



GROWTH HUB NEWSLETTER

August 2024

Support for your business – whatever your size, sector or stage in your journey, you can count on us and our advice. 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.

Get started..

Complete OxLEP's Business Support Tool to get started and receive your business support plan signposting you to profit boosting, market growing, fully funded business support:

[Business Support Tool](#)

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

OxLEP Business

OxLEP Business Marketplace and Celebration

OxLEP Business Marketplace and Celebration is taking place on the 3rd October 2024, at the Oxford University's Examinations School. Delivered with support from the Institute of Directors it promises to be an exciting event.

Designed to bring together and celebrate Oxfordshire's business community, this event will showcase the Oxfordshire SMEs that have been supported by OxLEP Business since April 2022.

Why enter your business for these awards?

There are lots of great reasons for small businesses to enter awards, but here are three key ones we think you should consider:

- Free marketing - OxLEP is continually engaging with hundreds of businesses and public sector organisations. Just entering these awards will raise your business profile with them.
- Increased credibility - You can start talking about your business's values and results and imagine the stories you can tell if you are a finalist or winner!
- Motivation - for you and your employees if you have them. Focus on what is great about your business and go for it!

Our Business Awards categories are:

- Socially Responsible Business of the Year
- Employer of the Year
- Growth Business of the Year
- Environmentally Sustainable Business of the Year
- Innovator of the Year
- Business Leader of the Year
- Start-up of the Year
- Exporter of the Year

**With thanks to our
2024 award sponsors
and supporters.**



To apply please visit [OxLEP Business Marketplace and Celebration 2024 - OxLEP Business](#) The closing date has been extended to 30th August 2024.

OxLEP Business

Code Red – Oxfordshire Business Resilience Scheme:

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

OxLEP Business is working on a new pilot project with the Berkshire and Buckinghamshire Growth Hubs, Thames Valley Resilience Forum and Local Resilience Forums to help local businesses to plan, be better prepared and be ready for emergencies and unplanned events as well as for changes in the climate, so that any risk and impact on their business is minimised.

The scheme is funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Innovation Fund 2023/2024, until April 2025.

The scheme will provide businesses with information and resources via text messages and social media, combined with webinars on resilience themes. OxLEP is also looking to recruit business champions from within the local business community to help with shaping the scheme, to make sure the scheme is as beneficial for local businesses as possible.

Messages will be complementary and additional to existing schemes such as the National Severe Weather Warning Service, Met Office Hazard Manager and Environment Agency flood alerts.

For more information and to sign up to receive Code Red alerts please see:

[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. The support available to you depends upon your stage of business](#)



CODE RED

**BUSINESS RESILIENCE
OXFORDSHIRE**

OxLEP Business

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.

Grow your Business in West Oxfordshire

Date: August 1, 2024 - Time: 12:00pm-1:00pm - Online

<https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/event/grow-your-business-in-west-oxfordshire/>

This taster session will help you to get ready to join the West Oxfordshire Business Accelerator programme starting in September.

The ACCELERATOR programme is designed with structure and flexibility to support your business growth. This taster session will help you to get ready to join the West Oxfordshire Business Accelerator programme starting in September.

Coffee & Business Start-Up Chat – Chipping Norton

Date: August 20, 2024 - Time: 10:00am-12:00pm - Venue: Pink Salt Shed

<https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/event/coffee-business-start-up-chat-chipping-norton/>

There is fully funded support available to residents of West Oxfordshire District Council to help them to start their own business. Pop in to the Pink Salt shed between 10:00am and 12:00pm to have a chat with Ant who will be sat there enjoying a great coffee. He will tell you all about the support and answer any questions you may have.

Click the boxes below for more information; 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.

<https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/west-oxfordshire-business-support-programme-overview/>



OxLEP Business Events

All our planned fully funded events can be accessed and booked here: <https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/events-overview/>

So you want to start a business

Date: August 6, 2024 - Time: 12:30pm-1:30pm - Online

<https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/event/so-you-want-to-start-a-business-4/>

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

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.

During this power-packed session, you will discover the five key actions you should take to start your journey and secure your venture's future success.

OxBOoSt Monthly Networking

Date: August 6, 2024 - Time: 4:00pm-5:00pm - Online

<https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/event/oxboost-network-august-3/>

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

OxLEP Business engages with thousands of business owners and leaders every year providing knowledge, advice and other business development support. But until now there hasn't been an easy way to help these businesses to network. Problem solved...

The OxBOoSt network will meet on the first Tuesday of every month (public holidays taken into account) from 4pm to 5pm and is open to all Oxfordshire based businesses to join (and its free!).

Stop winging it – Getting Your Service Business Ready to Scale

Date: August 13, 2024- Time: 12:30pm-1:30pm - Online

<https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/event/stop-winging-it-getting-your-service-business-ready-to-scale/>

You know your service is outstanding and you want to grow, what is stopping you?

