ENTERPRISE OXFORDSHIRE Business

Growth Hub Newsletter

November 2026

Support for your business

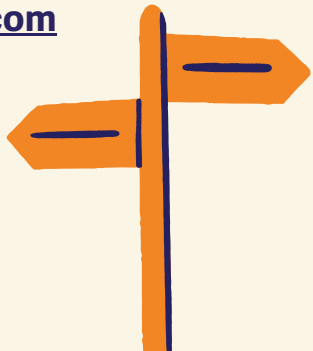
We provide fully funded support for every stage of business, from start-up to growth. This includes one to one support with one of our expert advisors, facilitated workshops and webinars, peer groups and much more.

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 puts the county's business success in the spotlight

The annual Marketplace and Celebration event brought together 250 people from across the county, creating an important platform for business leaders and entrepreneurs to network and share ideas.

Held at Oxford Town Hall, the event saw a diverse range of Oxfordshire SMEs and entrepreneurs showcase their products and activities, whilst the successes of businesses and individuals were recognised through a series of special awards.



Enterprise Oxfordshire plays a key role in supporting businesses and driving economic development across the county – this year's event follows the recent publication of the Enterprise Oxfordshire business impact report for 2025/26, highlighting significant delivery and achievements over the past 12 months.

The report announced that the organisation generated more than £45 million in social value for Oxfordshire – calculated using the Social Value TOM System™, the UK standard for social value measurement – through its various activities and programmes.

Enterprise Oxfordshire's specialist business support helped a total of 1,710 organisations, whilst 211 jobs were also created with a further 878 jobs being safeguarded.

Across the 12 months, 224 individuals were helped to start their own businesses, underlining Enterprise Oxfordshire's ongoing contribution to inclusive economic prosperity throughout the county.

Tailored support plans were also developed for 796 businesses, ranging from people considering starting a business for the first time through to established and scaling organisations looking to achieve their next stage of growth.

Paula Mullin – Managing Director of Enterprise Oxfordshire – welcomed visitors to the event, the first she has attended since joining the organisation in September.

Paula said: *"Our Marketplace and Celebration event is about bringing together businesses, entrepreneurs, partners and people with business ideas from across Oxfordshire. It creates an opportunity to make new connections, share experiences and strengthen the networks that help businesses to start, grow and succeed.*

"We share the ambitions of our businesses, so this event is also an opportunity to recognise the people and organisations making a positive contribution to Oxfordshire's economy as we work together to support inclusive, regional growth.

"We are extremely proud of the role we have played in working with a wide range of organisations that call Oxfordshire home."

Dr Martin Reeves, Oxfordshire County Council's chief executive, was also in attendance and addressed guests.

Since April last year, Oxfordshire County Council has been Enterprise Oxfordshire's sole shareholder.

Dr Reeves said: *"This event not only celebrates the small and medium-sized businesses that call Oxfordshire home but also inspires others.*

"We're determined to create an inclusive, flourishing business culture in the county, where a diverse range of businesses can thrive and everyone can play a part in its success.

"Enterprise Oxfordshire offers practical support, including webinars and seminars, helping people with great ideas turn them into businesses that support our local economy.

"It was great to be back and hear from some of this year's success stories."

Paula Mullin added: *"Running or starting a business can sometimes feel very isolating. Our event creates a welcoming environment where entrepreneurs and business leaders can meet others facing similar opportunities and challenges, exchange ideas and build relationships.*

"Ultimately, we hope attendees leave this event feeling that they are part of a wider, collaborative and supportive Oxfordshire business community."

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A full list of this year's award categories, winners and highly commended businesses:

Environmentally Sustainable Business of the Year
Sponsored by Velocity Cycle Couriers
Winner: Cherwell Collective CIC
Highly commended: Neve's Bees and Fat Squirrel Outdoor

Socially Responsible Business of the Year
Sponsored by Tap Social Movement
Winner: Maymessy CIC
Highly commended: Cherwell Collective CIC and Yellow Submarine

Innovation in Customer Experience of the Year
Sponsored by The Ambience Associates by Stephen Spencer + Associates
Winner: Equestrian Heroes
Highly commended: The Island and Empowered Coaching and Consultancy Ltd

Start Up of the Year
Sponsored by Cypher
Winner: Soul Purpose Wellbeing
Highly commended: Nestimate and Oxford Meadow Cashmere Ltd

