

Growth Hub Newsletter

May 2025

Support for your business

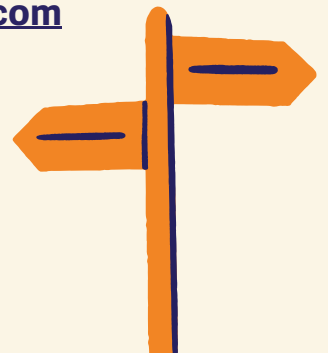
Enterprise Oxfordshire is the Growth Hub for Oxfordshire, simplifying the business support landscape and helping individuals and businesses to connect more easily. We are here to help SMEs and entrepreneurs find the support they need, offering prompt, friendly, impartial advice. We signpost businesses to the right no cost business support both locally and nationally.

Get started...

Complete Enterprise Oxfordshire'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@enterpriseoxfordshire.com



Enterprise Oxfordshire Business is proud to provide business support to Oxfordshire's SME's

Enterprise Oxfordshire are pleased to confirm the support that is now available to Oxfordshire's SMEs through 2025-2026. Our mission is to support SME's and entrepreneurs based within Oxfordshire offering prompt, friendly, impartial advice.

We provide fully funded support for every stage of business, from Start-up to growth. This includes one to one support with expert advisors, facilitated workshops and webinars, peer groups and much more. The support we offer varies depending on your business stage, so it is important to complete the Business Support Tool, so that we can ensure we are offering you the most targeted and relevant support to you and your business:.

Business Support Tool

Alongside support from Enterprise Oxfordshire, we also signpost businesses to the right no cost business support both locally and nationally.

The support that you can expect to receive from Enterprise Oxfordshire includes:

- Networking – OxBOoSt and Women in Business Gatherings
- Start-up Club
- Foundations to Growth
- Peer Networks
- Investment Readiness
- Bootcamps
- AI Accelerator
- 1-1 support from and advisor

For more information, email us at: business@enterpriseoxfordshire.com



Marketplace and Celebration Event 2025

Enterprise Oxfordshire Business is pleased to be hosting our yearly Marketplace and Celebration in September 2025. With thanks to our Headline Sponsor, Darcica Logistics, as well as our award sponsors and event supporters.

The event is designed to bring together and celebrate Oxfordshire's business community, showcasing the Oxfordshire SMEs that have been supported by Enterprise Oxfordshire (formerly OxLEP Business) since April 2022 through both a Marketplace and an Awards evening.

Date: Thursday 18th September 2025

Venue: Oxford Town Hall, Oxford

Time: 6.00pm – 9.00pm

If you would like to exhibit at the Marketplace or to nominate your business for an award you can request more information when you book your place.

If you are interested in becoming an event supporter for the Marketplace and Celebration 2025, please email business@enterpriseoxfordshire.com for more information.

[Book](#)

Enterprise Oxfordshire Business Directory

Join our fast growing Oxfordshire Business Directory.

Enterprise Oxfordshire Business have developed a Business Directory platform for businesses to support each other and promote themselves.

[Learn More](#)



Events

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

[View Events](#)

Thrive in 2025

Thurs, 8 May 2025 9:30 - 10:30 BST - Online

[Book](#)



Thrive in 2025 is your inside look at what's new, what's working, and how your business can benefit from the exciting resources being offered by the new Enterprise Oxfordshire Business team. With hundreds of businesses already tapping into thousands of hours of expert guidance this year, we'll highlight some of the most impactful programmes, from help with finding grant funding, to pitching for investment, to using AI tools to delight your customers. Whether you're just starting out or ready to scale, there's something for every stage of your business journey.

Expect a fast-paced rundown of what are likely to be the most in-demand support sessions this year, including Focus on Finance, Creating a lasting impression in 60 seconds, and Growing from 2–5 Staff.

Finding and Winning Public Sector Contracts

Fri, 16 May 2025 12:30 - 13:30 BST - Online

[Book](#)



February 2025 marked a seismic shift in the UK's public procurement landscape with the rollout of the long-awaited Procurement Act 2023 and its accompanying secondary legislation. The Cabinet Office launched a dedicated website, attended numerous events and trained thousands of procurement professionals across the public sector. But here's the catch: if you're a supplier and a small/micro enterprise, you may not have heard anything about it. There's been no formal training for suppliers, and unless you were already in the know, these changes could be passing you by. That's where we come in! This event will break it all down—what's changed, how it affects you, where to register, and how to find and win those crucial public sector contracts. Don't miss your chance to stay ahead of the curve.

