



**PLYMOUTH**  
CITY COUNCIL

# **BUSINESS SUPPORT**

**GUIDE FOR START UPS**



# 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 Existing Businesses.

The guide is divided into a number of sections: Business Advice / Export / Finance / 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 May 2023.

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

E [invest@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:invest@plymouth.gov.uk)  
[www.investinplymouth.co.uk](http://www.investinplymouth.co.uk)

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>Business Advice</b>			
<b>Better Business for All</b>	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. Promotes Business Growth and compliance	<a href="http://www.bbfa.biz">www.bbfa.biz</a>	There may be cost implications from the service provider.
<b>British Business Bank in partnership with The Open University</b>	The government-backed Start Up Loans scheme has partnered with The Open University to give its customers, and other small business owners, the opportunity to take free Open University business learning courses. Aim: to help businesses get off the ground and take their ideas to the next level.	<a href="https://www.startuploans.co.uk/learn-with-start-up-loans/">https://www.startuploans.co.uk/learn-with-start-up-loans/</a>	Free courses.
<b>Business and IP Centre</b>	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	Bipc.librariesunlimited.org.uk	Free

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>Business Relationship Programme (BRP)</b> <b>Plymouth City Council</b>	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	<a href="mailto:invest@plymouth.gov.uk">invest@plymouth.gov.uk</a>	Free
<b>Business Support Helpline (England)</b>	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.	0800 998 1098 <a href="mailto:enquiries@businesssupporthelpline.org">enquiries@businesssupporthelpline.org</a> <a href="http://www.gov.uk/business-support-helpline">www.gov.uk/business-support-helpline</a>	Advice is free. Call charges may apply.
<b>Chartered Trading Standards Institute</b>	Free impartial legal guidance for businesses that sell goods and/or services to consumers.  Trading standards and consumer protection legislation	<a href="http://www.businesscompanion.info">www.businesscompanion.info</a>	Free, impartial legal guidance for businesses.
<b>Connecting Devon and Somerset</b>	Advice and support for businesses to understand the benefits and adapt to faster broadband availability across Plymouth.	<a href="http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/about-us">www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/about-us</a>	Advice is free.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>Co-operatives UK The Hive</b>	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.	<a href="https://www.uk.coop/the-hive/">https://www.uk.coop/the-hive/</a>	Membership is free, but members are encouraged to make a donation.
<b>Co-operative College</b>	An Education Charity that 'empowers and inspires individuals and communities to build a fairer world'. Its services include workshops and e-learning courses.	0161 8193000 <a href="mailto:membership@co-op.ac.uk">membership@co-op.ac.uk</a> <a href="https://www.co-op.ac.uk/#">https://www.co-op.ac.uk/#</a> <a href="https://www.co-op.ac.uk/co-op-essentials">https://www.co-op.ac.uk/co-op-essentials</a>	College membership fees apply. Co-op Essentials Package of courses - £45.
<b>Economic Development Plymouth City Council</b>	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.	01752 398048 <a href="mailto:coop@plymouth.gov.uk">coop@plymouth.gov.uk</a>	Free guidance and support.
<b>Cyber Essentials</b>	Help to guard against the most common cyber threats and demonstrate your commitment to cyber security.	<a href="http://www.cyberessentials.ncsc.gov.uk/">www.cyberessentials.ncsc.gov.uk/</a>	Free online resource.
<b>Department for Business and Trade</b>	The Government Department for Economic Growth, supports businesses to start, grow and export. Dedicated website called Help to Grow	<a href="https://Helptogrow.campaign.gov.uk">https://Helptogrow.campaign.gov.uk</a>	Free

