integrate mindful approaches into daily working life in order to manage stress, boost resilience, and improve mental wellbeing

All the tools and practices shared will be evidence based, secular, adapted to the workplace, and trauma sensitive.

[Register Here](#)

Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Events

Business Surgery @ Boston House

Tuesday 14th October, 9:00am - 1:30pm, Boston House, Wantage, OX12 9FF

This dynamic day brings together 6–9 expert business advisors offering free 1:1 sessions in key areas including:

- Accountancy & Finance – get clarity on cashflow, tax, and growth planning.
- Marketing & Communications – learn how to attract more customers and stand out from the competition.
- Human Resources & People Management – navigate recruitment, retention, and team development.
- AI & Innovation – discover how emerging technologies can give your business a competitive edge.

Plus other specialists covering essential business growth disciplines.

What's Included:

- 1:1 Business Advice – Book tailored sessions with our expert advisors to address your specific challenges.
- Business Growth Workshop – Gain practical tools, insights, and strategies to help your business thrive.
- Networking Lunch – Make valuable connections with other local business owners, exchange ideas, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Whether you're looking to grow, or innovate, this is your opportunity to access personalised guidance, fresh ideas, and practical solutions – all in one day.

[Register Here](#)

Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Events

Essential Insurance Considerations for Start-Up Resilience

Thursday 16th October, 12:30pm - 1:30pm, Online

Running a start-up is exciting but we all know it also comes with risks. There are many decisions that you make at the beginning of your start-up journey and insurance should be a consideration.

Insurance can help your start-up recover from unexpected problems. Having the right cover means you're better prepared to deal with disruptions and keep your business running.

Some types of insurance you may have heard of include:

- Public Liability
- Employers' Liability
- Professional Indemnity
- Cyber Protection

[Register Here](#)

Neurodiversity in Business: Unlocking Potential at Work

Wednesday 22nd October, 12:30pm - 1:30pm, Online

In this 1-hour webinar, counsellor and neurodiversity & business coach Emma Redman (Empowered Coaching) will share fresh insights and practical tools to help businesses embrace different ways of thinking.

You'll learn how to:

- Understand what neurodiversity really means in business.
- Recognise common challenges and hidden strengths.
- Make simple, practical adjustments that boost performance.
- Use a clear 3-step framework to build a more inclusive workplace.

[Register Here](#)

Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills

Reimagining Meaningful Work Experience: 21st October 2025

Oxfordshire Careers Hub is inviting employers to a special event focused on shaping the future of workplace experiences for young people, taking place on Tuesday 21st October from 09:00 - 16:00 at The Kassam Conference & Events Centre in Oxford.

Modern work experience should guarantee every young person access to high-quality, multiple workplace experiences, totalling 10 days' worth throughout secondary education. This equitable approach will benefit both young people as they start their career journeys and employers looking to find the next generation of employees - by facilitating a variety of experiences starting early, connecting education and young people with industry and unlocking the skills and opportunities of the future workforce.

Whether you're a seasoned provider of work experience or just starting out, this day is designed to support you in delivering impactful and meaningful opportunities - simply and effectively.

Why attend?

- Learn how workplace experiences can boost your staff development, business and sector visibility, and talent pipelines
- Discover innovative approaches and ready-to-use resources that make it easy to do
- Meet Careers Leads from local schools and colleges to make those all-important connections



Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills

Reimagining Meaningful Work Experience: 21st October 2025

Morning session:

Join other employers for an interactive session to share ideas and to:

- Explore how to benchmark your careers outreach and identify areas for improvement. NB to help you get the most from this session, all attendees will be required to complete or update The Careers & Enterprise Company Employer Standards, a free online benchmarking tool that only takes 30 minutes to complete and will give you a great starting point to work from
- Discover what modern work experience looks like today

Afternoon session:

Join Careers Leads from local schools and colleges for a collaborative session to:

- Develop a shared understanding of what makes work experience meaningful
- Explore current challenges and uncover new opportunities
- Co-design a modern, real-world work experience model with potential for further development

Workplace experiences introduce young people to the realities of the modern workplace, helping them make informed decisions about their futures. Your involvement can make a lasting impact. 81% of employers say outreach helps develop new talent, 67% say it improves workforce diversity, and 87% say it encourages young people into their sector.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

[Register Here](#)



Oxfordshire Net Zero Business Support

Visit our webpage for advice on how to make your business net zero. Read inspiring stories, find net zero support, and discover funding and grants available to support your net zero journey. Along with lots more.

[Net Zero](#)

Other Net Zero Support

Cherwell District Council Sustainability Survey for Local Businesses 2025

Cherwell District Council would love to hear from local businesses. This survey is designed to help them understand what local businesses are already doing around sustainability, the challenges they face, and the kind of support that would be most useful.

[Complete Survey](#)

Oxfordshire Business Support

Made Smarter - Funding and support for SME manufacturers and makers

Did you know Made Smarter can help you access funding, support and training to help your manufacturing business adopt new technologies and boost competitiveness?

If you're ready to take your business forward by adopting digital technologies, but are looking for the support, advice and grants to help you do it, the gov-funded Made Smarter programme could be the solution you've been looking for.

Made Smarter South East's team of experts will provide advice and support to manufacturing businesses and makers to help you switch to advanced and automated technologies to improve productivity, reduce downtime, and boost competitiveness. And match-funding up to £20k is available to help you purchase the technology you need.

Start your technology adoption right away.

[Sign Up](#)



**Made Smarter South East
Business Briefing webinar.**

**Funding & support for
manufacturers and makers
across all sectors in the
South East**

WHEN: 25 September, 12.30-1.15pm

**MADE
SMARTER**
South East

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.



[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](#)

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