



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

BUSINESS SUPPORT

GUIDE FOR

EXISTING BUSINESSES



FOREWORD

Welcome to the Business Support Guide for businesses currently operating or looking to relocate to Britain's Ocean City.

There is a large and yet frequently changing amount of business support available making it a full time job for businesses to keep up.

To make the process of finding appropriate support easier for businesses in the City, Plymouth City Council Economic Development Service produce and maintain two booklets focussed on helping start-ups and existing businesses to find support locally available:

[Click here](#) to see Business Support Guide for Start Ups

The guide is divided into a number of sections: Business Advice / Business Support /Export / Finance / Net Carbon Zero /Networks / Skills / Tech Support, making it easier for you to quickly find the desired support.

We aim to update this guide at six monthly intervals to ensure the contents stay relevant and up to date.

The information in this guide is subject to change and was accurate when published in September 2024

If you notice any business support that has been left out, please contact us:

E invest@plymouth.gov.uk
www.investplymouth.co.uk

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
Business Advice			
ACAS (Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service)	Provides free and impartial information and advice to employers and employees on all aspects of workplace relations and employment law.	Acas Making working life better for everyone in Britain Tel: 0300 1231100	Free.
Better Business for All	Up to date advice on business regulation to help you achieve accepted standards at minimum cost. They have access to a wide range of technical advice and where appropriate will direct you to other support available.	BBFA – Better Business For All	There may be cost implications from the service provider.
Business Companion delivered by Chartered Trading Standards Institute	Business Companion is a free, impartial website that helps businesses understand and comply with trading standards and consumer protection laws in England, Scotland and Wales.	Home Business Companion	Free, impartial legal guidance for businesses.
Business Support Helpline (England)	The Government's Business Support Helpline (England) offers advice and guidance to new and existing businesses. It has information on national and local schemes, grants and loans to help businesses start and grow.	Get help and support for your business - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Email: enquiries@businesssupporthelpline.org Tel: 0800 998 1098	Advice is free. Call charges may apply.
Chartered Trading Standards Institute	Free impartial legal guidance for businesses that sell goods and/or services to consumers. Trading standards and consumer protection legislation.	CTSI - The Chartered Trading Standards Institute, UK	Free, impartial legal guidance for businesses.
Department for Business and Trade	The Government Department for Economic Growth, supports businesses to start, grow and export. Dedicated website called Help to Grow.	Support from the UK Government - Help to Grow	Free

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	Advice for people to have more control over their personal data and be better protected in the digital age.	Guidance on the application of Article 36(4) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Free online resource.
GOV.UK Business and Self Employed	Tools and guidance for businesses.	Business and self-employed - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Free online resource.
Heart of the South West Trading Standards Service	The Heart of the South West Trading Standards Service advises and supports businesses to grow and develop, works to protect consumers and the economy by ensuring legal and honest trading, and offers services to other local authorities.	Trading standards - Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay (devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk) Email: tradingstandards@devon.gov.uk	Bespoke or commissioned work £95 per hour + VAT
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)	Online health and safety toolbox, providing relevant information to SMEs that applies to their industry.	HSE: Information about health and safety at work	A vast amount of information is available for free through the HSE website.
HMRC	Support and advice to help businesses understand their tax affairs. Aimed at new, start-up and expanding businesses, and contains videos, interactive tools, factsheets and online presentations, as well as signposting to other services.	HM Revenue & Customs - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Information on the website is provided free. The website also allows businesses to download relevant documents and forms for free.
ico – Information Commissioner's Office	Find out about your obligations and how to comply, including protecting personal information and providing access to official information.	Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) Tel: 0303 123 1113	There is a data protection fee depending on size and turnover of business approx cost £40 or £60.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales	Free business advice session with a chartered accountant including subjects such as business growth, securing loans, capital and finance, export planning, meeting tax and regulatory requirements.	Welcome to ICAEW.com ICAEW	Membership rates vary from £59 - £459 depending on annual income.
Intellectual Property Office	The Intellectual Property Office provides advice and guidance to educate businesses about their IP rights and responsibilities including trademarks and designs.	Intellectual Property Office - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Tel: 0300 300 2000	Information supplied by the Intellectual Property Office is free but to protect IP will have a cost associated with it.

