

Growth Hub Newsletter

June 2026

Support for your business

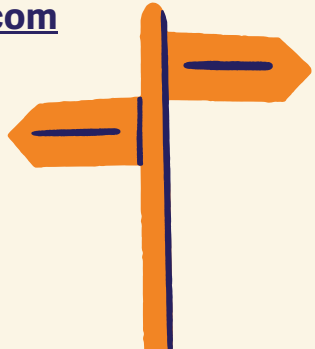
We provide fully funded support for every stage of business, from start-up to growth. This includes one to one support with one of our expert advisors, facilitated workshops and webinars, peer groups and much more.

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**



Discover the Support Waiting for You at Enterprise Oxfordshire

Your Pathways to Growth – Business Support 2026/27

Pathways to Growth is Enterprise Oxfordshire's new flagship support offer for 2026/27 - designed to help local businesses unlock sustainable growth, not just short-term fixes. Built around clear "Growth Pathways", the programme makes sure every business gets support that's proportionate, practical and relevant to where they are on their journey.

On 7th May, we hosted an introductory webinar detailing our refreshed support programmes. It was a pleasure to connect with familiar faces and welcome new business owners into our network.

We don't believe in one-size-fits-all solutions, so our approach is dynamic and responsive, guided by the real-time needs of the businesses we serve. The journey begins with our Business Support Tool. By completing this assessment, you provide us with the data necessary to design targeted support. The impact of this approach is clear: in the 2025/26 financial year, 17% of all new jobs created by businesses we supported in Oxfordshire were created from start-up ventures. Our support is tailored to make sure that momentum continues.

Expert Guidance, Fully Funded

Accessing high-level consultancy can often be a financial barrier for growing businesses. We bridge that gap by providing fully funded access to over 30 expert business advisors.

These professionals are seasoned leaders with proven experience in running successful enterprises. Whether you are navigating the complexities of your first year or scaling an established brand, our advisors offer specialised knowledge to help your business grow.

New for 2026: The Leadership and Business Retreat

We are particularly excited to introduce our Leadership for Growth and Business Retreat. This intensive two-day residency is designed for owners and senior leaders to step away from the daily operations, forge deep professional connections, and focus on long-term strategy.

A Comprehensive Support Ecosystem

Our programmes are designed to meet you exactly where you are:

- Pre-starts: Helping you get the basics right and build a solid foundation.
- Start-ups: Providing support such as start-up clubs and networking groups to help you secure and grow your customer base.
- SMEs and Scale-ups: Providing specialised support for leadership, growth technology, and becoming investment-ready.

Every business that completes our Business Support Tool receives a bespoke Pathway to Growth Plan, tailored specifically to its stage, whether pre-start, start-up, SME, or scale-up.

Ant Parsons introduces the support available to ALL SMEs in Oxfordshire



WATCH NOW

Don't miss out: Nominate your business today!

The countdown is on. If you want to showcase your business or nominate for this year's celebration, make sure you act now - **the deadline is 18th June**. Enterprise Oxfordshire's **Marketplace and Celebration Event** is your chance to get involved in one of the county's most inspiring business gatherings.



Taking place at Oxford Town Hall on 4th November, the event brings together businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs from across Oxfordshire for a day of connection, celebration and opportunity.

From a vibrant marketplace of local organisations to peer-judged awards celebrating standout success, this is a fantastic opportunity to raise your profile, make new connections and be part of Oxfordshire's thriving business community.

Better still, **entry is completely free**. Whether you want to exhibit, nominate a business or simply be part of the celebration, there's still time to get involved - but not for long.

Exhibitors can put their organisation in the spotlight, while the awards recognise exceptional achievements across a range of categories - all free to enter.

To take part as an exhibitor or award nominee, you must have engaged with Enterprise Oxfordshire Business at any point since April 2022.

Award categories include:

- **The Tap Social Socially Responsible Business of the Year**
- **The Stephen Spencer + Associates Innovation in Customer Experience of the Year**
- **The Cypher Start-up of the Year**
- **The Institute of Directors Business Leader of the Year**
- **The Velocity Cycle Couriers Environmentally Sustainable Business of the Year**
- **The Olamalu Growth Business of the Year**

The Overall Winner Award will also be selected by our Headline Sponsor, Oxfordshire County Council, from the winners of each category.