Business Leader of the Year
Sponsored by Institute of Directors
Winner: Kam Gill, Wallfinch Oxfordshire
Highly Commended: Zoe Smith, The Education Hotel Ltd and Kate Salter, Pink Salt Shed Ltd

Growth Business of the Year
Sponsored by Olamalu
Winner: Uncomfortable Oxford CIC
Highly Commended: Mastermind 9 - an Outside Ideas Company, and Clare Nash Architecture Ltd

Overall Winner of the Year
Sponsored by Oxfordshire County Council
Cherwell Collective CIC

Turn "one day" into day one: Start your Brilliant Business

Have a business idea but not sure where to begin? Make 'one day' happen with Start Your Brilliant Business Now, a practical workshop from Enterprise Oxfordshire Business designed to help you take those all-important first steps.

Saturday 28 November | 10am–12.30pm
Business and Intellectual Property Centre Oxfordshire (BIPC), Westgate

Led by Ant Parsons, this session will help you turn your passion into a plan. Whether you're thinking about becoming a sole trader, launching a limited company or setting up a social enterprise, you'll create the first draft of a one-page business plan and identify what you need to do to get started. You can also access further support afterwards through online events and one-to-one activities.

Before booking: You must be based in Oxfordshire and have completed Enterprise Oxfordshire's Business Support Tool since 1 November 2025. Tickets booked without completing the tool will be cancelled.

Ready to bring your business idea to life? Book your place on Start Your Brilliant Business Now.



Book your place

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Create connections & relationships at the Enterprise Oxfordshire Christmas Networking Evening



Celebrate the season and make connections for the year ahead at the Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Christmas Networking Evening on Wednesday 2 December, 5pm–8pm, at Loose Cannon Brewery, Abingdon, OX14 5JX.

Join Oxfordshire's business community for a relaxed evening of conversation, food and festive cheer. Reflect on 2026, share ideas and explore opportunities for 2027 while building valuable relationships with fellow business owners and entrepreneurs.

Tickets are £16 per person, including a welcome drink, freshly prepared beef or vegetarian chilli, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the award-winning brewery. Dietary requirements will be confirmed closer to the event.

Self-employed or part of a small team? Make this your Christmas party and celebrate alongside the wider business community!

Spaces are limited, so book early to secure your place!

Book your place

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.



Start-Up Club: Managing your business numbers

Register Here

Wednesday 11th November • 5.00pm - 7.00pm - Online
The Start-Up Club is perfect for individuals who are thinking of starting their own business, sole trader or Limited Company. Or for businesses who are looking for some help with developing their early-stage business or pivoting their plans.



5 Steps To Developing Your B2B Pipeline

Register Here

Thursday 12th November• 12.30pm - 1.30pm • Online
A healthy B2B pipeline helps you identify the right prospects, build relationships, focus your time on the best opportunities and take consistent action towards new work. This practical 60-minute webinar includes 40 minutes of content and 20 minutes for your questions.



Costs & Cashflow Management

Register Here

Wednesday 25th November • 12.30 - 1.30pm • Online
This webinar is designed for owners and managers who are busy running the day-to-day but know they need a sharper, more practical approach to planning, pricing and getting paid.

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International Growth & Market Entry Programme

Register Here

Tuesday 19th November • 9.30am - 11.30am • Online

This International Growth & Market Entry Programme is a practical, fully funded programme for Oxfordshire SMEs ready to start exporting or grow their presence in international markets. Across four interactive online workshops, supported by 1:1 sessions and accountability calls, participants will develop a focused plan around a real export opportunity for their business.



Everyone's Business: Men's Mental Health at Work

Register Here

Thursday 19th November • 12.30pm - 1.45pm • Online

Telling men to talk was never going to be enough on its own. This session is about what is actually in the way, and what helps. If you employ people, or you are the one everybody else relies on, this hour will give you something you can use.



Start Your Brilliant Business Now

Register Here

Saturday 28th November • 10.00am - 12.30pm • BIPC, Westgate

If you have an idea or a passion to get started in your own business, as a sole trader, limited company or social enterprise, then this support is for you.

ENTERPRISE OXFORDSHIRE Skills

Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills

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

Skills Bootcamps

Skills Bootcamps are now underway across Oxfordshire, with courses ranging from Project Management, Data Analytics, AI product building and Cyber Security to Early Years, Health & Social Care, Green Skills and Construction.