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>Devon and Cornwall Training Providers Network</b>	A not-for-profit organisation that covers both Devon and Cornwall, providing Training, Skills, Apprenticeships info and support, Workforce Development and Apprenticeship Levy.	01752 294187 <a href="mailto:enquiries@trainingprovider.com">enquiries@trainingprovider.com</a> <a href="http://www.trainingprovider.com">www.trainingprovider.com</a>	Membership fee applies.
<b>Diversity Business Incubator</b>	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.	07376 790747 <a href="mailto:info@dbi.org.uk">info@dbi.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.dbi.org.uk">www.dbi.org.uk</a>	Initial consultation is free. Business Support – fees apply.
<b>Enterprise Nation</b>	Enterprise Nation connects businesses with over 70,000 start-up entrepreneurs, small business owners and enterprise experts.	02038 712922 <a href="mailto:hello@enterprisenation.com">hello@enterprisenation.com</a> <a href="http://www.enterprisenation.com">www.enterprisenation.com</a>	Subscription based service which provides access to training, events and business guides.
<b>Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)</b>	Offer a wide range of vital business services including advice, financial expertise, support and a powerful voice heard in government.	0808 20 20 888 <a href="mailto:customerservices@fsb.org.uk">customerservices@fsb.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.fsb.org.uk/about-us.html">www.fsb.org.uk/about-us.html</a>	Membershiop starting at £147 in the first year plus a £30 joining fee for businesses with no employees.
<b>General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)</b>	Advice for people to have more control over their personal data and be better protected in the digital age.	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-the-application-of-article-364-of-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr">www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-the-application-of-article-364-of-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr</a>	Free online resource.
<b>Great Business</b>	Support, advice and inspiration for growing your business.	<a href="http://www.greatbusiness.gov.uk">www.greatbusiness.gov.uk</a>	Free online resource.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<p><b>Growth Hub</b> Heart of the South West LEP</p>	<p>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>	<p>03456 047 047</p> <p><a href="mailto:info@heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk">info@heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/">www.heartofswgrowthhub.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>Free service.</p>
<p><b>HMRC</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.hmrc.gov.uk">www.hmrc.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Information on the website is provided free. The website also allows businesses to download relevant documents and forms for free.</p>
<p><b>ico – Information Commissioner’s Office</b></p>	<p>Find out about your obligations and how to comply, including protecting personal information and providing access to official information.</p>	<p>0303 123 1113</p> <p><a href="http://www.ico.org.uk">www.ico.org.uk</a></p>	<p>There is a data protection fee depending on size and turnover of business approx cost £40 or £60.</p>
<p><b>Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales</b> Business Advice Service</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.icaew.com">www.icaew.com</a></p>	<p>ICAEW offers one hour free business support.</p>

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>MentorSME</b>	MentorSME is a gateway for businesses that are looking to contact a mentor in their area.	<a href="http://www.mentorsme.co.uk">www.mentorsme.co.uk</a>	Free service. Some mentors on the website charge for their services, each is different and some offer free information to SMEs.
<b>Outset Online</b>	Interactive online learning tool that offers a huge range of content and tools designed to support start-up businesses.	0800 3898 188 <a href="http://www.outsetonline.com">www.outsetonline.com</a>	The cost is £85 + VAT.
<b>Plymouth Octopus Project (POP+)</b>	Provides infrastructure support for the Voluntary and Community Sector in Plymouth	01752 395131 <a href="mailto:info@plymouthoctopus.org">info@plymouthoctopus.org</a> <a href="http://www.plymouthoctopus.org">www.plymouthoctopus.org</a>	Free website resources
<b>Plymouth Waterfront Partnership</b>	Support to Business Owners, Entrepreneurs and Innovators who need assistance with Waterfront BID area introductions and conversations	07929 828634 <a href="mailto:businessliaisonmanager@waterfrontbid.co.uk">businessliaisonmanager@waterfrontbid.co.uk</a>	Levy
<b>Prince's Trust Support for starting a business</b>	Supports unemployed young people aged 18-30 to establish whether or not their business idea would be viable.	0800 842 842 <a href="http://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/support-starting-business">www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/support-starting-business</a>	Free to eligible people.
<b>Small Business Saturday</b>	Small Business Saturday UK is a grassroots, non-commercial campaign, which highlights small business success.	<a href="mailto:comms@smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com">comms@smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com</a> <a href="mailto:media@smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com">media@smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com</a> <a href="http://www.smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com/about-us">www.smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com/about-us</a>	Free website content.
<b>South West Cyber Security Cluster</b>	A not-for-profit collaboration raising cyber security awareness and best practice in the South West.	01392 247007 <a href="http://www.southwestcsc.org">www.southwestcsc.org</a> <a href="mailto:info@southwestcsc.org">info@southwestcsc.org</a>	Free service.



SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>StartUp Donut</b>	An engaging mix of how-to guides, feature articles, checklists, expert Q&As, FAQs, case studies, video content and blogs. Each site provides new and established businesses with free advice about how to manage a range of key tasks and issues.	<a href="http://www.startupdonut.co.uk/set-up-a-business">www.startupdonut.co.uk/set-up-a-business</a>	Free website information.
<b>The Cube</b>	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	<a href="https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/university-structure/service-areas/research-and-innovation/the-cube">https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/university-structure/service-areas/research-and-innovation/the-cube</a>	Free website information.
<b>University of Plymouth</b>  <b>Enterprise Solutions</b>  <b>Business School</b>  <b>Inspiring Futures</b>	<p>Provides access to University of Plymouth's facilities, expertise and services.</p> <p>Helps you to navigate your way to the University of Plymouth's internationally renowned research expertise, facilities and business services.</p> <p>The University of Plymouth Business School's purpose is to inspire and enable students, staff, alumni and communities to achieve their full potential.</p> <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><a href="https://www.plymouth.ac.uk">https://www.plymouth.ac.uk</a></p> <p>0800 052 5600</p> <p><a href="mailto:enterprisesolutions@plymouth.ac.uk">enterprisesolutions@plymouth.ac.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.essupport.com/contact">www.essupport.com/contact</a></p> <p>01752 585020</p> <p><a href="mailto:AHBAadmin@plymouth.ac.uk">AHBAadmin@plymouth.ac.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/schools/plymouth-business-school">www.plymouth.ac.uk/schools/plymouth-business-school</a></p> <p><a href="mailto:inspiringfutures@plymouth.ac.uk">inspiringfutures@plymouth.ac.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.plymouth.ac.uk/schools/plymouth-business-school/inspiring-futures">www.plymouth.ac.uk/schools/plymouth-business-school/inspiring-futures</a></p>	<p>There may be a cost implication depending on what services are used.</p> <p>Services are free via the website. Fee based for research and other services.</p> <p>Free service.</p> <p>Free service.</p>

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>Virgin Start Up</b>	Virgin Start Up is a not-for-profit organisation that helps entrepreneurs in England with the funding, resources and advice they'll need to make their business idea a reality.	<a href="mailto:hello@virginstartup.org">hello@virginstartup.org</a>  <a href="http://www.virginstartup.org">www.virginstartup.org</a>	There may be a cost implication depending on what services are used.
<b>YTKO</b>	We give expertise in supporting both new and established businesses from a wide range of sectors.	0800 587 7707 <a href="mailto:info@ytko.com">info@ytko.com</a> <a href="http://www.ytko.com">www.ytko.com</a>	Free.

## Export

<b>Business West Import and Export Training</b>	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.	01275 370 944 <a href="http://www.businesswest.co.uk/export/training">www.businesswest.co.uk/export/training</a>	Some services are free. Training courses from £170.00 & VAT
<b>China Britain Business Council</b>	The China-Britain Business Council helps businesses and organisations work together in China, the UK and third markets around the world.	020 7802 2000 <a href="mailto:enquiries@cbbc.org">enquiries@cbbc.org</a> <a href="http://www.cbbc.org">www.cbbc.org</a>	Some services are free. Membership fee applies.
<b>Department for Business and Trade</b>	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.	020 4566 5998 <a href="http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-trade">www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-trade</a>	Most services provided by DBT are free, but cost may vary for some services.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<p><b>Plymouth &amp; Devon Chamber of Commerce</b></p>	<p>Devon &amp; 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 &amp; training and unparalleled expertise in everything from access to grant funding to international trade.</p>	<p>01752 220471</p> <p><a href="mailto:reception@devonchamber.co.uk">reception@devonchamber.co.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.devonchamber.co.uk">www.devonchamber.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Free website content.</p>
<p><b>UK-ASEAN Business Council</b></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>020 8226 2296</p> <p><a href="mailto:info@ukabc.org.uk">info@ukabc.org.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.ukabc.org.uk">www.ukabc.org.uk</a></p>	<p>Some services are free.</p>

## Finance

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>Better Business Finance</b>	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.	<a href="http://www.betterbusinessfinance.co.uk/bbf/">www.betterbusinessfinance.co.uk/bbf/</a>	There may be a cost implication depending on what services are used.
<b>British Business Bank</b>	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.	<a href="http://www.british-business-bank.co.uk">www.british-business-bank.co.uk</a>	There may be a cost implication depending on what services are used.
<b>Crowdfunder</b>	Advice, tips and crowdfunding methods for anyone looking to raise funds from the crowd.	<a href="mailto:support@crowdfunder.co.uk">support@crowdfunder.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk">www.crowdfunder.co.uk</a>	Free advice on how to run a crowdfunding project, but there are cost implications to using the service to raise finance.
<b>Fredericks Foundation</b>	Loans to individuals who are unable to access funds from mainstream lenders for business start-up and growth. We cover England and Wales.	01276 472722 <a href="mailto:mail@fredericksfoundation.org">mail@fredericksfoundation.org</a> <a href="http://www.fredericksfoundation.org">www.fredericksfoundation.org</a>	The loan will need to be paid back to Fredericks Foundation through an agreed format.
<b>Innovate UK</b>	Drives productivity and economic growth by supporting businesses to develop and realise the potential of new ideas.	0300 321 4357 <a href="mailto:support@innovateuk.ukri.org">support@innovateuk.ukri.org</a> <a href="http://www.innovateuk.ukri.org">www.innovateuk.ukri.org</a>	Service is free.
<b>Outset Finance</b>	Start-up loan finance to launch or grow your business. Access up to £25,000 (subject to status, eligibility rules apply).	0800 3898 188 <a href="mailto:info@outsetfinance.com">info@outsetfinance.com</a> <a href="http://www.outsetfinance.com">www.outsetfinance.com</a>	Repayment terms on application/approval.