Ready to take part? Submit your nomination now before the **18 June** deadline.

APPLY NOW

We are still looking for supporters!

If you'd like to learn more about how you can support our event, please feel free to get in touch. We'd love to hear from you!

Email: business@enterpriseoxfordshire.com

Women in Business Gathering: back in Henley 23rd June

Enterprise Oxfordshire's popular Women in Business network event is back at Henley Rugby Club from 9:30 to 12:00 on 23rd June. If you're a female founder, leader, manager or SME entrepreneur in Oxfordshire, this is your chance to connect with a vibrant community of ambitious, like-minded business women, share ideas and build valuable new relationships.

We're delighted to welcome Phaedra Tarbit of Shake Up Talent, who will share her inspiring business journey and expert insights from supporting women at every stage of their careers, from early development to senior leadership. With a passion for helping women thrive in life and work, Phaedra's session promises to be both motivating and practical

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Want to see the impact this community is making? Explore our **Women in Business Showcase**, a celebration of inspiring women entrepreneurs supported by Enterprise Oxfordshire. Each story shines a light on the ambition, resilience and creativity behind small business success, and offers even more reason to be part of this growing network.

[READ THE SHOWCASE](#)

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

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 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](#)

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.

[View resources](#)

Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Events

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



Finding Grant Funding for your Business

[Register Here](#)

Tuesday 9 June • 12.30pm - 1.30pm • Online

Join our upcoming webinar designed for small business owners and social enterprises, exploring how grant funding can accelerate your service, growth and market potential. Grant funding isn't as easy as it used to be, but there are still opportunities.



Foundations to Growth Programme

[Register Here](#)

Monday 15 June • 8 am - 11.00am • Online

Participating will help you gain new perspectives, inspire new ideas and change your way of thinking. It can also help you form new contacts, build networks and gain valuable professional and personal support.



Getting Your Business Ready for Growth

[Register Here](#)

Thursday 18 June • 9.30am - 11.30am • Online

Join us as we explore the key foundations every growing business needs: from creating a clear and compelling vision to setting SMART goals that drive real results. You'll gain actionable insights into building the systems and processes that support scalable, sustainable growth - without sacrificing quality or control.



Enterprise Oxfordshire Women in Business Gathering

[Register Here](#)

Tuesday 23 June • 9.30am - 12.00pm • Henley Rugby Club

Our Women in Business Network brings together ambitious female founders, leaders, and managers to engage in meaningful conversations, share experiences, and build long-term professional relationships in a supportive and inclusive environment.



The HR update – what's changing and why it matters!

[Register Here](#)

Tuesday 23 June • 12.30pm - 1.30pm • Online

We'll share a clear, friendly update on the key Employment Rights Act changes, when they're coming in, and (most importantly) what they mean for you in practice. We'll break it down by timeline - what's already changed from April 2026, what's expected from October 2026, and what's due in 2027 - focusing on the updates most likely to affect small and micro employers

Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills

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

Top Performers Announced at 10th Annual Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards

An array of the county's top apprentices, businesses, education providers and skills champions came together on 21 May for this year's Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards, marking the 10th anniversary of the event.

The spectacular awards – organised by Enterprise Oxfordshire – saw just under 200 people gather at the University of Oxford's Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities in the city.

The 10th year saw winners announced across 10 categories, all of which it is hoped will act as a major inspiration to businesses, encouraging them to explore what an apprenticeship programme could bring to their organisations.

The overall Oxfordshire Apprentice of the Year was chosen by this year's headline sponsor, Popham Hairdressing, a business that has previously been recognised at the awards, from the winners of the five apprentice categories. This prestigious award was given to Lucy Harold, a Trainee Biomedical Scientist at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, training with the University of Westminster.