Business Support

Business and IP Centre	Support to Business Owners, Entrepreneurs and Inventors. As a Business and IP Centre they follow a programme and ethos developed by the Business and IP Centre at the British Library, London. They offer events, database resources and more. If you want specific guidance on an aspect of your business, or want to chat through your idea to understand your next step, you can book a 1-to-1 session with one of our Business Experts	Business & IP Centre Devon Free Business Support at BIPC Devon (librariesunlimited.org.uk) Tel: 0800 592 872	Free
City Centre Company Business Improvement District	Set up to promote the city centre and enable its businesses to thrive in a fast-changing market place.	Home Page - Plymouth City Centre Company (citycentrebid.co.uk) Email: stevehughes@citycentrebid.co.uk Tel: 01752 398498	BID Levy

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
Connecting Devon and Somerset	Advice and support for businesses to understand the benefits and adapt to faster broadband availability across Plymouth.	<u>The CDS programme - Connecting Devon and Somerset</u> Email: broadband@devon.gov.uk	Advice is free.
Co-operative College	An Education Charity that 'empowers and inspires individuals and communities to build a fairer world'. Its services include workshops and e-learning courses.	<u>The Co-operative College</u> <u>Co-op Essentials The Co-operative College</u>	College membership fees apply. Co-op Essentials Package of courses - £45.
Cooperative Plymouth delivered by Economic Development Plymouth City Council	Officers within Economic Development team who understand Co-operatives and want to see this great business model used more in Plymouth. Not specialist Co-operative Development Advisors but can introduce to people who are. Guidance through the process to setting up a co-operative and help to access any Council support that is available.	Email: coop@plymouth.gov.uk Tel: 01752 398048	Free guidance and support.
Co-operatives UK	The UK's network for Co-operatives. With a mission to 'promote, develop and unite' co-operatives, they are the main treasure trove of information and support. The Hive helps to start a co-op. Provides a support service that links specialist co-operative development advisors across the UK.	<u>Start a new co-op Co-operatives UK</u>	Membership packages start at £115 + VAT per year
Cyber Essentials	Help to guard against the most common cyber threats and demonstrate your commitment to cyber security.	<u>About Cyber Essentials - NCSC.GOV.UK</u>	Free online resource.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<p>Devon and Cornwall Training Providers Network</p>	<p>A not-for-profit organisation that covers both Devon and Cornwall, providing Training, Skills, Apprenticeships info and support, Workforce Development and Apprenticeship Levy.</p>	<p><u>Devon & Cornwall Training Provider Network - Find Skills and Training Support</u></p> <p>Email: enquiries@trainingprovider.com</p> <p>Tel: 01752 294187</p>	<p>Membership fee applies.</p>
<p>Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce is the largest network of businesses in the South West – small, medium and large organisations who want to be better at business.</p> <p>We help you connect with other businesses, support your company's growth with our expertise and use our knowledge to help you succeed, all while campaigning on your behalf.</p> <p>We provide business support, events & training and unparalleled expertise in everything from access to grant funding to international trade.</p>	<p><u>Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce - supporting business (devonchamber.co.uk)</u></p> <p>Email: reception@devonchamber.co.uk</p> <p>Tel: 01752 220471</p>	<p>Free website content.</p>
<p>Diversity Business Incubator</p>	<p>Business support for the Black, Asian Minority Ethnicity (BAME) living in Devon to help them thrive in business and integrate effectively into their wider community.</p>	<p><u>DBI - Diversity Business Incubator</u></p>	<p>Initial free consultation followed by two free days of business support to BAME businesses followed by chargeable support.</p>

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Enterprise Nation	Enterprise Nation connects businesses with over 100,000 start-up entrepreneurs, small business owners and enterprise experts.	Expert support for small businesses in the UK Enterprise Nation Email: hello@enterprisenation.com Tel: 02038 712922	Join for free.
Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)	Offer a wide range of vital business services including advice, financial expertise, support and a powerful voice heard in government.	FSB About us Email: southwest@fsb.org.uk Tel: 0808 20 20 888	Membership starting at £147 in the first year plus a £30 joining fee for businesses with no employees.
Find It In Plymouth	Plymouth's largest business platform that promotes opportunities locally, supported by Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce and Plymouth City Council. Commissioned by Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce and Plymouth City Council to support the local supply chain, by bringing buyers and suppliers together to boost the local economy, secure jobs and support our regions environment carbon reduction goals.	Home FinditinPlymouth	Membership packages vary from FREE to £25 per month

