

Growth Hub Newsletter

March 2026

Support for your business

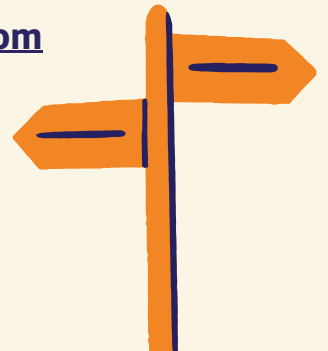
We provide fully funded support for every stage of business, from start-up to growth. This includes one to one support with one of our expert advisors, facilitated workshops and webinars, peer groups and much more.

Get started...

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:

[Business Support Tool](#)

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



Recognising the Regional Impact of Growth Hubs at the House of Commons

Growth Hubs in our region are delivering outstanding results - and the newly launched Cluster Impact Report showcases just how far reaching that success has been.

Enterprise Oxfordshire Business had the privilege of joining our regional Growth Hub colleagues at the Houses of Parliament to highlight the achievements delivered between 2020 and 2025.

Over the past five years, Growth Hubs across Oxfordshire, the South Midlands, Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and New Anglia have collectively:

- **Supported 92,719 businesses**
- **Delivered 178,563 hours of expert guidance**
- **Enabled 3,934 start-ups**
- **Created 6,970 jobs and safeguarded 6,093 more**
- **Generated exceptional value, attracting £24 of additional funding and delivering £35 of economic and social value for every £1 of core government investment**

Sarah Beal, Business Support Service Manager at Enterprise Oxfordshire Business, said:



"A key theme we collectively showcased throughout the launch – and via the report itself – is the Cluster's role in simplifying the business support landscape. By acting as a trusted first-stop-shop, the Growth Hubs reduce complexity for time-pressed SMEs, connecting them quickly and effectively to both regional and national programmes.

"Beyond our direct delivery, Growth Hubs have also played an increasingly strategic role, helping shape local economic priorities and contributing invaluable insights into policy design for small business growth."

Growth Hubs make it easier for businesses to access the support they need. As a trusted first stop for busy SMEs, they help drive local economic growth while connecting entrepreneurs with expert guidance. Whether you're launching a new idea, scaling up, or tackling a fresh challenge, the Growth Hub is here to help you move forward with confidence.



[Read the full report](#)

Marketplace and Celebration 2026 – Save the dates!

Following the fantastic success of Marketplace & Celebration 2025, we are delighted to announce the launch of Marketplace & Celebration 2026.

Join us on **Tuesday 17th March 2026**, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm, at BIPC Oxfordshire, Oxford Westgate Library, for a special edition of the OxBOoSt Network event in-person to launch the MAC 26 Event.

This free gathering is open to all Oxfordshire based businesses and offers a great opportunity to connect, collaborate, and celebrate local enterprise.

Spaces are limited! Register here:

Event Registration

But that's not all...

Save the Date: Wednesday 4th November 2026

Our major celebration of Oxfordshire businesses returns to Oxford Town Hall!

As valued members of the OxBOoSt community, you'll be the first to hear all details and opportunities to get involved.

MAC26 will once again be the ultimate platform for recognition, networking, and inspiration - shining a spotlight on the remarkable achievements of SMEs, innovators, and business leaders who have engaged with Enterprise Oxfordshire since April 2022.



Oxfordshire High Street Support Programme

Enterprise Oxfordshire's 'Helping High Streets' business support programme is now in full swing and running until the end of March.

A series of **free online webinars is available, offering practical guidance** to help you strengthen your business and contribute to the long term vibrancy of your local high street.

In addition to the webinars, a **one day gathering for Oxfordshire high street businesses** will take place on Thursday 16th April at Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot.

The Oxfordshire High Street Summit brings local business owners together for a day of shared learning, fresh ideas, and meaningful connection. Instead of traditional lectures, the summit offers an interactive, collaborative environment where everyone is encouraged to contribute and reflect.



Oxfordshire High Street Summit 2026

Thursday 16th April

10:00am - 2:30pm

Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot,
OX11 7NE

Throughout the day, you'll hear inspiring stories, take part in guided conversations, and connect with peers facing similar challenges and opportunities. The programme is carefully paced to encourage thoughtful discussion, spark new thinking, and create genuine collaboration.

You'll leave feeling refreshed, better connected, and equipped with practical ideas to strengthen your business and shape the future of your local high street - together.

Whether you're seeking **new perspectives, valuable contacts, or reassurance** that you're not navigating change alone, this summit offers space to pause, reflect, and move forward with confidence.

Event Registration

To find out more and to register an interest in the programme, head to the [Enterprise Oxfordshire Business website](#).



