

## **Funding available for growing businesses**

The Investing in Growth Fund is calling for applications from small businesses that want to grow, significantly expand their operations, create jobs and reach new markets. The funding call opened on Monday 15 October and will close on Friday 9 November.

The Investing in Growth Fund is a capital and revenue based grant scheme offering matched funding of up to £35,000 towards a planned growth programme that will impact turnover and profit. It is aimed at small businesses that have a growth plan in mind but require funding to execute it.

The grants available are predominantly for capital expenditure such as machinery to expand production. There is also a limited revenue fund available for projects which may include consultancy to explore potential new markets.

To be eligible for funding, businesses will need to be based in and trading from Worcestershire, have less than 250 employees and be able to demonstrate a job creation element in their growth plan. Any funding received will need to be spent within six months of receiving the go ahead, so businesses that apply must have a clear growth strategy in mind.

All applications will need to be supported with quotes and conform to ERDF procurement rules. Up to 45% of the funds required to deliver the growth project can be provided through the Investing in Growth grant up to a value of £35,000.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for Wychavon businesses that are ready to expand to achieve their growth goals. As funding is only available for a limited period of time businesses need to get their applications in now and be ready to start moving on their projects quickly. To help applicants the programme is hoping to have decisions on funding ready by the end of November.”

**Cllr. Richard Morris, portfolio holder for economic growth and housing at Wychavon.**

Eligible businesses can find further information or submit an application via the Worcestershire Business Central [website](#). For enquiries please contact programme manager Wendy Garrad on 01905 84459.

The scheme is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and supported by Worcestershire County Council and local District Councils.

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## **Worcestershire Business Accelerator programme call for applications**

The WBA grant programme has re-opened as additional funding has been confirmed. This first funding round will close on Tuesday 6 November 2018. It is aimed at businesses that have been or are currently being supported by BizSmart advisers. Other businesses are encouraged to apply with a view to making a grant application in the next funding round which will be a final call in mid-January 2019.

Please note:

- Businesses who have previously received a WBA grant cannot apply.
- Businesses may only apply for either a capital grant or revenue grant. They cannot apply for both elements ([see guidance notes](#)).
- Revenue grants: The total project cost for revenue items should be £5,000 - £7,500.
- Capital grants: The total project cost for capital equipment should be £10,000 - £20,000.

For more information please contact Kul Sanghera Worcestershire Business Accelerator Project Manager. E: [ksanghera@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:ksanghera@worcestershire.gov.uk). T: 01905 844439.

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## **Evesham Business Development Roundtable**

Worcestershire Business Central is hosting a Business Development Roundtable on Wednesday 14 November 2018 9:00 am - 12:30 pm at Boardman Performance Centre, Evesham. The aim of the seminar is to explore the various aspects of marketing used in lead generation and best

practice in converting these into sales.

The event is one of a series of business development seminars. For more information and to book see [here](#).

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## **Local businesses needed to help young people understand the world of business**

**Are you a Wychavon employer who would like to support your local school by helping young people understand the world of business?**

If you are, you can help by going in and doing a talk about your company or industry sector, or helping your local school to support their students in employability skills, such as participating in mock interview practice sessions, industry visits or careers talks. Our local schools are looking for as many different people from different sectors to come in and talk/present to them at school assemblies, for example engineering would be so much more meaningful if presented by an engineer. Our schools are really keen to get local employer input with their students, to help prepare them for the world of work and learn real skills that employers are looking for.

A typical assembly visit could be with an audience who are usually comprised of around 140 year 8 (12-13 year old) students with an allocated slot in the curriculum of approximately 15 - 20 minutes for a presentation followed by 10 minutes for questions. The presentation could cover such topics as a company/sector outline, details of jobs within your business/sector, the skills and qualifications that are needed in your specific sector and future opportunities.

**We need Enterprise Advisers too!**

[Click here](#) to find out more about what Enterprise Advisers do.

Become an Enterprise Adviser and work directly with a local school or college to increase engagement with businesses and employers, have a pivotal role in giving young people the opportunity to explore their options and succeed in the world of work.

**Why volunteer?** Volunteering doesn't take much of your time and we'll support you every step of the way. Enterprise Advisers are people like you, they come from different walks of life, sectors and professional backgrounds. The most effective Enterprise Advisers are business professionals who care about inspiring young people to achieve their potential and are able to give around eight hours of their time a month.

### **Encounters with employers bring the world of work to life for young people.**

If you or someone in your business can offer advice and support or spare some time to help our local students prepare for the world of work please contact [sue.owens@wychavon.gov.uk](mailto:sue.owens@wychavon.gov.uk) or 01386 565525.

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### **Protect your Farm – Protect Yourself**

A FREE event for the farming community, sponsored by the Wychavon Rural Panel, is being held called Protect your Farm – Protect Yourself jointly arranged between us and Malvern Hills District Council. It's being held on Thursday 22 November, 4.00 – 7.00pm at the Three Counties Showground. It will focus on three areas – rural crime and property protection, well-being and finance.

For more information, [click here](#)

To book on to it email [communityservices@malvernhills.gov.uk](mailto:communityservices@malvernhills.gov.uk)

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### **Flexible, furnished and friendly co-working space in**

#### **Pershore**

The Barn is Pershore's new feel-good high street co-working space. It's ideal for freelancers, digital nomads and startups with a monthly commitment from £30 plus vat.

For more information please see their [website](#).

## **Enterprising Worcestershire start up and growth workshops**

The Enterprising Worcestershire programme offers a variety of support to enable start-up and early stage enterprises to develop and prosper. From start-up workshops to help you get your business off the ground to grants and early stage support that will help your business grow. [See the latest Enterprising Worcestershire newsletter](#) for all the dates, and free registration.