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
Heart of the South West Growth Hub	The Growth Hub is a free, first point of contact for any pre-start, start up and established businesses seeking support and advice. They have a local, dedicated advisory team to advise on business topics such as: funding opportunities, marketing, finance, exporting and innovation.	<p>Home - Heart of sw growthhub</p> <p>Email: info@heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk</p> <p>Tel: 03456 047 047</p>	Free service.
Innovate UK Business Connect	Innovate UK Business Connect connects innovators with new partners and opportunities across various sectors and regions, supporting ambitious ideas into real-world solutions.	<p>Home - Innovate UK Business Connect (ktn-uk.org)</p> <p>Email: enquiries@iuk.ktn-uk.org</p> <p>Tel: 03333 403250</p>	Funded support available.
Innovate UK Business Growth	Innovate UK Business Growth is a key part of the UK innovation agency's deep investment in the pioneering businesses that drive economic growth. It is a publicly-funded service available to all high potential small to medium sized innovation-driven companies, including Innovate UK grant winners.	<p>Scale your company with Innovate UK Business Growth (ktn-uk.org)</p> <p>Tel: 0300 123 3066</p>	Funded support available. Grant funding available upto £15,000.
MentorSME	MentorSME is a gateway for businesses that are looking to contact a mentor in their area.	<p>mentorsme.co.uk - Britain's first online gateway for businesses looking for mentoring services</p>	Free service. Some mentors on the website charge for their services, each is different and some offer free information to SMEs.

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<p>Plymouth City Council Business Relationship Programme</p>	<p>Business Relationship Programme – Free, impartial support to help businesses identify available property, relocation advice, recruitment, links to regional funding and skills schemes, network introductions, economic research and gateway to relevant Council services.</p>	<p>Home Invest Plymouth</p> <p>Email: invest@plymouth.gov.uk</p>	<p>Free</p>
<p>Plymouth City Council - Commercial Property Search</p>	<p>Help finding commercial property. If you'd like our help to find a commercial property such as an office, or retail or industrial space, fill in our commercial property search form and we can help find the right place for you. We'll send you back a list of properties within five working</p>	<p>Help finding commercial property PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK</p>	<p>FREE</p>
<p>Plymouth City Council - Public Protection Service (PPS)</p>	<p>Advice, guidance and training courses to all businesses concerning regulation and best practice. Operates the assured trader scheme 'Buy With Confidence'.</p>	<p>Public Protection advice and support PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK</p> <p>Tel: 01752 398501</p> <p>Email: public.protection@plymouth.gov.uk</p>	<p>Free thirty minute advice session.</p>
<p>Plymouth Enterprise Hub</p>	<p>A place for local businesses to access a range of free business support.</p> <p>Whether you're thinking about starting a business, you've just launched or you're looking to grow, the support on this hub will help you achieve your business goals.</p>	<p>Plymouth Enterprise Hub Free business support Enterprise Nation</p>	<p>Free</p>

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Plymouth Octopus Project (POP+)	Provides infrastructure support for the Voluntary and Community Sector in Plymouth	<p><u>Plymouth Octopus – Building grassroots impact</u></p> <p>Email: info@plymouthoctopus.org</p> <p>Tel: 01752 741411</p>	Free website resources
Plymouth Social Enterprise Network	Promotes social enterprises in and around Plymouth. It provides a range of networking and membership services.	<p><u>Home - Plymouth Social Enterprise Network (plymsocent.org.uk)</u></p> <p>Email: hello@plymsocent.org.uk</p>	Membership fees start at £25.
Plymouth Waterfront Partnership	Support to Business Owners, Entrepreneurs and Innovators who need assistance with Waterfront BID area introductions and conversations	<p><u>HOME - Waterfront BID</u></p> <p>Email: businessliaisonmanager@waterfrontbid.co.uk</p> <p>Tel: 07929 828634</p>	BID Levy
SEAS Programme delivered by Iridescent Ideas CIC	The SEAS Programme provides FREE business support and advice for social enterprises and co-operatives in Plymouth, at start-up, development and growth stages.	<p><u>SEAS Programme - Iridescent Ideas Creating a social enterprise economy</u></p> <p>Email: seas@iridescentideas.com</p> <p>Gareth Hart, Director Tel: 07786 863 206</p>	FREE
Small Business Saturday	Small Business Saturday UK is a grassroots, non-commercial campaign, which highlights small business success.	<p><u>Small Business Saturday UK Another year making a Big Difference!</u></p> <p>Email: comms@smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com</p>	Free website content.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
South West Cyber Security Cluster	A not-for-profit collaboration raising cyber security awareness and best practice in the South West.	<p><u>South West Cyber Security Cluster (southwestcsc.org)</u></p> <p>Email: info@southwestcsc.org</p> <p>Tel: 01392 247007</p>	Free service.
SWMAS – South West Manufacturing Advisory Service	We help and inspire ambitious SME manufacturers to improve their productivity, develop their capabilities, and enter new markets.	<p><u>Home - SWMAS</u></p> <p>Email: info@swmas.co.uk</p> <p>Tel: 01278 767 010</p>	Funded consultancy and capital grants available for eligible companies.
University of Plymouth - The Cube	Offers support to businesses, freelancers and the self employed. A mix of support on offer, from bespoke workshops to drop in sessions, start-up and support appointments.	<u>The Cube - University of Plymouth</u>	Free website information.
University of Plymouth – Business School	The University of Plymouth Business School's purpose is to inspire and enable students, staff, alumni and communities to achieve their full potential.	<p><u>Plymouth Business School - University of Plymouth</u></p> <p>Email: AHBAdmin@plymouth.ac.uk</p> <p>Tel: 01752 585020</p>	Free
University of Plymouth - Enterprise Solutions	Provides access to University of Plymouth's facilities, expertise and services.	<p><u>ES Support</u></p> <p>Email: enterprisesolutions@plymouth.ac.uk</p>	Services are free via the website. Fee based for research and other services.