Social Impact Business Support Programme

The Social Impact Business Support Programme is a new initiative designed to help co-operatives, mutuals, social enterprises and other organisations using alternative business models to start, scale and thrive. Participants will benefit from one-to-one advisory support, workshops (online and in person) and peer networking events with key stakeholders. The programme is due to run until the end of **March 2026**.

Led by Enterprise Oxfordshire Business, delivered by OSEP CIC (Oxfordshire Social Enterprise Partnership) – itself a social enterprise – the programme extends successful support already operating across Oxford City, South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse.

[Register an interest in the programme](#)

Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Directory

Our fast-growing Business Directory is the perfect place for you to showcase your business, connect with other local enterprises, and take advantage of the numerous opportunities that our network offers. Whether you're a small startup or an established company, listing your business in our directory can significantly enhance your visibility and reach.

The process is simple and straightforward, and our team is here to assist you every step of the way.

[List your business](#)

Oxfordshire Network Groups

Are you looking to make valuable connections and boost your business success? We have some exciting news for you! There are numerous networking groups and events happening right here in Oxfordshire that can help you expand your professional network and open new doors for your business.

The Oxfordshire Network Groups directory is a great resource for discovering the best ways to find networking groups and events near you. Whether you're looking to connect with like-minded professionals, share ideas, or simply grow your business, this is the perfect place to start.

[Find out more about these fantastic opportunities](#)

Other Resources Available to Businesses

As part of Enterprise Oxfordshire's unwavering commitment to deliver the best possible service to Oxfordshire's SMEs, we continuously strive to ensure that other services and grant opportunities available to businesses within Oxfordshire are highlighted and signposted on our 'External Resources' website page.

Check out our 'External Resources' page and keep updated with any new opportunities that could benefit your business.

[Find out more](#)

Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Events

Find out more about upcoming Enterprise Oxfordshire Business events, workshops and webinars designed to help your business.

[View events](#)



Customer Experience

Spotlight Session

Tuesday 3rd March

12:30pm - 1:30pm

Online

Customer Experience - Spotlight Session – March 3!

How to create customer experiences people remember and return for. Turning everyday interactions into lasting relationships.

This webinar is being delivered online for businesses trading on the High Street.

Mar 3 from 12:30pm to 1:30pm GMT

Great customer experience isn't about big gestures. It's about small moments, done with intention.

This one-hour session brings brand and communication to life through experience. We explore the moments that matter most, how emotion shapes memory, and how thoughtful customer experience turns one-time shoppers into loyal advocates. From in-store interactions to community connection, this session focuses on how to create experiences that feel human, meaningful and memorable, without needing big budgets or complicated systems.

[Register Here](#)



International Women's Day Brunch Event

Enterprise Oxfordshire, Oxfordshire Women In Business and Athena Networking have joined forces this year to bring you a morning filled with networking, inspirational speakers, and celebration.

Mar 6 from 9.30am-1pm GMT in person event

[Register Here](#)



Promoting Your High Street Business Online (2) - Spotlight Session

Running a high street business leaves little time for marketing. Learn how to get visible online and bring more customers through your door. This webinar is being delivered online for businesses trading on the High Street.

Mar 10 from 6pm to 7pm GMT Online Event

Running a high street business often means you are overloaded, leaving little time to market yourself effectively. You know you need to be visible online to bring people through the door, but finding the hours in the day, and the right digital skills within your team, can feel impossible.

[Register Here](#)



Oxfordshire High Street Summit 2026

A one-day gathering for Oxfordshire high street businesses committed to the future of their places, people, and work.

Apr 16 from 10am to 2:30pm GMT Online Event

The Oxfordshire High Street Summit is designed to bring business owners together in one room to share knowledge, learn from one another, and explore what it really takes to build thriving, resilient high street businesses in changing times.

This is not about being talked at; it's about coming together, listening, contributing, and leaving with renewed perspective and practical ideas.

[Register Here](#)



Staying Ahead of the Market - Spotlight Session

This session is a must for any High Street business looking to adapt, innovate, and thrive in today's fast-changing retail environment.

This webinar is being delivered online for businesses trading on the High Street.

Mar 16 from 12:30pm to 1:30pm GMT- Online event

[Register Here](#)

Join us for a special edition of...



BIPC Oxfordshire,
Oxford Westgate Library

Tuesday 17th March

4:00pm - 6:00pm



featuring the launch of
our Marketplace &
Celebration
event 2026!



OxBOoSt along with Marketplace and Celebration 26 (MAC26) Launch - March 26

A special edition of the OxBOoSt Networking event, in-person to launch the MAC 26 Event.

Mar 17 from 4pm to 6pm GMT- In person Event

Each meeting will include 5-8 pre-arranged slots for businesses to share their story or pitch for collaboration and a forward look of business support from Enterprise Oxfordshire. And of course there will be plenty of time for networking.

You can request one of the business story slots on the booking form.

Meanwhile...

