ENTERPRISE OXFORDSHIRE Business

Growth Hub Newsletter

July 2026

Support for your business

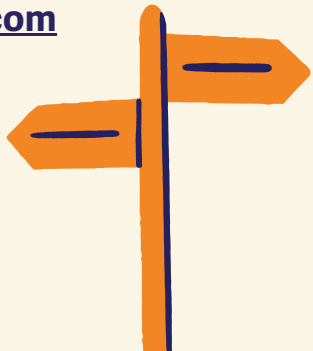
We provide fully funded support for every stage of business, from start-up to growth. This includes one to one support with one of our expert advisors, facilitated workshops and webinars, peer groups and much more.

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**



ENTERPRISE OXFORDSHIRE Business

Oxfordshire's thriving business community urged to enter free prestigious county awards – as awards deadline is extended

Oxfordshire businesses are being encouraged to seek the recognition they deserve and enter the **2026 Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Marketplace and Celebration event (MAC 26)** awards, following a call for an extension to the deadline for entries.

With the deadline now extended until **Monday 10th of August**, businesses are still able to enter categories such as 'Business Leader of the Year', 'Start-Up of the Year' and 'Growth Business of the Year' ahead of the awards evening taking place on Wednesday 4th of November at Oxford Town Hall.

To take part in the Marketplace and Celebration Event – whether as an exhibitor or to be nominated for an award – businesses or individuals should have engaged with Enterprise Oxfordshire Business at any point since April 2022.

Bringing together dozens of people from Oxfordshire's business community, the event also showcases a wide range of organisations through a special marketplace arrangement, before the night's winners are announced.

Last year's event – which was also held at the city's Town Hall – brought together around 200 people from across the county, representing a range of sectors.

The event forms part of Enterprise Oxfordshire Business' commitment to the county's business community – whether organisations are starting out, growing or taking on a new challenge – by creating a platform for businesses to showcase their products and services, while also celebrating success through a series of special awards chosen by business peers.

All categories across the awards are completely free for businesses and individuals to enter.

> ***Our track record of impact, combined with opportunities such as the Marketplace and Celebration Event, showcases the real value of engaging with Enterprise Oxfordshire Business.***
>
> ***These platforms give businesses and entrepreneurs the chance to connect, showcase what they do and access the support that can help them take their next step with confidence.***
>
> Sarah Beal, Business Support Service Manager at Enterprise Oxfordshire

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Business

APPLY NOW

ENTERPRISE OXFORDSHIRE Business

July events to help your business connect, grow and thrive

Looking to build your network, explore funding opportunities or get practical support for your business in July? Enterprise Oxfordshire Business has a range of free events taking place, designed to support Oxfordshire SMEs, entrepreneurs and high street businesses at every stage of their journey.

Kicking off July, high street businesses can join the **Helping High Streets Online Surgery: Insights, Q&A and Future Support**. Taking place 2nd July, this interactive online session offers a chance to ask questions, share feedback and hear more about future support.

On 7th July, join **Understanding the UK Funding Landscape** a two hour workshop which will provide a practical overview of external funding options and help businesses feel more confident about identifying the right routes for growth.

Additionally, **OxBOoSt** returns 7th July. Bringing together Oxfordshire business to connect, collaborate and exchange idea. This free online session includes opportunities for business to share their story, explore collaborations and hear about upcoming support from Enterprise Oxfordshire Business.

Understanding Neurodiversity in Leadership on 14th July will explore how businesses can better recognise, support and benefit from neurodiverse talent. With 1 in 7 people in the UK being neurodivergent, this online lunchtime session is a valuable opportunity to reflect on how inclusive leadership can help every workplace thrive.

Later in the month, there's more practical support on offer. **Putting People at the Heart of Your Business** on 17th July shares simple ways to build a people-first culture, while **Building Your E-Commerce Business** on 20th July covers the essentials for selling online. On 22nd July, **Personal Leadership: Expanding Possibilities** gives growing business leaders space to reflect, reset and explore what's next.

Whether you are looking for fresh insight, new contacts or practical guidance, July is a great time to make the most of the support available.

From 1 April 2026, we require all event attendees to complete the Business Support Tool (BST). If you have not completed the Business Support Tool since 1 November 2025, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Business Support Tool

ENTERPRISE OXFORDSHIRE Business

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

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.

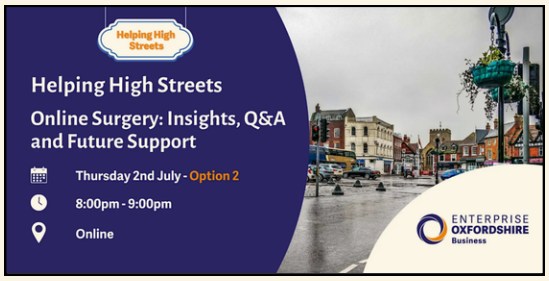
Check out our 'External Resources' page and keep updated with any new opportunities that could benefit your business.