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University of Plymouth – Freelancers Agency	<p>University of Plymouth Freelancers Agency offers a quick and efficient service for your business.</p> <p>You can connect with our growing pool of new, developing, and established student and graduate freelancers.</p>	<p><u>The Cube (plymouthfreelancers.co.uk)</u></p> <p>Email: freelancers@plymouth.ac.uk</p>	Service Fees Applied
University of Plymouth – Inspiring Futures	<p>Opportunity for free business consultancy advice from Plymouth Business School talented students. We engage with a range of businesses, social enterprises and charities of all sizes from pre-start-ups to large enterprises.</p>	<p><u>Inspiring Futures - University of Plymouth</u></p> <p>Email: inspiringfutures@plymouth.ac.uk</p>	Free
Women in Business Natwest	<p>A female-focused support ecosystem is essential to boosting the number of female entrepreneurs in the UK. Providing information, ideas and funding to support women in business.</p>	<u>Women in Business NatWest</u>	Variety of loans and funding available.
YTKO	<p>YTKO is a UK-based company that helps entrepreneurs and growth businesses with access to money, markets, and online platforms. It offers strategic and operational support across various sectors and regions, with a focus on social and economic impact</p>	<p><u>Supporting Entrepreneurs & Growth Businesses - YTKO</u></p> <p>Email: info@ytko.com</p> <p>Tel: 0800 587 7707</p>	Fully funded business support.

Exporting

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
Business West - Enterprise Europe Network	Helping ambitious businesses innovate and grow internationally. Expert advice and support for businesses looking to commercialise ideas and succeed in new markets.	<p><u>Enterprise Europe Network Enterprise Europe Network (europa.eu)</u></p> <p>Email: infosw@innovateukedge.ukri.org</p> <p>Tel: 01275 373373</p>	Advice and services are generally free.
Business West - Import and Export Training	Whether you are new to export and looking for direction, an experienced exporter with ambition to break into new markets, or simply considering international trade for the first time, then our collection of support services have exactly what you need to kick start your journey.	<p><u>Training & Consultancy Business West</u></p> <p>Tel: 0800 980 2789</p>	Some services are free. Training courses from £170.00 & VAT
China Britain Business Council	The China-Britain Business Council helps businesses and organisations work together in China, the UK and third markets around the world.	<p><u>Trade & Investment with China The China-Britain Business Council CBBC</u></p> <p>Email: enquiries@cbbc.org</p> <p>Tel: 020 7802 2000</p>	Some services are free. Membership fee applies.
Department for Business and Trade	Through the Department for Business and Trade (DBT) you can gain access to an experienced international trade adviser who will act as your guide to help develop your international business strategy.	<p><u>Department for International Trade - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u></p> <p>Tel: 020 4551 0011</p>	Most services provided by DBT are free, but cost may vary for some services.

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<p>Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce is the largest network of businesses in the South West – small, medium and large organisations who want to be better at business. We help you connect with other businesses, support your company’s growth with our expertise and use our knowledge to help you succeed, all while campaigning on your behalf. We provide business support, events & training and unparalleled expertise in everything from access to grant funding to international trade.</p>	<p>Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce - supporting business (devonchamber.co.uk)</p> <p>Email: reception@devonchamber.co.uk</p> <p>Tel; 01752 220471</p>	<p>Free website content.</p>
<p>The Chartered Institute of Export and International Trade</p>	<p>Free online information service, which is dedicated to helping UK businesses get ready to export and expand internationally.</p>	<p>The Chartered Institute of Export & International Trade</p> <p>Tel: 01733 404 400</p>	<p>Free online resource.</p>
<p>UK-ASEAN Business Council</p>	<p>The UKABC is the leading UK-based organisation promoting trade and investment between the UK and Southeast Asia’s dynamic markets.</p>	<p>UK-ASEAN Business Council (ukabc.org.uk)</p> <p>Email: info@ukabc.org.uk</p> <p>Tel: 020 8226 2296</p>	<p>Some services are free.</p>

