

GROWTH HUB NEWSLETTER

June 2024

OxLEP Business Support Tool

It is our aim to signpost the county's businesses to the most-appropriate business support, schemes and events. Businesses can engage with our fully funded expert support via this link:

[Business Support Tool - OxLEP Business](#)



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

OxLEP Business

OxLEP Business is the Growth Hub for Oxfordshire, simplifying the business support landscape and helping individuals and businesses to connect more easily.

We are here to help SMEs and entrepreneurs find the support they need, offering prompt, friendly, impartial advice. We signpost businesses to the right no cost business support both locally and nationally.

To find out what we can support you and your business with, please complete our Business Support Tool and see what fully funded support you could access: <https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/business-support-tool/>



West Oxfordshire Business Support

Entrepreneurs, start ups and businesses wanting to grow in West Oxfordshire are now benefiting from two new business support programmes.

The two new programmes will support organisations to develop, commercialise ideas and bring them to market, as well as supporting already established businesses to grow.

OxLEP Business will be delivering the programme on behalf of West Oxfordshire District Council, with the project funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.



OxLEP Business

Code Red Oxfordshire Business Resilience Scheme

Have you thought about continuity and resilience planning for your business?

OxLEP Business is part of a new one-year pilot scheme called Code Red, which aims to help businesses in Oxfordshire and across the Thames Valley understand how they can prevent, be better prepared for, and respond to emergencies – so that businesses can be more resilient and continue to operate, should an incident happen. Floods, cyber-attacks and other such incidents can happen at any time and could have serious implications if a business is not prepared. The scheme will operate primarily through SMS messages which businesses can opt in to receive and that will provide information and advice, in complement to existing services e.g. Environment Agency flood alerts. OxLEP Business will also be delivering workshops on preparedness, continuity and resilience during this year, to offer businesses additional support.

The pilot scheme is funded by the DLUHC Innovation Fund 2024/2025 until April 2025, and involves the three Thames Valley Growth Hubs: OxLEP Business, the Berkshire Growth Hub, Bucks Business First, and the Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum.

If you would like further information please email:
business@Oxfordshirelep.com

OxLEP Business Events

All our planned fully funded events can be accessed and booked here:

<https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/event/oxboost-network-april/>

OxBOoSt Monthly Networking - Tuesday 4th June 24 - Online

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

Click here: <https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/event/oxboost-network-june-2/>

Foundations to Growth Network - Date: June 10, 2024 - Time: 8:00 am - 10:00 am
- Online

OxLEP Business are inviting ambitious and passionate Start-Up and Growth Businesses to join the Foundations to Growth Network. 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.

What do the sessions cover?

Run over 6 weeks, the sessions cover:

- Understanding strong foundations for growth;
- Collaborative problem solving, knowledge sharing and developing softer skills with peers;
- Exploring the next steps for growth.

The group will meet on zoom on Mondays between 8am and 10am weekly starting on Monday 10th June 2024 to Monday 15th July 2024.

To register click here: <https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/event/foundations-to-growth-network-8/>

'Why an Innovative Brand Identity is so powerful'

Date: June 26, 2024 - Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm - Online

Warren Brown from Brown Creative explains why a fantastic Brand Identity is one of the most powerful tools a business can have. It creates differentiation and makes you stand out, cutting through marketplace clutter. It forms an instant emotional attraction and bond from your audience. It tells your story and builds a recognition of your reputation. Above all it boosts confidence, with all those that interact with a business both internally and externally increasing business success.

<https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/event/why-an-innovative-brand-identity-is-so-powerful/>

OxLEP Skills

Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2024 winners announced

www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/big-celebrations-apprentices-and-businesses-alike-annual-oxfordshire-awards

The eighth annual Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards celebration evening took place on 16th May at the spectacular Williams Racing Conference Centre. The event once again shone a spotlight on our county's apprentices – and the businesses and organisations, training providers and schools that support their journey – recognising the huge contribution they make to our county's economy across a wide range of sectors.

The headline sponsor for this year's awards was Oxford North – other awards sponsors included Grundon, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Blenheim & Pye Homes, Milestone Infrastructure, Abbott Diabetes Care, IST INTECH, Hill, The Engineering Trust, Oxford Professional Education, Assure UK and Owen Mumford.

The awards were hosted by Simon Newton – Joint Managing Director of Darke & Taylor – and Sarah Jaycock, Founder and Executive Director of High Spec Composites.

OxLEP also welcomed David Johnston OBE, the MP for Wantage and Didcot and Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing. Mr Johnston gave an opening address at the event.

Joint winners of Apprentice of the Year were Cecilia Sofia Badiale, an Architect at Ridge and Partners LLP and Joshua Jones, a Highways Operative at Milestone Infrastructure. You can see a full list of winners and watch on demand at <https://oxlepskills.co.uk/oaawards>



Apprenticeship end point assessment webinars for employers

<https://oxlepskills.co.uk/apprenticeshipwebinarseries>

OxLEP Skills are providing a fully funded webinar series with Hawk Training to lend a helping hand to Oxfordshire employers who employ apprentices and are aiming for successful achievements. Each webinar covers a different topic on the journey of an apprentice, starting with apprentice recruitment and ending with end point assessment (EPA).

The final two webinars in the series will concentrate on end point assessment, covering everything from gateway and planning ahead to EPA projects and assessment methods.

