

WYCHAVON

Business services 2019/20

What we're doing to support businesses,
jobs and the economy



What do we do for you?

Supporting businesses and the wider economy is one of our top priorities.

We offer a range of services and advice to businesses. Whether you are a new start-up, an established business looking to expand, or a company that has recently moved into the area, we will be happy to help with your enquiries.

Here are some of the services on offer to support your business:

Business investment

- Work with developers to deliver commercial development
- Help to develop land or business premises and attract inward investment
- Commercial premises search, economic data, employment and investor reports and economic assessments
- Support for the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, Worcestershire Business Central and the Chamber of Commerce Herefordshire and Worcestershire

Grants

- Business grants from start-up funding to growth and expansion
- Advice on funding opportunities

Tourism and events

- Support and encourage a programme of events that attract tourists to the area
- Produce marketing material for the district under the Worcestershire's Vale & Spa tourism brand

Business information and promotion

- Wychavon Business News e-newsletter
- Support for local high-speed broadband campaigns

Skills, training and apprenticeships

- Advice for employers on training and skills
- Employing apprentices
- Apprenticeship grants

Business services

- Business rate relief and exemptions
- Advice about liability and rate relief
- Trade waste and recycling collection
- Pre-application planning advice and determining applications
- Training and advice on things like food hygiene and consumer law
- Licensing, and tackling rogue businesses





Investing in Wychavon

- We have promoted and built confidence in our **business parks** and **town centres** with investors and developers at a national and international level. This has enabled over 300,000sqft of commercial employment space under construction at **Vale Park**, Evesham and a further 1.5million sqft at **Worcester Six (W6) Business Park**.
- Construction is near completion on Worcestershire-based manufacturer **Kimal's** 140,000sq ft building on the new **W6 business park** and planning permission for plumbing business **Kohler Mira** to relocate and expand at W6 was approved in 2018.
- In Evesham, **Waitrose** opened in November which was the culmination of a £9m investment by Wychavon to relocate our depot and the fire station to ensure the new store could be located within the town centre. Following this discussions are underway with developers, Chase Commercial to enable the redevelopment of the **Riverside Shopping Centre**. We are also in discussion with CLG Group, owners of the former **Baxenden site** and with the owners of the **Raven Hotel** both in Droitwich to help them adapt to the evolving town centre demands.
- The **Boardman Bikes High Performance Centre** opened at **The Valley, Evesham** April 2018. The new state of the art facility provides cyclists with access to cutting-edge technology and industry experts to assist professionals, keen amateurs and those rediscovering the pleasures of cycling to get the most from their bikes and their ability. We are also working with county council colleagues to deliver new walking and cycling routes around Evesham.
- We chair the **A46 Local Authority Partnership** working with the Midlands Engine and Highways England to secure investment in the A46 Evesham bypass and along the route from Tewksbury to Leicester. We also support the **Evesham Transport Strategy** project to help identify projects that can help to relieve local traffic issues. We are also supporting the development of the Northern Link Road which will provide a direct connection between the **Keytec Business Park** in Pershore and the A44. Improvement works have started at **Junction 6 of the M5**. This investment will increase the capacity of the junction by widening the roundabout, slip roads and all the approaches, as well as adding an extra lane and putting traffic signals on the A449 approach to help regulate the flow and reduce queues.
- Construction of the £50m **Worcestershire Parkway** is underway with the new rail station due to open in 2019. This scheme will provide sustainable access to regional and national destinations by rail, including the south-west, north-east, London and the Thames Valley. This will significantly enhance Worcestershire's connectivity with the UK's key economies and encourage economic growth and development within the county.

Putting businesses at the heart



We know businesses are the lifeblood of our district. This is why we've put them at the centre of everything we do by committing to building a stronger economy as part of our overall council strategy.

Our four year plan (2016-2020) continues to have supporting businesses to start-up, expand and relocate at its heart. The plan sets out three key priorities for us. They are:



To help us deliver on each of those priorities we have made a number of promises that we aim to achieve over the next few years (in most cases it's only a couple). In terms of the economy, we have seven key promises:

- Assist at least 100 business start-ups and the growth of existing businesses by helping to deliver an additional Business Enterprise Centre in the district by March 2020.
- Help at least 30 more young people a year in Wychavon to gain engineering skills and qualifications by March 2020.
- Build small business units for rent and create a Wychavon business hub to pilot providing support to at least three businesses at key stages of their development by 31 March 2021.
- Offer support and additional funding to encourage small and medium sized businesses to take on up to 30 new apprenticeships during 2019/20.
- Use our investments to support the creation of 400 new job opportunities by March 2020 with a focus on advanced engineering and the agri-tech sectors.
- Work with partners to help transform and revitalise our town centres so they are fit for the future and establish an initial seed-fund of £150,000 to help develop masterplans for our three towns by 31 March 2021.
- Deliver the first phase of our tourism action plan through producing a targeted marketing plan, arranging business networking events and planning a familiarisation event for journalists and group travel organisers by 31 March 2021.