These flexible courses last up to 16 weeks and are designed for adults aged 19 and over.

They are free for unemployed learners, the self-employed and those looking to change careers.

SMEs can upskill existing staff (to take on new roles/responsibilities) for just 10% of the training cost per learner.

Find out more about available courses (scroll down to 'Delivery partners and courses for you'), or submit an enquiry, on the Skills Bootcamps - Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills webpage.

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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

Climate Action Oxfordshire

Find out what sustainability support for Oxfordshire SMEs is available, including free energy assessments, match funding for upgrades, practical checklists, local and national resources, and grant schemes to cut costs and emissions.

Find Out More

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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Eight new partners join Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Partnership

Eight organisations have joined the Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Partnership (ZCOP), strengthening countywide efforts to cut emissions and adapt to climate change. The new members broaden the range of sectors represented in ZCOP and add practical expertise in a number of areas including land use and nature recovery, farming and food, low-carbon development and construction, as well as sustainable freight and deliveries.

Find Out More

Other Net Zero Support

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.

The SME Climate Hub has developed a guide to assist businesses with their procurement: Engaging Suppliers to Reduce Emissions - SME Climate Hub.
The guide encourages suppliers to take action on climate change and includes actions relating to securing management commitment, setting targets for supplier commitments, public commitment to supplier engagement and estimating emissions in supply chain.

Find Out More

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Oxfordshire Business Support

Carterton Business Network

Businesses across Carterton and the surrounding area are invited to join a new networking event taking place on Thursday 26 November, 3.30pm at Carterton Community College. Hosted by West Oxfordshire District Council's Economic Development Team, the event will provide local businesses with the opportunity to connect with fellow entrepreneurs, employers and organisations over tea, coffee and mince pies, while hearing the latest updates on initiatives supporting the town's future growth and prosperity.

Find Out More

Cyber Attack Tabletop Exercise for Growing Businesses with Santander Work Café, Oxford

To help businesses strengthen their resilience, Santander and Cyber Griffin invite you to take part in an interactive Cyber Tabletop Exercise at the Oxford Work Café. Taking place Wednesday 18th November, 11:00am – 12:30pm at Santander Work Café, Oxford test your response to a realistic cyber incident and learn from City of London Cyber Protect officers.

Find Out More

Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership

The Oxfordshire Inclusive Economy Partnership (OIEP) is inviting Oxfordshire-based businesses that supply goods and services to other organisations to join Source it in Oxfordshire, a new directory connecting local suppliers with local buyers. As well as showcasing products and services, the directory will highlight the social, economic and environmental impact organisations are making across the county.
Join for free to raise your profile with local buyers, showcase your organisation's impact and help strengthen local supply chains across Oxfordshire. By increasing opportunities to buy locally, the directory aims to support business growth, local jobs and a stronger Oxfordshire economy.

Find Out More

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AI in Recruitment: Hype, Help or Headache

Finding the right people has never been simple in Bicester. Add AI-written CVs, automated applications, transport challenges and candidates who vanish halfway through the process, and it is harder than ever to be sure you are hiring well. If you are the person in your business responsible for getting the right people in, and keeping them, join us for the first Bicester Vision People & Culture Forum. Taking place Tuesday 24th November, 9.30am-11am at TownSq, The Eco Business Centre, Bicester.

Find Out More

Unlock Global Growth with International Trade Week (ITW) 2026

ITW 2026 is your opportunity to access expert advice, practical support and new connections to help your business grow internationally.

From one-to-one meetings with export specialists and expert-led webinars to international buyer pitches and networking opportunities, there's something for every business, whatever stage of the export journey you're on.

Learn More

Global Entrepreneurship Week

Oxford Technology & Media are delighted to be part of Global Entrepreneurship Week hosted in Oxford by NatWest Accelerator Monday 16th November, 6pm-9pm. We will explore what opportunities there are for innovative SMEs to scale-up and grow in Oxfordshire, and how they can benefit by 'inclusively' employing from the diverse creative community in this great county.

Learn More

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Thrive at Work Oxfordshire

A free support programme developed to assist Oxfordshire-based workplaces passionate about creating happy, healthy, and inclusive environments where organisations and employees can thrive. Any Oxfordshire-based workplace with three or more employees is eligible to access the programme. Participating organisations will gain access to a range of free support, including a structured wellbeing framework leading to certification, training webinars, staff wellbeing surveys, policy templates, practical resources, and tailored advice from workplace wellbeing specialists.