Apprenticeship end point assessment (EPA) process

Wednesday 12th June, 12:00-12:45

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/epa-process-including-gateway-and-planning-webinar-tickets-840229287417

Apprenticeship EPA projects

Wednesday 10th July, 12:00-12:45

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/projects-at-epa-webinar-tickets-840271443507

The webinar series will be made available to watch on demand via the OxLEP YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTckOrs9FTuWeGdHjtShBNQ/videos>

Our expert Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Adviser Andrea Harrison offers fully funded support with all aspects of apprenticeships, including completions. If you'd like some help and advice, get in touch with Andrea at

andrea.harrison@oxfordshirelep.com

Financial support available for county's key sectors to take on an apprentice – as OxLEP urges eligible businesses to come forward in £3.5m apprenticeship levy pledge initiative

<https://www.oxfordshirelep.com/news/article/financial-support-available-county%E2%80%99s-key-sectors-take-apprentice-%E2%80%93-oxfordshire-local>

OxLEP Skills are delighted to announce that our successful 'Grow Your Own' apprenticeship levy pledge initiative has reached a new milestone – totalling £3.5 million, which has already enabled 185 new apprenticeship starts across the county.

OxLEP Skills

The funds have been pledged since the launch of our Social Contract Programme in May 2022. The Social Contract is a £1.7 million programme of activity funded by the government's Contain Outbreak Management Fund, via Oxfordshire County Council and led by OxLEP Skills to address the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic relating to unemployment, barriers to employment, education and training. Having gained strong momentum after the launch of the initiative from levy pledging businesses, we are now calling on the county's SMEs, charities and social enterprises – with particular emphasis on a number of key sectors, including manufacturing, digital, green skills, construction, logistics, early years education and adult care – to take up the funds and take on an apprentice, with the financial costs largely alleviated.

You can find out if your business could be eligible to take up the levy funding, how to pledge levy funds, or learn more about the other initiatives within the Social Contract by getting in touch with OxLEP Skills' Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Advisers at skills@oxfordshirelep.com

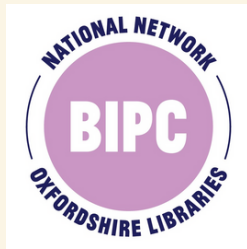


Employability support and guidance - volunteering opportunity

Our OxGROW virtual mentoring platform connects individuals aged 18+, referred by various Oxfordshire support services such as the Department for Work and Pensions Jobcentre Plus, The FEDCAP Restart Programme and HM Prison Service, with employability support and guidance from professionals across different sectors in Oxfordshire.

Our volunteer Mentors provide text-based online mentoring tailored to the needs of the mentees, leveraging their insights into the local labour market and working environments. If you're interested in becoming a Mentor please email skills@oxfordshirelep.com

Oxfordshire Business Support



Business & IP Centre Oxfordshire

At the Oxford Westgate Library

Supporting Oxfordshire residents to start, protect and grow their own business.

Events and workshops, 1:1 business information sessions, market research databases, Intellectual Property guidance, co-working desks, Photography and videography Marketing Suite, business books and more.

website: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/BIPC

Email: BIPC@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OxCyber – Cyber Security community gathering

Tuesday 4th June 6-8PM

Business & IP Centre, Oxford Westgate Library, 2nd floor, Queen St, Oxford

Join us for an OxCyber meetup - where expertise, innovation, and collaboration converge in the heart of Oxfordshire & the Thames Valley.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/in-person-oxcyber-community-meeting-june-2024-tickets-797030899877>

Startup Huddle Networking event

Thursday 20th June 6-8PM

Business & IP Centre, Oxford Westgate Library, 2nd floor, Queen St, Oxford

Startup Huddle is designed to help one entrepreneur at a time while strengthening the local Oxfordshire ecosystem. With 1 or 2 preselected start-ups presenting their business followed by QA and plenty of time for networking.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/startup-huddle-networking-event-tickets-909639294617>



OSEP

OSEP provides support, empowerment, and advocacy for local social enterprises, enterprising charities, and purposeful businesses in Oxfordshire.

OSEP, a local Social Enterprise itself, plays a crucial role in fostering a community where businesses prioritise positive societal impact alongside their financial success.

Website: <https://www.osep.org.uk/>

Email: hello@osep.org.uk

Oxfordshire Business Park Information



Doing right by people and considering our planet is a top priority for us all.

Take a peek at [Oxfordshire's sustainable business parks](#), created by the Jennings team.

Have a ramble... jennings.co.uk

Non OxLEP News/Events

Small Biz 100

Small Business Saturday is once again highlighting 100 small businesses, one a day for 100 days leading up to Small Business Saturday 2024!

For the last ten years, the 100 have not only received exposure on Small Business Saturday's social media channels and in the local and national press, but also joined the Small Business Saturday team in London at receptions in Downing Street, House of Lords and the Treasury Drum with the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Applications close on June 30, 2024. Successful applicants will be notified by email in August.

<https://smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com/small-biz-100>

The Oxford Magazine: What's on in Oxfordshire -

<https://theoxfordmagazine.com/>

Oxfordshire County Council News: [News from Oxfordshire County Council](#)

Experience Oxfordshire: [Top 10 Things to Do in Oxford and Oxfordshire – Experience Oxfordshire](#)