We're also excited to reveal that – at this event – we'll also be officially launching the Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Marketplace and Celebration Event for 2026 (MAC26).

[Register Here](#)



Join us for...

So you want to start a business

Monday 23rd March

5:00pm - 6:00pm

Online

So you want to start a business

Whether you're a seasoned professional looking to transition into entrepreneurship or a budding visionary seeking guidance, this webinar is tailor-made to equip you with the fundamental first steps and strategies required to transform your passion into a thriving business venture.

March 23, 2026, 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm GMT- Online Event

Dreaming of starting your own business but don't know where to begin? Look no further!

[Register Here](#)



Join us for...

Understanding the UK Funding Landscape

Wednesday 25th March

10:00am - 12:00pm

Online

Understanding the UK Funding Landscape

Are you an Oxfordshire SME or entrepreneur seeking external funding? Join this practical 2-hour online session

Mar 25 from 10am to 12pm GMT- Online Event

This interactive event will unpack how Innovate UK and other major UK grant funders operate, exploring what support is currently available and how to position your project for success. You'll gain clarity on Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) - what they mean, how they're used, and why funders care.

[Register Here](#)

Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills

For more information on Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills please visit:
enterpriseoxfordshireskills.com

Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2026

[Find out more](#)

Careers Fest 2026 – session for parents and carers

Are you a parent or carer of a young person in Year 9 or above? Would you like to know more about their options for when they leave school or college to help you support them with taking their best next step?

Oxfordshire Careers Hub is holding a twilight session for parents and carers at Careers Fest on Wednesday 18 March from 16:00 – 19:00 at The Kassam Conference & Events Centre in Oxford.

This year, Careers Fest will welcome more than 75 exhibitors offering information, advice and guidance on future pathways and careers from a varied range of sectors. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet employers, further education colleges, universities and training providers and find out about all the options they have to offer.

Visiting Careers Fest with your young person is a great way to get those careers conversations started and help you feel equipped with the right information to support them with deciding on their next step.

We've created a guide with lots of useful tips to help you get the most from your visit to Careers Fest with your young person. Check it out and register now.



[Find out more](#)



Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills

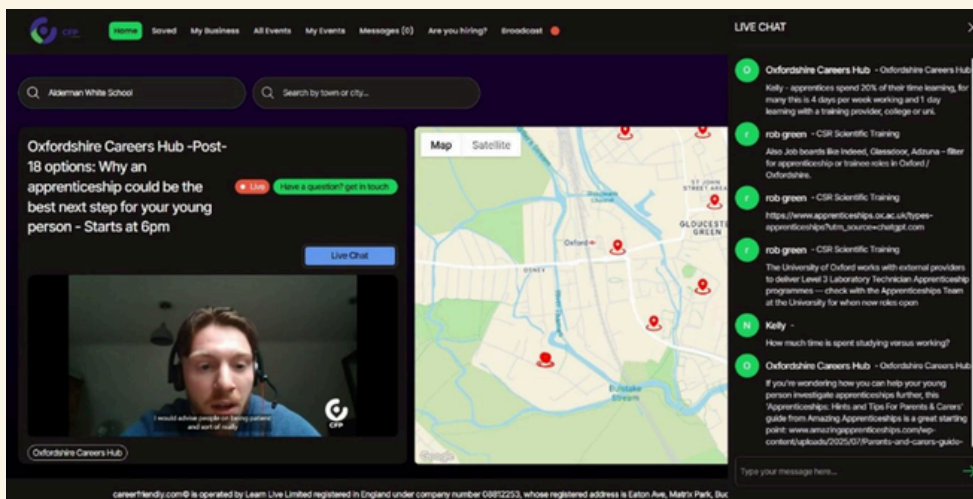
For more information on Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills please visit:
enterpriseoxfordshireskills.com

Watch on demand: apprenticeship broadcasts for parents and carers

Oxfordshire Careers Hub held two apprenticeship awareness broadcasts for parents and carers in partnership with the Career Friendly programme during National Apprenticeship Week, giving viewers an overview of apprenticeships and some specific advice for students considering their options at 16 and 18.

The post 16 broadcast focused more on apprenticeships that are suitable for young people after GCSEs / Level 2 qualifications and included the employer perspective from Megan Carter from Blenheim Palace & Pye Homes, the training provider perspective from Lisa Marie Perkins from ACE Training and the apprentice perspective from Isabel Faulkner from Darcica Logistics Limited and Luke Spink from Williams Racing.

The post 18 broadcast also looked at apprenticeships as an alternative to university for young people who will leave school or college with A Levels or another Level 3 qualification and included the employer perspective from Eleanor Jennings from the University of Oxford, the training provider perspective from Rob Green from CSR Training and the apprentice perspective from Megan King from Edgars and Thomas Taylor from NielsenIQ.