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>Research and Development tax relief (R&amp;D)</b>	R&D is a Corporation Tax (CT) tax relief that may reduce your company's tax bill.	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/guidance/corporation-tax-research-and-development-rd-relief">www.gov.uk/guidance/corporation-tax-research-and-development-rd-relief</a>	Companies can only claim for R&D tax relief if an R&D project.
<b>South West Investment Group</b>	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.	01872 227 930 <a href="mailto:Info@swigfinance.co.uk">Info@swigfinance.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.swigfinance.co.uk/">www.swigfinance.co.uk/</a>	Service is free.
<b>Start-up Loans UK</b>	Support for people to start in business, including business planning, funding and on-going mentoring.	0344 264 2600 <a href="http://www.startuploans.co.uk">www.startuploans.co.uk</a>	Free 1-year mentoring with every loan awarded.
<b>Thincats</b>	Thincats is a leading alternative finance provider, dedicated to funding growing and ambitious SME's. Business loans from £1m - £15m.	01530 444040 <a href="mailto:admin@thincats.com">admin@thincats.com</a> <a href="http://www.thincats.com">www.thincats.com</a>	Service is free.
<b>UK Angel Investor Network</b>	Helping SMEs to find equity finance and business angels. It assists private investors to search for company investment opportunities in businesses with growth potential.	<a href="http://www.angelinvestmentnetwork.co.uk">www.angelinvestmentnetwork.co.uk</a>	Costs associated with UKAIN services.

## Networks

<b>Devon and Cornwall Training Providers Network</b>	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.	01752 294187 <a href="mailto:enquiries@trainingprovider.com">enquiries@trainingprovider.com</a> <a href="http://www.trainingprovider.com">www.trainingprovider.com</a>	Membership fee applies.
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SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>Plymouth and Devon Chamber of Commerce</b>	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.	01752 220471 <a href="mailto:reception@devonchamber.co.uk">reception@devonchamber.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.devonchamber.co.uk">www.devonchamber.co.uk</a>	Membership costs vary.
<b>Digital Plymouth</b>	Connecting Plymouth's digital community. An opportunity to network and learn about the amazing things that are being created right here in Plymouth.	<a href="http://www.digitalplymouth.com">www.digitalplymouth.com</a>	Events are free to attend.
<b>Federation of Small Business (FSB)</b>	Wide range of vital business services including advice, financial expertise, support and a powerful voice in government.	0808 2020888 <a href="mailto:customerservices@fsb.org.uk">customerservices@fsb.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.fsb.org.uk">www.fsb.org.uk</a>	Membership costs.
<b>Knowledge Transfer Network (KTN)</b>	Knowledge Transfer Network is Innovate UK's network partner and also provides innovation networking for other funders in line with its mission to drive UK growth. KTN can lead businesses to potential partners, horizon expanding events, bespoke support and innovation insights relevant to their needs.	03333 403250  <a href="http://www.ktn-uk.co.uk">www.ktn-uk.co.uk</a>	Service is free.
<b>Mylor Ventures Angel Network</b>	Mylor Ventures Angel Network (MYVAN) is a private network of active business angels looking for exciting opportunities.	<a href="mailto:info@mylorventures.co.uk">info@mylorventures.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.mylorventures.co.uk/angel-network">www.mylorventures.co.uk/angel-network</a>	Membership costs vary.
<b>Plymouth Law Society</b>	Share best practice, discover new career opportunities or simply engage with like-minded individuals that face the same challenges.	<a href="mailto:james.walsh@GAsolicitors.com">james.walsh@GAsolicitors.com</a> <a href="http://www.plymouthlawsociety.co.uk">www.plymouthlawsociety.co.uk</a>	Membership costs. From £65.00