Find Out More

British Business Bank
The South East Investment Fund

The South East Investment Fund will deliver £210 million of new funding to smaller businesses across the region.
The fund aims to drive sustainable economic growth by supporting innovation and creating local opportunities for new and growing businesses throughout the South East. The South East Investment Fund offers two commercial finance options: loans ranging from £25,000 to £2 million and equity investments of up to £5 million. The fund supports businesses across the entire South East, including rural, coastal and urban communities.

Find Out More

British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme

From 2027, BICS will reduce electricity costs by up to £40 per megawatt hour for manufacturing frontier industries within the Industrial Strategy's growth sectors (the 'IS-8') and foundational manufacturing industries, which provide important inputs to the frontier industries, who meet the relevant electricity intensity threshold. BICS will exempt eligible businesses from paying the indirect costs of the: Renewables obligation, Capacity market and Feed-in tariff. Applications for BICS will open on 1 October 2026 and close on 30 November 2026.

Find Out More

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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

British Business Bank

Explore British Business Bank's business guidance library. Designed to offer guidance on a range of topics, from finances to sustainability. The library includes hundreds of articles written to help make running a small business easier.

Learn 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.

To understand how joining the Made Smarter programme could help your business, read about how South East manufacturers are accelerating the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), automation and digital tools through Made Smarter South East's Digital Internship programme.

Join the **Made Smarter - Leading Digital Strategy Programme**. Aimed at senior executives, leaders, company directors, directors of operations, production directors, and manufacturing directors. The focus is on strategy and how to identify critical priorities for taking your business forward, as well as highlighting where digital tools can help.

Find Out More

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Small Business Britain

Small Business Britain gives community, knowledge, support and accessibility to all small business owners and those wanting to start a business throughout the UK. it is driven by reaching each and every person in the UK to offer a clear and accessible path to entrepreneurship and have a commitment to enabling people from underrepresented groups to thrive.

Find Out More

New start-up programme for young people

eBay and The King's Trust have launched a new programme to support the UK's next generation of entrepreneurs. eBay Self Made: Get Ready to Build Your Own E-commerce Business is a six-month practical entrepreneurship programme that will develop skills such as live selling, content creation, building online communities and the fundamentals of running a business.

Find Out More

Sole traders urged to prepare for MTD

HMRC is urging sole traders and landlords to check if they need to register for Making Tax Digital (MTD) for Income Tax. From 7 April 2027, more than 1 million sole traders and landlords with a turnover of more than £30,000 per year will be required to comply with MTD for Income Tax reporting rules. Under the rules, sole traders and landlords will need to use recognised software to keep digital records and send quarterly updates of their income and expenses to HMRC.

Find Out More

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Small Business Commissioner

The Office of the Small Business Commissioner (OSBC)

The Office of the Small Business Commissioner (OSBC) is an independent public body established by Government under the Enterprise Act 2016 to tackle overdue payments and unfavourable payment practices in the private sector.

Learn More

OSEP

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

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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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Other News/Events:

Councillor Community Grant Scheme 2026/27

Each South Oxfordshire district councillor has £7,500 to award to projects and activities that offer community benefits in their ward area, budget permitting. Applications should focus on projects that deliver a clear and demonstrable benefit to the people of South Oxfordshire, specifically in the ward area they are applying to. Scheme closes: Midday 4 December 2026.

Learn More

South Oxfordshire District Council Community Grants

The council provide grants to voluntary and community organisations to help build thriving communities and improve the quality of life for the residents of South Oxfordshire, through projects that; create thriving, healthy and inclusive communities, provides infrastructure that meets local need, and that take action on climate change and nature recovery. Grants currently open include Performing Arts Grant Fund and Fund for nature recovery projects.

Learn More

Arts Council England launches freelancers' handbook

Arts Council England has published a Freelancers' Handbook, which provides practical support to freelancers across the cultural sector. The free digital handbook covers contracts, fees, funding, tax, business development, networking and professional wellbeing. It also includes practical tools such as fee calculators, a contracting checklist and email templates, along with a Resources Directory which provides listings of paid work opportunities and funded programmes.

Learn More

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The Oxford Magazine: What's on in Oxfordshire

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Oxfordshire County Council News

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Experience Oxfordshire: What's on

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