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
Finance			
Access to Finance South West	Access to Finance is a free community for growing businesses in the South West of England. Get involved to stay up to date with funding news and opportunities, gain an understanding of the different types of finance available and how to access them, and build a network of contacts to help your business thrive. Delivered by Tech South West .	Access to Finance Platform Access to Finance (accesstofinancesw.co.uk) Email: hello@accesstofinancesw.co.uk	The platform is FREE to join.
Angel CoFund (ACF)	The Angel CoFund (ACF) is a UK based venture capital fund that co-invests alongside syndicates of sector-smart Angel investors, to fund and scale some of the best high-potential early-stage businesses.	Angel CoFund - ACF Investors	The fund invests right across the UK and is happy to consider investments in almost any sector.
Better Business Finance	Better Business Finance provides impartial information and support to businesses and entrepreneurs looking to develop and grow; whether the business is seeking finance, or starting out or exporting abroad, BBF is here to help.	better business finance - business finance support : Home	There may be a cost implication depending on what services are used.
British Business Bank	Their aim is to make finance markets work better for small businesses in the UK at all stages of their development: starting up, scaling up and staying ahead.	Discover British Business Bank (british-business-bank.co.uk)	There may be a cost implication depending on what services are used.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<p>British Business Bank – Growth Guarantee Scheme</p>	<p>The growth Guarantee Scheme is designed to support access to finance for UK smaller businesses as they look to invest and grow. Offering a wide range of products supported by different lenders, including term loans, overdrafts, asset finance, invoice finance and asset-based lending.</p> <p>The Growth Guarantee Scheme can generally support facility sizes of up to £2m and provides the lender with a 70% government-backed guarantee.</p>	<p><u>Growth Guarantee Scheme (GGS) British Business Bank (british-business-bank.co.uk)</u></p>	<p>Loans paid back with interest</p>
<p>British Business Bank – South West Investment Fund</p>	<p>The South West Investment Fund offers a range of commercial finance options with loans from £25,000 to £2million and equity investment up to £5 million.</p>	<p><u>South West Investment Fund British Business Bank (british-business-bank.co.uk)</u></p>	<p>Loans paid back with interest</p>
<p>Crowdfunder</p>	<p>Advice, tips and crowdfunding methods for anyone looking to raise funds from the crowd.</p>	<p><u>Crowdfunder.co.uk UK's No.1 Fundraising & Crowdfunding platform</u></p> <p>Email: support@crowdfunder.co.uk</p>	<p>Free advice on how to run a crowdfunding project, but there are cost implications to using the service to raise finance.</p>
<p>Fredericks Foundation</p>	<p>Fredericks Foundation offers expert advice and flexible finance for social enterprises, helping them realise their full potential and scale to have the greatest social impact possible.</p>	<p><u>Fredericks Foundation - Finance for Social Impact</u></p> <p>Email: hello@fredericksfoundation.org</p> <p>Tel: 01276 472722</p>	<p>The loan will need to be paid back to Fredericks Foundation through an agreed format.</p>