You want to scale. The couple of employees or sub-contractors you have are with you, they know you're on to a good thing. But here's the rub: you're firefighting. You're so busy you hardly have time to work on the deliverables that are bringing in the revenue, to work on finding leads and to improve the service in those ways you already know you can, forget working on the business itself. Bottom line, the infrastructure of your business is suffering, or most likely, there isn't an infrastructure there. You're amazing at what you do, and you're winging it in your business. Sound familiar?

This infrastructure is the foundation for your growth. If you don't have it in place, you can't scale effectively. It's as simple as that.

OxLEP Skills

Opportunities for employers from OxLEP Skills

<https://oxlepskills.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/OxLEPSkillsHubEmployerOffer2024.pdf>

Working with our colleagues in OxLEP Business, we aim to help businesses reach their full potential. This high-level guide will give you an idea of the support on offer to your business from OxLEP Skills, including engaging with local schools and colleges, support with apprenticeships, adding social value and achieving CSR goals.



Skills Bootcamps programme set to have 'significant impact' on Oxfordshire's workforce

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

A new, £1.7million initiative led by OxLEP Skills has just been launched and is set to make a major impact on employment opportunities across the county.

The Skills Bootcamps programme, part of the Department for Education's 'Skills for Life' activity, will be delivered between this summer and March 2025.

It is set to give Oxfordshire residents the opportunity to develop a variety of sector-specific skills, helping to fast-track individuals to potential, future interview opportunities and ultimately, paid work. The programme will in-particular boost opportunities for jobseekers, those re-entering work after a career gap, or retirees returning to employment, likely triggered by the cost-of-living crisis.

Working with a range of delivery partners, Skills Bootcamps will provide free, flexible courses to its participants – running for up to 16 weeks in some instances – available to residents from across Oxfordshire, subject to the programme's eligibility criteria.

Three courses are currently on offer and due to begin in the coming weeks in the fields of health & life sciences and green construction. More courses and associated delivery partners are set to be announced later this summer.

Use it or lose it - financial support available to Oxfordshire businesses to take on an apprentice

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

Looking to take on an apprentice? Get in touch with the OxLEP Skills team today to find out how we can support you to 'Grow Your Own' talent, through our Apprenticeship Levy Pledge initiative. We may just have the funds to support your business' skills needs!

OxLEP Skills

The 'Grow Your Own' Levy Pledge initiative sees Oxfordshire's levy-paying businesses transfer their unused apprenticeship levy funds to other organisations within the county to support their own skills needs - rather than returning back to the treasury. There is currently still around £1.9million of pledged levy funds that remain unallocated within the programme!

Find out more about how we can support your business' skills needs by contacting us today at: skills@oxfordshirelep.com



Case study – Navenio and the OxLEP Skills Apprenticeship Levy Pledge initiative

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

Scale-up tech company Navenio is looking forward to rapid expansion throughout 2024 as they gain access to new markets. Keeping skills current within the workforce is a recognised challenge within the sector. The ability to access funding through the OxLEP Skills Apprenticeship Levy Pledge initiative has had a transformative effect on the organisation, by helping them to invest in the training they need.

HR Manager Rebecca Kyte said: "As a scale-up, budget constraints can hinder your training needs and so using the OxLEP Skills Apprenticeship Levy Pledge initiative was ideal for us. OxLEP Skills' Apprenticeship Advisors have provided invaluable support in the process, having taken time to understand Navenio's business requirements and made connections with appropriate apprenticeship levy paying businesses to match with our values and mission. Thanks to them we have been able to support the training of 7 apprentices who are already demonstrating an impact in their current roles."

"As a smaller team we wouldn't have had the capacity to manage the apprenticeship levy scheme ourselves, so having OxLEP Skills as a partner and utilising their expertise has been brilliant, we are most grateful."



Find out more about how we can support your business' training needs by contacting us today at: skills@oxfordshirelep.com

Oxfordshire Business Support

Other Resources: As part of our ongoing commitment to provide the best possible service to Oxfordshire's SME's we always ensure that other services and opportunities which may be available to business within Oxfordshire are highlighted and signposted.

For more information visit here: <https://oxlepbusiness.co.uk/external-resources/>

Business & IP Centre Oxfordshire

At the Oxford Westgate Library

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



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

Energy Saver App

The Energy Saver App is a new, free, mobile app from Oxfordshire County Council to help you and your employees save money on your home energy bills and reduce your household emissions.

The App which is available to any Oxfordshire household with a smart meter, uses clever technology to analyse your smart meter data to provide you with personalised insights and tips that your smart meter can't, to help you make informed choices about energy use in your home.

Find out more and download the App: <https://energysaverapp.com/>

Oxford Climate Awards

Oxford City Council and the Oxford Mail are looking to find Oxfordshire's climate heroes to celebrate those making a difference in our community and who are championing environmental sustainability.

Nominations close 11th August and are open to businesses, individuals and groups from across Oxfordshire.

Find out more and submit your nominations:

<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/climate-awards/>

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](#)

Oxfordshire County Council: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>