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>Plymouth Manufacturers' Group (PMG)</b>	An informal network of manufacturing companies from across the Plymouth travel-to-work-area.	<a href="http://www.mypmg.co.uk">www.mypmg.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:thepmg@outlook.com">thepmg@outlook.com</a>	Membership cost.
<b>Empowering Woman in Business</b>	An opportunity for women business owners and decision makers to meet with local, like-minded business focused women, once a month, at a well-structured and facilitated network meeting.	<a href="http://www.empoweringwomenplymouth.com">www.empoweringwomenplymouth.com</a> <a href="mailto:marketing@nash.co.uk">marketing@nash.co.uk</a>	Free to attend.
<b>Six O'Clock Club</b>	The Home Of Brighter Business Networking. Great business networking events in Plymouth.	<a href="http://www.sixoclockclub.com">www.sixoclockclub.com</a>	From £25.00 pcm
<b>South West Business Council (SWBC)</b>	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.	01752 395665 <a href="mailto:info@swbc.co.uk">info@swbc.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.swbc.co.uk">www.swbc.co.uk</a>	Membership costs.
<b>South West Women in Construction</b>	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.	<a href="mailto:info@swwic.co.uk">info@swwic.co.uk</a> <a href="http://www.swwic.co.uk">www.swwic.co.uk</a>	£30 per year
<b>The Cream Tea Club</b>	The Cream Tea Club provides an opportunity to network in a relaxed atmosphere with other local businesses over a cream tea in a collection of South West venues.	<a href="http://www.creamteaclub.co.uk">www.creamteaclub.co.uk</a>	Tickets are £15.00 + VAT with a donation from the proceeds going to the Club's chosen charity of the year.

## Skills

SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>Apprenticeships</b>	UK National apprenticeship programmes.	<a href="http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeships">www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeships</a> <a href="mailto:nationalhelpdesk@findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk">nationalhelpdesk@findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk</a>	Free website information. There will be a cost implication to employing apprentices.
<b>City College Plymouth</b>	We work closely with local businesses, to ensure that the training and education we provide benefits both students and employers.	01752 305026 <a href="mailto:employers@cityplym.ac.uk">employers@cityplym.ac.uk</a> <a href="http://www.cityplym.ac.uk/help-advice/employers/">www.cityplym.ac.uk/help-advice/employers/</a>	Free website information.
<b>Devon and Cornwall Training Providers Network</b>	A not-for-profit organisation that covers both Devon and Cornwall, providing Training, Skills, Funding, Skills Analysis, Workforce Development.	01752 294187 <a href="mailto:enquiries@trainingprovider.com">enquiries@trainingprovider.com</a> <a href="http://www.trainingprovider.com">www.trainingprovider.com</a>	Membership fee applies.
<b>Gradsouthwest</b>	The graduate job board for south west England. They advertise graduate jobs, graduate schemes, paid graduate internships and degree apprenticeships.	01392 241302 <a href="mailto:admin@gradsouthwest.com">admin@gradsouthwest.com</a> <a href="http://www.gradsouthwest.com">www.gradsouthwest.com</a>	Costs apply.
<b>Skills Support for the Workforce</b>	Free bespoke training for businesses, to raise attainment levels and to reduce skills shortages that restrict business growth.	<a href="http://theskillsnetwork.com">theskillsnetwork.com</a>	Free to small medium enterprises.
<b>The Federation for Industry Sector Skills and Standards</b>	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.	0300 303 4444 <a href="mailto:info@fisss.org">info@fisss.org</a> <a href="http://www.fisss.org">www.fisss.org</a>	Free.

## Tech Support



SUPPORT PROVIDER	SERVICE	CONTACT	COST
<b>Innovate UK</b>	Fund, support and connect innovative businesses to accelerate sustainable economic growth.	0300 321 4357 support@innovateuk.ukri.org www.innovateuk.ukri.org	Service is free.
<b>Intellectual Property Office</b>	Provides advice and guidance to businesses about their IP including innovative designs and trademarks.	0300 300 2000 www.gov.uk/ipo	Information supplied by the Intellectual Property Office is free but to protect IP will have a cost associated with it.
<b>SETsquared</b>	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.	01225 388734 info@setsquared.co.uk www.setsquared.co.uk	Costs will apply to use the service.

**Business Support – A guide for businesses in the city**  
Published by Plymouth City Council

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