

# WYCHAVON

*Business services 2017/18*

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

**Why not  
take on an  
apprentice?**



**New  
grants for  
businesses**



[www.wychavon.gov.uk](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk)  
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 **WYCHAVON  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
*good services, good value*

# 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 which 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:

- Advice to develop land, business premises and attract inward investment
- Advice on funding opportunities
- Business grants, commercial premises search, economic data, employment and investor reports, and economic assessments
- Wychavon Business News e-newsletter
- Advice for employers on training and skills
- Support for local high speed broadband campaigns
- Programme of events that attract tourists to the area
- Support to Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Advice about business rates and rate relief
- Employing apprentices
- Trade waste 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

Business, training and infrastructure investment is taking place across Wychavon to continue strengthening the economy, headlined with the planning permission approval of Worcester 6 Business Park.

Construction has started the journey of creating an expected 5,000 new jobs.



INVEST

Business

Return on investment

Success



**A number of key developments are gathering pace across the district, supported by our Grow in Wychavon campaign, which promotes the area as a great place to set-up business, invest and expand.**

Some key projects which either got underway or were completed in 2016 include:

**Boardman Bikes** will be bringing a world class centre to The Valley in Evesham, providing cyclists access to cutting edge facilities and a Boardman Bikes showroom.

**Waitrose** is coming to Evesham in a new-build store (March 2018) as part of a major investment that has seen the fire station relocated to a brand new home.

We are planning to invest £150,000 into **each town centre**, supporting Droitwich's High Street improvement scheme, Evesham's future transport projects and Pershore's Northern link road.

The **Droitwich High Street improvement project** got the go ahead with the aim of making the town centre more welcoming to visitors and shoppers.

An expansion of **Doncasters Precision Castings** in Droitwich was given approval, creating up to 300 new jobs.

Supporting **Robert Welch** to construct a new warehouse and offices as part of Vale Park's expansion, creating new jobs.

Further expansion of **Keytec East Business Park** with Metal Mesh constructing a new unit in Pershore.

More investment is planned for 2017

# Putting businesses at the heart of our new four year plan



We know businesses are the lifeblood of our district. That 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 strategy.

Our four year plan (2016-2020) continues to put supporting businesses to start-up, expand, and relocate at its heart.

**The plan sets out three key priorities for us. They are:**

*Place*

green, clean and safe with quality, affordable homes

*People*

healthy, happy, active and supported

*Prosperity*

vibrant communities with quality jobs and skills

**On the economy, we have six key promises:**

- 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.
- 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.
- Invest £25,000 a year for the next two years to support a range of business programmes. This will lever in significant European funds and help raise productivity and GVA in Wychavon.
- Create ten new work placements and four more apprenticeships at the council to help local people to develop skills and gain work experience.
- Help at least 30 more young people a year in Wychavon to gain engineering skills and qualifications over the next three years.
- Offer support and additional funding to encourage small and medium sized businesses to offer up to 20 new apprenticeships during the next two years.

**To read the full four year plan visit [www.wychavon.gov.uk/promises](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/promises)**



# Meet the team

Our Regeneration Team are on hand to be your first point of contact with support and advice to help your business.



The team has changed to provide a more focused service. Your business contacts are:

**Chris Brooks** – Regeneration Manager  
T: 01386 565343  
E: [chris.brooks@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:chris.brooks@wychavon.gov.uk)

**Shawn Riley** – Inward Investment Manager  
T: 01386 565518  
E: [shawn.riley@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:shawn.riley@wychavon.gov.uk)

**Jane Dobson** – Economic Development Officer  
T: 01386 565278  
E: [jane.dobson@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:jane.dobson@wychavon.gov.uk)

**Sue Owens** – Skills Officer  
T: 01386 565525  
E: [sue.owens@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:sue.owens@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.



## Refreshed webpages

The business section on the Wychavon website has been redesigned to provide a clearer hub of information. You will find useful dates for your diary, current funding schemes, business advice and business services.

To take a look around visit:

[www.wychavon.gov.uk/business](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/business)



## Wychavon Business News e-newsletter

To keep up to date with the latest developments and opportunities, we recommend signing up to receive the e-newsletter dedicated to business issues. To register, simply visit [www.wychavon.gov.uk](http://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, including local Wychavon grants.

For more information about the range of grants, loans and support contact **0300 123 14 40** or visit [www.business-central.co.uk](http://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](mailto:revenues@southworcestershirerevenues.gov.uk) or write to: Revenues and Benefits, PO Box 11, Pershore, WR10 1PU providing your name, address and account number for more information.



# The apprentice levy is coming – are you prepared?

From April 2017, the government is introducing a new apprenticeship levy that will have financial implications for businesses of any size.



In particular, large employers with a pay bill of over £3 million will have to pay an annual apprenticeship levy of 0.5% of their PAYE bill, which can only be recouped when they employ and train apprentices. The levy will be collected monthly by HMRC through the payroll system. For further information please go to [www.worcsapprenticeships.org.uk/employers/apprenticeship-levy](http://www.worcsapprenticeships.org.uk/employers/apprenticeship-levy).

## Train your own workforce and take on an apprentice

A shortage of skilled workers is the biggest threat facing both the district and Worcestershire's economy. Business leaders often tell us of difficulties recruiting people with the right skills to meet their needs while certain industries are faced with an ageing workforce and a lack of young people to succeed them.

To see if your business is eligible for apprenticeship funding visit [www.worcsapprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.worcsapprenticeships.org.uk) for more information. We're also working hard on improving links between businesses and schools.



# Go paper free for business rates

Businesses can now sign up to view their account online.

**Easier, faster, paper free.**

To sign up go to  
[www.wychavon.gov.uk/selfservice](http://www.wychavon.gov.uk/selfservice)



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