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
Funding Circle	An online marketplace which can help businesses access finance exclusively Funding Circle offers fast, affordable loans and lines of credit for businesses of all sizes and sectors. Apply online in 10 minutes and get a decision in as little as 1 hour, with fixed interest rates and UK-based support focused on small businesses.	Fast, Affordable Small Business Finance Funding Circle	Costs associated with Funding Circle services.
GOV.UK	Browse a list of available government grants and see if you're eligible to apply for them.	Find government grants - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Free website service.
Innovate UK	Drives productivity and economic growth by supporting businesses to develop and realise the potential of new ideas.	Innovate UK – UKRI Email: support@innovateuk.ukri.org Tel: 0300 321 4357	Service is free.
My Funding Central	Database of grants and funding available to small local communities, small Town & Parish Councils, voluntary and charitable organisations and small business enterprises in England.	Welcome My Funding Central	The service is available to organisations with an annual income below £1m. It's free for organisations with an annual income below £30,000.
Mylor Ventures Angel Network	Mylor Ventures Angel Network (MYVAN) is a private network of active business angels looking for exciting opportunities.	Mylor Ventures Angel Network - Mylor Ventures Email: info@mylorventures.co.uk	Fees vary.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
Patent Box	The Patent Box enables companies to apply a lower rate of Corporation Tax to profits from exploiting patented inventions.	Use the Patent Box to reduce your Corporation Tax on profits - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	You can only benefit from the Patent Box if your company is liable to Corporation Tax and makes a profit from exploiting patented inventions.
Research and Development tax relief (R&D)	R&D is a Corporation Tax (CT) tax relief that may reduce your company's tax bill.	Claiming Research and Development (R&D) tax reliefs - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Companies can only claim for R&D tax relief if an R&D project.
South West Investment Group	SWIG Finance provides viable SMEs and start-ups with access to finance through dedicated business loan funds in the South West region. They provide loans from £500 – £250,000.	Business Loans for Start Ups & SMEs SWIG Finance Email: Info@swigfinance.co.uk Tel: 01872 227 930	Service is free.
Thincats	Thincats is a leading alternative finance provider and supports the growth ambitions of mid-sized SME's. Business loans from £1-20m.	Helping the mid-sized thrive ThinCats	Service is free.
The FSE Group	The FSE Group is a UK-based organisation that supports high growth businesses with funding from £25,000 to £5million. It operates in various regions across the country and has a portfolio of successful enterprises. Alongside its fund investment activity, the FSE Group operates a business angel investor network. They typically each invest between £10,000 and £50,000 in each company, sometimes more.	Home The FSE Group Tel: 01276 608510 – option 6 Email: SWIF@thefsegroupltd.com	There may be a cost implication depending on what services are used.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
UK Angel Investor Network	Helping SMEs to find equity finance and business angels. It assists private investors to search for company investment opportunities in businesses with growth potential.	<u>UK Angel Investment Network - Business Angels, Entrepreneurs & Angel Investors</u> Email: info@angelinvestmentnetwork.co.uk	Costs associated with UKAIN services.
Women in Business Natwest	A female-focused support ecosystem is essential to boosting the number of female entrepreneurs in the UK. Providing information, ideas and funding to support women in business.	<u>Women in Business NatWest</u>	Variety of loans and funding available.

Net Zero

Climate Connections	The Climate Connections website is designed to be one common point of reference for Plymouth's net zero mission. It's a place where everyone can share knowledge, activities and experiences around their net zero journey in Plymouth.	<u>Home - Climate Connections Plymouth</u>	Free
Net-Zero Exchange delivered by University of Plymouth	Net-Zero Exchange aims to build on the successes of the Sustainability Hub: Low Carbon Devon project by further developing University connections with enterprises across the Great South West area (Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall), and beyond, and by creating interdisciplinary knowledge exchange and training opportunities including a range of workshops and events.	<u>Net-Zero Exchange - University of Plymouth</u>	Free

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<p>Pathway to Net Zero</p> <p>Delivered by Business Info Point and Cosmic</p>	<p>The Pathway to Net Zero programme has been designed to provide free support for Plymouth-based businesses to adopt more environmentally conscious processes and move towards becoming net zero.</p> <p>Funded by Plymouth City Council through the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, the programme provides a combination of one-to-one sessions, workshops, and self-learning resources.</p>	<p>Green Business Support Plymouth Business Information Point (businessinfopoint.co.uk)</p> <p>Tel: 0800 592872</p> <p>Pathway to Net Zero Cosmic</p> <p>Tel: 0330 088 3005</p> <p>Email: info@cosmic.org.uk</p>	Free
<p>Plymouth Energy Community (PEC)</p>	<p>At Plymouth Energy Community, we empower our community to create a fair, affordable, zero carbon energy system with local people at its heart.</p> <p>We are a charity and a social enterprise, with a cooperative ethos. Our family of organisations enables community members to take leadership on local solutions to the climate emergency and the energy transition.</p> <p>We give local people ownership in positive solutions like clean renewable energy generation and zero carbon, affordable homes. We provide free energy advice for anyone struggling with their bills.</p>	<p>Plymouth Energy Community (PEC) Home</p>	Free resources and advice.