This event is being hosted by Enterprise Oxfordshire and delivered by Oxford College of Procurement & Supply, a part of the Oxford Professional Education Group.

Events

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[View Events](#)

Start-Up Club (1) - Business Planning
Wed, 21 May 2025 17:15 - 19:15 BST - Online

[Book](#)



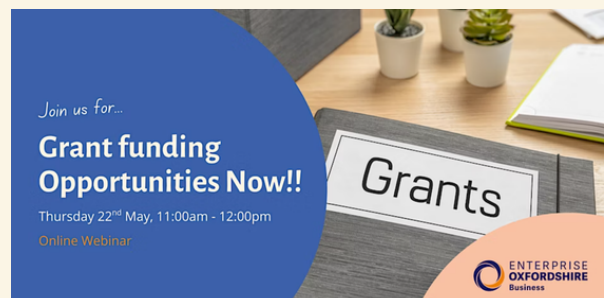
For start-ups and early-stage entrepreneurs - this bootcamp is designed to encourage businesses to focus on the fundamentals of a successful business and develop a viable, successful and sustainable business.

Three intense sessions, each delivered by one of our experienced business experts, providing practical content to help you learn and make progress, alongside a group of supportive peers.

You will finish the Bootcamp with a clear plan on how to move your business forward and reach your next milestone.

Grant funding Opportunities Now!!
Thurs, 22 May 2025 11:00 - 12:00 BST - Online

[Book](#)



Join our upcoming webinar designed for small business owners and social enterprises, exploring how grant funding can accelerate your service, growth and market potential. Ant parsons will explore the pros and cons of grant funding, ensuring you understand both the opportunities and challenges. You'll learn how to prepare your business or social enterprise for grant applications, ensuring you're grant-ready.

Whether you're new to grant funding or looking to improve your approach, this webinar will provide valuable insights to help your business or social enterprise to thrive.

Learning Outcomes:

- The pros and cons of grant funding
- Getting your business / social enterprise ready for grant funding
- Where to look for grant opportunities
- Grant funding opportunities out now

Oxfordshire Net Zero Business Support

Climate Solutions Conference 2025: Ashes to Action

Join with climate-aware businesses, organisations, stakeholders, and many others at the Oxford Natural History Museum on Tuesday 10th June for the second Climate Solutions Conference, showcasing the incredible technological innovations coming out of the Oxfordshire ecosystem, as well as the strategic work and projects that will transition us to a green, net-zero economy.

Celebrated author and world-leading carbon foot printing expert Mike Berners-Lee will be joining as keynote speaker, along with renowned climate comedian Matt Winning for some evening entertainment!

Our Earth is witnessing a climate and ecological crisis unprecedented in human history. Join to be part of the solution. [Tickets available now through the conference website](#) (including a very limited number of early bird discounted tickets)

[Learn More](#)

Green funding for your business: ESOx Green Fund

Future-proof your business, reduce your organisational energy costs and receive help to reach your sustainability goals with the Energy Solutions Oxfordshire (ESOx) Green Fund.

The ESOx Green Fund is offering match funded grants of up to £10,000 for businesses who have had an ESOx energy efficiency assessment to help with the cost of carrying out the energy efficiency measures recommended in the report or with adding renewable energy to your premises.

If you do not already hold an energy efficiency report, you can contact ESOx to carry one out for you before you apply.

[Learn More](#)



Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills

Exciting news from Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills! We are thrilled to announce a steady increase in requests for Apprenticeship support, reflecting growing confidence in the labour market to upskill and bring new talent into local businesses. Apprenticeships offer a fantastic opportunity to complete accredited training while earning money, making them an excellent pathway into employment and skill development for many members of our community.

Moreover, we are proud to collaborate with numerous large businesses contributing to the Apprenticeship levy. These businesses are generously gifting their unused funds to SMEs, social enterprises, and charities. This means that by receiving this gift of levy funds, businesses can access Apprenticeship training at no cost to them.