To read the full four year plan visit: www.wychavon.gov.uk/promises

Meet the team



Our Business Support Team are on hand to be your first point of contact with support and advice to help your business. Your key contacts are.

Chris Brooks

Business Support Team Manager

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E: chris.brooks@wychavon.gov.uk

Shawn Riley

Inward Investment Manager

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E: shawn.riley@wychavon.gov.uk

Jane Dobson

Economic Development Officer

T: 01386 565278

E: jane.dobson@wychavon.gov.uk

Sue Owens

Skills Officer

T: 01386 565525

E: sue.owens@wychavon.gov.uk

For general business support enquiries

T: 01386 565398

E: business.support@wychavon.gov.uk

We have many useful relationships and networks in Worcestershire and beyond, so if we can't help with a question, we'll find someone who can.



Online info

The business section on our website is designed to be a hub of information. Amongst other items, you will find useful dates for your diary, current funding schemes, business advice, business services and links to our partner business support organisations.

To take a look around, visit:

www.wychavon.gov.uk/business



Business e-newsletter

To keep up to date with the latest developments and opportunities, sign up to receive our dedicated business issues e-newsletter.

To register, simply visit:

www.wychavon.gov.uk

and click 'sign up here to receive alerts' at the very top of the page.





Support to help grow your business

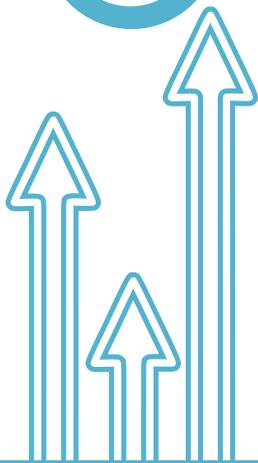
Worcestershire Business Central is a single point of contact for all Worcestershire business support needs.

For more information about the range of grants, loans and support contact **0300 123 14 40** or visit www.business-central.co.uk

Do you need help with business rates?

If you are struggling to pay then there are various ways we can offer help and support. The most important thing is to contact us as soon as you know there's a problem.

You can also spread your payments over 12 months instead of ten.



Email: revenues@southworcestershirerevenues.gov.uk



Skills for the future



There has never been a better time to train your workforce and take on an apprentice. One of the main barriers to growth for a lot of small businesses is the lack of funding available for training and employing new staff.

Do you need extra funding to help employ more staff or to train your current staff?

Government funding has changed. If you are employing fewer than 50 people you will be able to train 16- to 18-year-old apprentices without making a contribution towards the costs of training and assessment (up to the funding band maximum).

Extra support from the government for small employers

For employers with fewer than 50 people working for them, the government will pay 100% of the training costs, up to the funding band maximum, for an apprentice who is aged between:

- 16-18 years old
- 19-24 years old and who has previously been in care or who has an Education, Health and Care plan provided by their local authority.

Training younger apprentices

All employers will receive £1,000 if, at the start of the apprenticeship, the apprentice is aged between:

- 16-18 years old
- 19-24 years old and who has previously been in care or who has an Education, Health and Care plan provided by their local authority.

This payment will be made to the employer in two equal instalments via the training provider.

As part of our commitment to encourage and help businesses to grow and take on apprentices between 16 – 24 years old, Wychavon also offers an additional £1,000 grant to SMEs (subject to qualifying criteria). That means when you take on an apprentice **you could potentially receive £2,000.**

Could your organisation help? Become an Enterprise Adviser

Schools across Wychavon are looking for employers to help support their students to better understand the world of work and assist in the delivery of careers-related activity. Become an Enterprise Adviser and inspire and prepare young people for the fast-changing world of work. Enterprise Advisers are business volunteers who work closely with a local school or college to develop a careers plan that puts opportunities with local employers at the heart of a young person's education.

If any of the above interests you, or you have any questions with regard to funding or training Sue Owens, our Skills Officer, can tell you more.

Please call Sue on 01386 565525 or email sue.owens@wychavon.gov.uk.

WYCHAVON

Commercial waste and recycling service



Call **01386 565018**
NOW 9am to 5pm, Mon–Fri

- ✓ **Low prices** and **no VAT** to pay
- ✓ **No fixed term contract**
- ✓ **Different bin sizes** and **sacks** - to suit your needs
- ✓ Your recycling is made into **new products**
- ✓ We use your waste to **generate energy**
- ✓ **Reliable, legal** and **safe** collections



NEW *recycling service*

www.wychavon.gov.uk/commercialwaste

 **WYCHAVON**
DISTRICT COUNCIL
good services, good value