Networks

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
Devon and Cornwall Training Providers Network	A not-for-profit organisation that covers both Devon and Cornwall, providing a voice for the training provider sector, as well as giving practical support and partnership opportunities for members.	<p><u>Devon & Cornwall Training Provider Network - Find Skills and Training Support</u></p> <p>Email: enquiries@trainingprovider.com</p> <p>Tel: 01752 294187</p>	Membership fee applies.
Digital Plymouth	Connecting Plymouth's digital community with over 1,000 members. An opportunity to network and learn about the amazing things that are being created right here in Plymouth.	<u>Home Digital Plymouth</u>	Events are free to attend.
Federation of Small Business (FSB)	Wide range of vital business services including advice, financial expertise, support and a powerful voice in government.	<p><u>FSB The Federation of Small Businesses</u></p> <p>Email: customerservices@fsb.org.uk</p> <p>Tel: 0808 2020888</p>	Membership costs.
Innovate UK Knowledge Transfer Partnerships	Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs) link forward thinking businesses with the UK's world class knowledge bases to deliver innovation projects led by inspired graduates	<p><u>Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (ktp-uk.org)</u></p> <p>Tel: 03333 403250</p>	Service is free.
Plymouth Design Forum	A place to discuss, debate and promote design thinking and creativity in Plymouth and the South-west. Events held on the last Thursday of every month	<u>Home - Plymouth Design Forum</u>	Event ticket fees apply.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<p>Devon and Plymouth Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>Plymouth's local chamber providing opportunities to make new connections meet other businesses and stay informed about activities taking place in the local business community.</p>	<p>Devon & Plymouth Chamber of Commerce - supporting business (devonchamber.co.uk)</p> <p>Email: reception@devonchamber.co.uk</p> <p>Tel: 01752 220471</p>	<p>Membership costs vary.</p>
<p>Plymouth Law Society</p>	<p>Share best practice, discover new career opportunities or simply engage with like-minded individuals that face the same challenges.</p>	<p>Home - Plymouth Law Society</p> <p>Email: james.walsh@GAsolicitors.com</p>	<p>Membership costs. From £65.00</p>
<p>Plymouth Manufacturers' Group (PMG)</p>	<p>An informal network of manufacturing companies from across the Plymouth travel-to-work-area.</p>	<p>Home Plymouth Manufacturers' Group (mypmg.co.uk)</p> <p>Email: thepmg@outlook.com</p>	<p>Various levels of membership subscriptions.</p>
<p>Six O'Clock Club</p>	<p>The Home Of Brighter Business Networking. Great business networking events in Plymouth.</p>	<p>Six O'Clock Club - Business Networking Education and Support (sixoclockclub.com)</p>	<p>From £25.00 pcm</p>
<p>South West Business Council (SWBC)</p>	<p>The South West Business Council is the economic partnership for the South West of the UK, representing the interests of businesses across the region, nationally, and globally.</p>	<p>South West Business Council</p> <p>Email: info@swbc.co.uk</p> <p>Tel: 01752 395665</p>	<p>Membership starts at £60 pcm.</p>

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
South West Women in Construction	SWWIC provides women in the south west from any discipline, trade or organisation involved in construction with the opportunity to meet, network and share knowledge and experience.	South West Women in Construction (swwic.co.uk) Email: info@swwic.co.uk	£30 per year
Tech South West	Tech South West is a network of tech companies, investors, educators and partners in the region. It offers funding, talent and business support, as well as news, events and awards for the tech industry.	Homepage - Tech South West	Membership fees vary from FREE to £50 per month

Skills

Apprenticeships	UK National apprenticeship programmes.	Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)	Free website information. There will be a cost implication to employing apprentices.
City College Plymouth	We work closely with local businesses, to ensure that the training and education we provide benefits both students and employers.	Employers - City College Plymouth (cityplym.ac.uk) Email: employers@cityplym.ac.uk Tel: 01752 305026	Free website information.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<p>Devon and Cornwall Training Providers Network</p>	<p>A not-for-profit organisation that covers both Devon and Cornwall, providing Training, Skills, Funding, Skills Analysis, Workforce Development.</p>	<p><u>Devon & Cornwall Training Provider Network - Find Skills and Training Support</u></p> <p>Email: enquiries@trainingprovider.com</p> <p>Tel: 01752 294187</p>	<p>Membership fee applies.</p>
<p>Digital Peninsula Network</p>	<p>Digital Peninsula Network (DPN) is a leader in designing training methods to upskill soletraders, small businesses and individuals in digital skills. DPN have developed and delivered innovative training courses in partnership with employers to over 2,500 participants across the South West England.</p>	<p><u>Digital Peninsula Network</u></p> <p>Tel: 01736 333700</p>	<p>Courses and webinars are either FREE or subsidised.</p>
<p>Gradsouthwest</p>	<p>The graduate job board for south west England. They advertise graduate jobs, graduate schemes, paid graduate internships and degree apprenticeships.</p>	<p><u>Graduate job board for south west England - Gradsouthwest</u></p> <p>Email: admin@gradsouthwest.com</p> <p>Tel: 01392 241302</p>	<p>Cost for job posting is from £100 exc VAT.</p>
<p>On Course South West</p>	<p>Adult learning hub in Plymouth providing a range of flexible day and evening courses, training, online learning and qualifications.</p>	<p><u>On Course South West</u></p>	<p>Fees may apply to some course. Range of funded course available.</p>