View resources

ENTERPRISE OXFORDSHIRE Business

Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Events

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



Helping High Streets Online Surgery: Insights, Q&A and Future Support

Register Here

Thursday 2nd July • 8.00pm - 9.00pm • Online

The Helping High Streets support is continuing throughout 2026/27, helping Oxfordshire's high street businesses to thrive and grow while creating vibrant, community-focused places.

Understanding the UK Funding Landscape

Register Here

Tuesday 7th July • 9.30am - 11.30am • Online

This interactive workshop 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.

OxBOoSt - July

Register Here

Tuesday 7th July • 4.00pm - 5.00pm • Online

The 'Oxfordshire Business Opportunities & Support network' for all Enterprise Oxfordshire Business clients & anyone who wants to learn more.

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Cyber Security – When You're Hit, Not If!

Register Here

Thursday 9 July • 12.30pm - 1.30pm • Online

See how a realistic attack unfolds, what it costs, and exactly how it could have been prevented – plus safe use of AI and what changing data privacy rules mean for your business in 2026.

Understanding Neurodiversity in Leadership

Register Here

Tuesday 14 July • 12.30pm - 1.30pm • Online

1 in 7 people in the UK are neurodivergent – meaning every workplace is already neurodiverse. But are we making the most of that potential?

Putting People at the Heart of Your Business

Register Here

Friday 17 July • 12.30pm - 1.30pm • Online

People-first doesn't mean big programmes - small businesses thrive by getting the basics right so people feel valued and do their best work.

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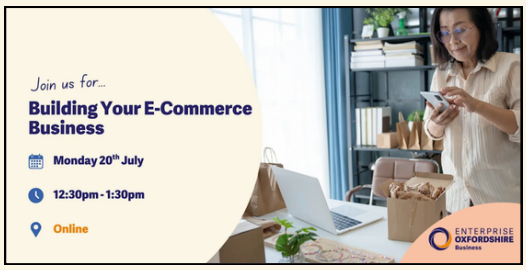

Building Your E-Commerce Business

Register Here

Monday 20 July • 12.30pm - 1.30pm • Online

Thinking of selling online? Learn the essentials to build a successful online business in this practical startup session.

Personal Leadership: Expanding Possibilities

Register Here

Wednesday 22 July • 8.00am - 9.00am • Online

Running a growing business can be exhilarating, and exhausting. As your team expands, it becomes harder to find the time and headspace to think clearly about your own leadership.

Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills

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

Giving something back: The impact of volunteering as an Enterprise Adviser

With Volunteers' Week 2026 taking place in June, Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills is shining a spotlight on some of the amazing Enterprise Advisers (EAs) who help inform and inspire local young people by supporting the work of Oxfordshire Careers Hub.

In a fast-changing world of work, young people face more choice – and often more uncertainty – than ever before. From apprenticeships and vocational routes to university and emerging industries, the pathways into a career are varied and evolving. Across Oxfordshire, a dedicated network of business volunteers is helping to make sense of this landscape, guiding the next generation through informed, realistic, and inspiring careers education.

At the heart of this effort are Enterprise Advisers: experienced professionals who volunteer their time through the Oxfordshire Careers Hub to support local schools and colleges with their careers programmes. By working in partnership with Careers Leaders and senior leadership teams, they act as trusted advisers – helping shape careers programmes that are ambitious, relevant, and inclusive for all students

Nick Rimmer

"Being an Enterprise Adviser is incredibly rewarding, especially when you realise that even the shortest of conversations with a student can create a lifetime of impact."

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

Thank you for being an Enterprise Adviser!

ENTERPRISE OXFORDSHIRE Skills

Here are some of the things our EAs had to say about why they volunteer.....

Giving students support, confidence and sharing knowledge is a great way to give them even more confidence for the future. I feel strongly that if we can build up the knowledge and confidence in young people sooner, they will be able to grow and see paths to success much more easily

Emily Koolen, Founder, Leadership Coach & Consultant and Scale Up Advisor, Koolen Consulting Ltd

Being an Enterprise Adviser is incredibly rewarding, especially when you realise that even the shortest of conversations with a student can create a lifetime of impact.

Nick Rimmer, Director at Telegraph Materials.

I volunteer as an Enterprise Adviser because I'm passionate about creating opportunities for young people and bridging the gap between education and industry.

Dennis Owusu, Social Value Manager, Morgan Sindall Construction

Volunteering as an Enterprise Advisor gives me the opportunity to 'give back' - I'm passionate about enriching the careers opportunities offered to students across Oxfordshire

Chaz Snell, Company Director, The Plastic Goldfish Company

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> ***I volunteer as an Enterprise Adviser because I believe young people benefit hugely from real-world guidance. After years in the industry, it's important to give something back - helping schools bridge the gap between education and the workplace and sharing practical insight on what employers actually look for.***
>
> Stefano Pratesi, MD and Founder, SP1 IT Solutions.