Lucy said: "Winning the Higher/Degree Apprentice award was already something I never expected, so to then also be named Oxfordshire Apprentice of the Year was a complete surprise and a moment I'll never forget. It's hard to put into words what this recognition means to me. My apprenticeship journey has challenged me, developed me professionally and personally, and given me opportunities I'm extremely grateful for. Apprenticeships are such a powerful route into building skills, confidence, and a career, and I hope this helps highlight the value they bring."

Since the inaugural celebration evening in 2017, the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards have gone on to recognise the achievements of hundreds of apprentices, employers, training providers and skills champions



[See a full list of finalists](#)

Where Are They Now?

Previous Oxfordshire Apprentices of the Year Share Their Career Stories

We caught up with some of the previous winners of the prestigious Oxfordshire Apprentice of the Year award to find out more about their apprenticeship journeys and how their careers have developed since winning.



Katie Chegwin, Oxfordshire
Apprentice of the Year 2018

[Read Katie's Story](#)



Nairne Barker, Oxfordshire
Apprentice of the Year 2019

[Read Nairne's Story](#)



Emilia Reyes Pabon, Oxfordshire
Apprentice of the Year 2021

[Read Emilia's Story](#)



Josh Read-Strahan, Oxfordshire
Apprentice of the Year 2023

[Watch Josh's Story](#)

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

Low Carbon Hub work with businesses and organisations across Oxfordshire on their energy efficiency, helping them to save money on their energy bills as well as generate clean energy.

[Find Out More](#)

Consultation on a Draft Interim Policy for Community Benefit Contributions and Community Shared Ownership for Low Carbon Energy Projects in Oxfordshire

We are asking for your views on a proposed policy that will guide how communities benefit from private, for-profit, new renewable energy projects such as solar farms, wind turbines and battery storage. Oxfordshire County Council, working with the district and city councils, is proposing a temporary policy. This policy would ask developers of new alternative energy projects to provide financial contributions and shared ownership opportunities that benefit local communities in Oxfordshire. Consultation closes 15 June 2026.

[Find Out More](#)

Oxfordshire Business Support

West Oxfordshire Achieve Customer Excellence (ACE) Programme now open: Transform Your Customer Experience and Grow Your Business

The fully funded West Oxfordshire Achieve Customer Excellence (ACE) Programme is now open to local small and micro businesses. ACE helps you understand your customer journey, improve service, and boost loyalty and spend. Through professional mystery shopping, you'll see your business exactly as customers do, with clear insight into strengths and areas for improvement. You'll also receive practical reports, free customer-experience training, one-to-one mentoring, and a follow-up audit to track progress. All participants are entered into the West Oxfordshire Service Excellence Awards. Spaces are limited—open to retail, hospitality, professional services and independent traders.

[**Find Out More**](#)

MADE SMARTER

Nearly 300 South East manufacturers have already benefited from the Made Smarter South East programme last year. Manufacturers and makers - don't miss out!

Made Smarter is a government-funded push to drive growth in South East manufacturing SMEs, helping boost productivity and increase their competitive edge through the adoption of new industrial technologies. After last year's successes, the programme has been extended for a further year to March 31st 2027.

Once you've registered for the Made Smarter programme, you will be assigned a Technical Expert who will provide personalised advice and support to your manufacturing business. They will help you adopt advanced and automated technologies. Made Smarter also provides up to £20k in grant funding, covering up to 50%, along with specialist advice, leadership and workforce champion training, and paid internships.

Whatever you make, make it smarter.

[**Find Out 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 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](#)

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:

Cottsway's Community Fund

Got an idea to improve your community or local environment? Cottsway's Community Fund could help make it happen! Funding of up to £5,000 is now available for community and environmental projects across West Oxfordshire and beyond. The fund supports projects that benefit Cottsway customers, communities and local areas.

[Learn More](#)

Green Community Grants Programme

The Green Community Grants Programme is offering one year of flexible funding to not-for-profit organisations across England, Scotland and Wales with an annual income of between £10,000 and £1 million. The programme supports groups that are helping nature recover, responding to the climate emergency, and improving nature-rich spaces and access to them.

[Learn More](#)

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