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
Skills Launchpad Plymouth	The city's one-stop-shop for skills, training, education, careers and jobs . Skills Launchpad Plymouth offers targeted support for young people aged 16 to 24-years-old, including those with additional needs through the Youth Hub and supports those supports those aged 25 years+ who are seeking work, facing redundancy or changing careers through the Adult Hub.	Home Skills Launchpad Plymouth Email: SkillsLaunchpad@plymouth.gov.uk	FREE
The Skills Network	The Skills Network offers distance learning courses across multiple levels and subject areas, from fully funded recognised qualifications to short courses and certifications.	Making learning and skills accessible The Skills Network	Free to small medium enterprises.
The Federation for Industry Sector Skills and Standards	Represents, promotes and supports the 20 Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) across the UK, working with over 550,000 employers to define skills needs and skills standards in their industry. Provides certification and assessor services for Apprenticeships.	The Federation for Industry Skills & Standards (fiss.org) Email: info@fiss.org Tel: 0300 303 4444	Free.
University of Plymouth - Freelancers Agency	Plymouth Freelancers Agency offers a quick and efficient service for your business. You can connect with a growing pool of new, developing, and established student and graduate freelancers.	The Cube (plymouthfreelancers.co.uk)	No Agency Fees. Project costs to be negotiated with freelancer, depending on scope and timescale.

Tech Support

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
Centre for Modelling & Simulation (CFMS)	The Centre for Modelling and Simulation (CFMS) is an independent digital engineering research organisation, providing technical expertise and a secure on-site data centre to help organisations create better solutions in pioneering new product development.	<u>CFMS Centre for Modelling and Simulation</u>	There will be a cost implication of using CFMS.
i-DAT	i-DAT is an Open Research Lab for playful experimentation with creative technology.	<u>(i-dat.org)</u>	There may be costs associated for the required facilities.
Innovate UK	Fund, support and connect innovative businesses to accelerate sustainable economic growth.	<u>Innovate UK – UKRI</u> Email: support@innovateuk.ukri.org Tel: 0300 321 4357	Service is free.
National Composites Centre in Partnership with Plymouth Science Park	Independent, open-access national centre that delivers world-class innovation in the design and rapid manufacture of composites and facilitates their widespread industrial exploitation.	<u>NCC Composites and Engineering National Composites Centre (nccuk.com)</u>	Tiered memberships option available or pay-per-use for private venture work.
Regen	Regen is an independent, mission led organisation that is working to transform the energy system. We support government, local authorities and business to work towards a democratic, decentralised and decarbonised energy system.	<u>Home - Regen</u> Tel: 01392 494399	There may be a cost implication depending on what services are used.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
SETsquared Partnership	For entrepreneurs with an idea, early stage, high-tech start-up company or scale-ups – SETsquared’s mission is to help turn an innovative spark into a thriving, commercial business and support them through into the growth stage.	<u>SETsquared Partnership the University Enterprise Collaboration</u> Email : info@setsquared.co.uk Tel: 01225 388734	Costs will apply to use the service.
Tech South West	Tech South West is a network of tech companies, investors, educators and partners in the region. It offers funding, talent and business support, as well as news, events and awards for the tech industry.	<u>Homepage - Tech South West</u>	Membership fees vary from FREE to £50 per month
University of Exeter - Centre for Alternative Materials and Remanufacturing Technologies	Providing industry focused research support for the more sustainable manufacture of polymers and composites.	<u>Centre for Alternative Materials and Remanufacturing (CALMARE) Exeter Technologies Group (ETG) University of Exeter</u>	A range of cost structures available including support with gaining collaborative grant funding.
University of Exeter - The Centre for Additive Layer Manufacturing	Conducting collaborative materials research for Additive Manufacturing with polymers.	<u>Centre for Additive Layer Manufacturing (CALM) Exeter Technologies Group (ETG) University of Exeter</u>	A range of cost structures available including support with gaining collaborative grant funding.
University of Plymouth - Enterprise Solutions	Provides access to University of Plymouth’s facilities, expertise and services.	<u>ES Support</u> Email: enterprisesolutions@plymouth.ac.uk	Services are free via the website. Fee based for research and other services.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<p>University of Plymouth - Plymouth Electron Microscopy Centre</p>	<p>Offers expert, specialist support to companies in imaging and analytical microscopy, acting as an 'outsourced lab' for many businesses in Plymouth and the surrounding areas.</p>	<p><u>Plymouth Electron Microscopy Centre (PEMC) - University of Plymouth</u></p>	<p>There may be costs associated for the required facilities, but funding is available. Please enquire for prices.</p>

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