> ***There are so many alternative routes available now for young people and I'm grateful to be able to support students with awareness of these.***
>
> Nikki Anderson, Commercial Solicitor, RWK Goodman.

> ***I deeply care about the role of relevant skills development as new generations join the workplace. I am striving to help their schools understand work trends and prepare them accordingly, making use of the latest technologies to do so effectively.***
>
> John Kostoulas, VP, Market Positioning and Strategy, Dayforce.

Read more about volunteering

Our Enterprise Advisors

If you are interested in volunteering to support Oxfordshire schools and colleges with their careers initiatives and activities, please get in touch at **skills@enterpriseoxfordshire.com**.

ENTERPRISE OXFORDSHIRE Skills

Connect to Work: support for individuals to get into and stay in work

Connect to Work is a free, personalised employment support programme, delivered in Oxfordshire by Enterprise Oxfordshire and Oxfordshire County Council, that helps residents who face barriers to work move into training, apprenticeships and sustainable jobs.

The programme is open to people aged 18+ living in Oxfordshire who are unemployed, economically inactive, or at risk of losing their job, particularly those with disabilities or health conditions, caring responsibilities, or other challenges that make finding work more difficult. Participants receive tailored, one-to-one support to build confidence, find suitable roles and stay in work long-term.

If you know someone who could benefit from extra support to take their next step, please share the details with them.

Connect to Work

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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

Cherwell District Council – Sustainable Practices

The latest greenhouse gas reports show that almost 25% of the Cherwell District's $CO2^{e}$ emissions come from commerce and industry. To address this, CDC are considering conducting short knowledge-gathering workshops with local business owners. By understanding what prevents individuals or organisations from becoming greener, CDC can address challenges such as financial constraints, lack of information, or practical difficulties. This knowledge will enable the council to provide more tailored support through grants, educational resources, or policy changes.

Find Out More

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Business Waste Hackathon

To kick off Plastic-Free July, Cherwell Collective and Unipart are co-hosting a hackathon for local businesses to be involved in waste strategy drafting. A hackathon is an intensive creative session where people are split into teams, with each team developing a prototype solution to a specific problem, in this case business waste.

Pre-Session (Online):
Wednesday 1st July, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

The Hackathon (In-person at Unipart House):
Monday 13th July, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Post-Session Presentation (Online):
Wednesday 5th August, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Find Out More

Do you know an Oxfordshire climate hero?

The Oxford Climate Awards are back for 2026 – and nominations are now open!

The awards, run in partnership with the Oxford Mail, celebrate the people, businesses, schools and community groups helping to create a greener, more sustainable Oxfordshire. Last year's winners included a food redistribution charity supporting thousands of people every week, and a travel buddy scheme helping adults with learning disabilities travel independently.

Whether it's a resident making their home more energy efficient, a school inspiring young people, a community group protecting nature, or a business reducing its environmental impact, we want to hear their story.

Nominations are free and open until 9 August. If you know someone making a difference, nominate them today!

Find Out More

Business Climate Hub

The UK Business Climate Hub provides sustainability advice for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Hub is a shared endeavour, developed with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), the SME Climate Hub and business organisations, energy networks, high street banks and professional bodies. Alongside a range of free tools and resources, the SME Climate Hub hosts the SME Climate Commitment.

Find Out More

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Oxfordshire Business Support

South Oxfordshire District Council Capital Grant Scheme

Are you a voluntary or community organisation looking for funding towards capital projects that help to build thriving communities and improve the quality of life for the residents in the district? If so, we are keen to fund projects that; support thriving, healthy and inclusive communities, provide infrastructure that meets local need and that take action on climate change and nature recovery. You can apply for up to £75,000 (up to 50% of total project costs) for projects that improve the lives of residents in South Oxfordshire. Deadline: 20th July

Find Out More

Carterton Area Business Network

Help shape a bolder future for the Carterton area. All local businesses are warmly invited to a breakfast event to launch a new network.

Find Out More

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

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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

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

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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

ENTERPRISE OXFORDSHIRE Business

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

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Non Business News/Events:

The Grocers' Charity Grants Scheme

The fund offers grants of up to £5,000 to smaller UK registered charities supporting vulnerable or disadvantaged people. Funding can support a wide range of community-based work including mental health, poverty, homelessness, disability support, youth services, inclusion projects and wellbeing initiatives.

The scheme is particularly suitable for smaller grassroots charities with an annual turnover under £500,000. Deadline 15th August

Learn More

Inclusion in Action

A free Neurodiversity event for Business and Community hosted in partnership Santander Work Café Oxford and Rising Youth Entrepreneurship CIC (RYE). taking place Friday 31st July 10am-2pm. Bringing together young people, business owners, community leaders and employers for conversations about neurodiversity, careers, inclusion, and opportunity.

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