For more details, please reach out to our Skills and Employability Advisors, Leah Bryan at leah.bryan@enterpriseoxfordshire.com and Nikki Cooper at nikki.cooper@enterpriseoxfordshire.com. Best of all, all support comes at no cost to you. Let's work together to build a skilled and thriving community!

Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2025 finalists announced

Enterprise Oxfordshire Skills has announced the finalists for the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards, taking place on Thursday 22 May at Blenheim Palace's 'Long Library'.

There are 36 finalists, including apprentices, businesses, and representatives from various employers and education providers. The event will celebrate apprenticeship successes across diverse sectors such as construction, adult social care, hairdressing, architecture, IT, and youth work.

This year's event will also honour those associated with apprenticeships, with categories like 'Apprenticeship Ambassador of the Year' and 'Inspiring the Future Employer of the Year'. The 100th award will be presented to the winner of the 'Apprenticeship Employer of the Year (250+ Employees)' category.

This year has seen the highest number of entries and nominations, with 74 individual apprentices, 35 employers, and 26 training providers participating.

[Learn More](#)



OxGROW Virtual Mentoring and Learning Platform

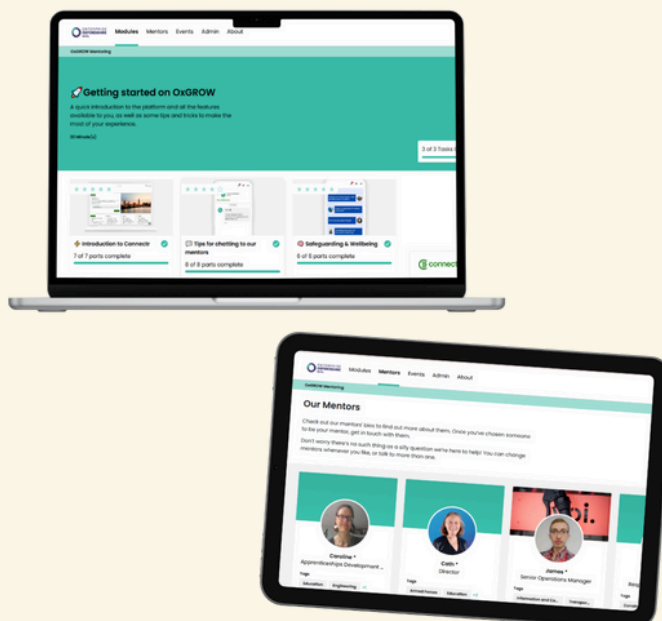
OxGROW is a fully-funded virtual mentoring and learning platform that provides free advice and support with from experienced and knowledgeable professionals. Our platform connects Oxfordshire residents aged 16+ with professional mentors from different sectors. Mentors provide text-based online mentoring tailored to each individual's needs, offering insights into the local job market and working environments and building their confidence and knowledge of particular sectors or roles.

Also available on the OxGROW platform are free, easy to use online learning modules on topics like resilience, confidence building, interview skills and CV enhancement, which individuals can complete at their own pace to develop their skills and knowledge alongside the advice they receive from mentors. Jobcentre Plus across Oxfordshire accepts the certificate gained on completion of learning modules as evidence of progress towards education, employment or training.

Could you give the gift of your knowledge, advice and expertise?

If you'd like to give something back to support local people whilst developing your mentoring skills, please get in touch at skills@enterpriseoxfordshire.com to find out more.

[Learn More](#)



Oxfordshire Business Support

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.

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](#)



Non Enterprise Oxfordshire News/Events

Welcome to Point of Difference Workspace Ltd – Inspiring Workspaces.

Point of Difference Workspace Ltd (PoD) offers dynamic, community-focused workspaces for businesses of all sizes. We provide tailored spaces, including hot desks, private offices, and meeting rooms, with modern interiors and premium facilities like Business-grade WIFI.

Serving Oxfordshire and surrounding areas, our locations in Bicester, Banbury, Aylesbury, and Towcester support productivity and wellbeing with excellent transport links and local amenities.

If you would like to find out more, please get in touch.

t: 01869 690126

e: hello@pointofdifference.co.uk

w: pointofdifference.co.uk

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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