Watch On Demand

The broadcasts are now available to watch on demand via Career Friendly. To watch the broadcasts, login to Career Friendly, go to [Oxfordshire Careers Hub's page](#) and click on 'Videos'. You can also [download the slides and links](#).

Please note: you will need to register for an account on Career Friendly at <https://careerfriendlyprogramme.com> to view the broadcasts. This will also enable you to search for and make contact with employers via the platform.

Help shape the future of Oxford's workforce

Oxford City Council is creating a new Skills Strategy to tackle recruitment challenges, skills shortages and barriers to employment across the city. To build a full picture, they need your insights.

Oxford City Council is inviting local employers to complete a 15-minute survey. By sharing your views, you'll help them to:

- understand recruitment and retention challenges
- identify current and future skills shortages
- collaborate with training providers, colleges and universities on relevant training
- support businesses to attract, retain and upskill talent
- connect employers with residents looking for work

Your feedback will directly inform practical solutions that drive business growth, create quality jobs for Oxford residents, and build a fairer, more inclusive economy.

Complete the survey by Sunday 15 March: [Complete Survey](#)

Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills

For more information on Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills please visit:
enterpriseoxfordshireskills.com

Oxfordshire Net Zero Business Support

SMEs across Oxfordshire play a vital role in helping the county reach net zero emissions by 2050. To make this journey easier, Enterprise Oxfordshire have created a one stop resource hub offering guidance, tools and funding opportunities – no matter your sector or where you are on your sustainability journey.

We believe that with the right support and resources, every business can make a meaningful contribution to a greener future. Let's work together to achieve net zero and make Oxfordshire a leader in sustainability.

[Find Out More](#)

Other Net Zero Support

Low Carbon Hub Pint & Planet: Networking for Good

Low Carbon Hub is hosting a series of networking events designed to bring together local organisations to learn more about the Green Fund and explore local challenges and opportunities. Sustainability is no longer just about being green. It can mean fewer costs and more business for your organisation, especially when the local community is involved. At these events, you'll hear how you can support your business community plus you can engage with local people from local community groups, Freeland Energy Group and Go Green Hanborough.

The next event, How To: Make Your Communications More Sustainable, led by experts by Paul Gardner is Managing Director at [Big Design and Print](#) in Eynsham and Davina Miller of [Miller Web Design](#) is based in Witney, will take place Wednesday 25th March at the Worton Kitchen Garden.

[Find Out More](#)

Oxfordshire Business Support

Cyber Safety Session for Small Businesses

Learn how to protect your business from cyber crime with practical advice and real-world guidance from cyber security specialists. During the workshop, attendees will explore real-life scenarios, learn about common cyber threats such as phishing, account compromise and data breaches, and receive practical tools and guidance. Join this in person event on March 9th 2026 8:00-10:00am in Town Hall, Oxford.

[Learn More](#)

MADE SMARTER

Are you a manufacturer looking to accelerate the growth of your business but struggling to understand the best route forward?

We understand that adopting new technology can be daunting, but we can support you throughout your journey to digitalisation, whatever stage you are currently at.

View blogs, guides, useful downloads, and case studies from Made Smarter and trusted partners. Made Smarter helps you secure this competitive edge. Find out how Made Smarter developed.

[Learn More](#)

Business Growth Service

The Business Growth Service is accessible via a new digital platform which acts as a single-entry point for tailored support.

Whether you're looking for funding, mentoring, or export advice, the platform helps you find what you need quickly and easily.

Enterprise Oxfordshire Business is integrating the Business Growth Service into our communications and promotional activities, making it easier for local businesses to discover and access support. This builds on our existing offer, which has already delivered significant impact.

[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.



[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**](#)

Non Business News/Events:

Beautiful Minds Drama Club

Empowering Autistic Adults Through Creative Expression

Beautiful Minds Drama Club is a unique initiative dedicated to autistic adults, offering a welcoming and creative space to explore drama, self-expression, and social connection. The club provides tailored activities designed to nurture confidence, communication skills, and self-esteem, while celebrating neurodiversity and individuality.

celebrating neurodiversity and individuality.

Participation in drama can bring a wealth of benefits. It encourages teamwork, creative thinking, and self-discovery. Members of Beautiful Minds Drama Club enjoy a supportive environment where they can make new friends, express themselves, and develop talents in a way that respects their needs and preferences. Membership is open to adults of all abilities, and we ensure that every participant feels valued and understood.

Getting Involved Is Easy

- Share information about Beautiful Minds Drama Club with staff.
- Offer flexible support for employees who wish to attend sessions.
- Contact us to arrange an introductory visit or learn more about our programmes.

Sessions are held weekly at a central location in Oxford, and we offer a relaxed, judgement-free space where everyone is welcome. For further details or to arrange an informal chat, please email us at info@13ththeatreco.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