



# West of England Growth Hub Business Support Guide

**WEST** | MAYORAL  
OF ENGLAND | COMBINED  
AUTHORITY

## Finding the right support for your business

Our business support service, the West of England Growth Hub, supports small - medium sized businesses (SMEs) based in the West of England (Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire).

This Business Support Guide provides an overview of the support programmes available for your business from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority.

In addition to these programmes, Growth Hub can connect you to a wide range of online tools, training and services from our expert partners depending on your business needs.

For further information and guidance, or for assistance identifying what might benefit your business the most, please contact the **[West of England Growth Hub](#)**.

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# THE WEST OF ENGLAND GROWTH HUB

The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's dedicated business support service, the West of England Growth Hub, provides SMEs with tailored information, expert guidance and access to various support programmes.

Growth Hub offers support for businesses across all sectors in the following areas:

- Financial and Business Support
- Leadership & Management
- Workforce Development
- Technology & Innovation
- Green Business

Our team of expert Enterprise Advisors offer free one-to-one business support, and can help you:

- Access development programmes and funding
- Connect to support, advice and guidance from our expert partners
- Identify your business challenges and opportunities
- Benefit from support networks, events and guidance from peers



# FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

WHAT DO I GET?	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*	MORE INFO
<h2>Intellectual Property Support</h2>		
<p>Intellectual Property (IP) assets can be integral to the growth and sustainability of a business. When properly managed, the value of your IP can outweigh physical assets, accounting for over 70% of your business' value. The West of England Growth Hub can provide one-to-one guidance on managing your IP in partnership with the Intellectual Property Office.</p>	<p>Available to entrepreneurs, startup businesses and established SMEs in the West of England</p>	
<h2>Export and trade</h2>		
<p>Growth Hub offers support for SMEs looking to trade with other countries. We can provide the information and tailored guidance your business needs to trade successfully with the EU and other markets.</p> <p><b>Our offer includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subscription to the Export Academy to begin and grow your export journey</li> <li>• Export Support Service, for queries and questions about exporting to new markets, paperwork and country-specific rules</li> </ul>	<p>Open to all businesses in the West of England</p>	

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

## FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

YellowDog provides cloud-based and on-premises workload management services to a wide range of sectors including Financial Services, Life Sciences, AI/ML and Engineering, enabling customers to easily spread their high-compute workloads across multiple clouds and on-premises. The YellowDog Platform is a user-friendly portal, allowing workload scheduling across clouds, and synthesizing of cloud and on-premises compute instances into a single, manageable cluster.

Since the company's founding in 2015, the business has evolved significantly. Their original platform and service catered to the media industry, specifically animation, CGI and visual effects companies. Throughout the following two years, the business pivoted towards other sectors including Financial Services, Life Sciences, and Engineering. To facilitate this, they released a new, more advanced platform and developed their scaling and workload management functionalities.

This achievement, and the ability of their scheduler to cope with such scales, means they are more vulnerable to competitors mimicking the platform's capabilities.

In order to protect their solution from imitation, they wanted to identify elements of their platform which they could patent, register for these, and develop a strategy to ensure future proofing of these assets. This is where their involvement in Intellectual Property for Growth came in.

After a successful application, YellowDog were awarded funding towards commissioning an audit of their IP assets and follow-on funding to implement the recommended actions.



Photo credit: YellowDog

# FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

## WHAT DO I GET?

### Supporting high growth businesses to scale further

If you operate a high growth business, the Growth Hub offers access to advice, funding and programmes that can help in:

- Building challenge-led innovation into our long-term strategies
- Providing high growth specialist business advice
- Convening scaling business to understand their barriers to further growth
- Connecting businesses to the most relevant information, advice and grant opportunities
- Showcasing the region's scaleup success stories
- Learning from other successful scaleup ecosystems in the UK and worldwide.

With experience in scaling businesses and knowledge of the West, we'll help you find the support and funding you need to move forward.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA\*

High growth SMEs in the West of England

## MORE INFO

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

WHAT DO I GET?	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*	MORE INFO
<h2>Local Authority Business Start-up and Development Service</h2>		
<p>The Local Authority Start-up and Development Service provides training and expert advice for those who are (or are hoping to become) business owners, whether you're self-employed or leading an established small business. We can support businesses in any sector, from retail to removals.</p> <p>You'll get the guidance on understanding the regulations, requirements and best practices when setting up a new business. You'll also have access to free expert advice along with a range of dedicated one-to-one support, training workshops and resources.</p>	<p>Pre start-ups, Start-ups, and established businesses</p>	
<h2>Social Economy West</h2>		
<p>A West of England Mayoral Combined Authority initiative, Social Economy West will support and grow the social economy in the region, helping organisations to overcome increasing demand amid the cost-of-living crisis.</p> <p>It will provide charities, third sector organisations, social enterprises, and co-operatives with the resources, expertise and guidance they need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore opportunities for growth</li> <li>• Effectively manage increasing demand on services</li> <li>• Build economic resilience and enhance environmental sustainability</li> <li>• Manage risk more effectively</li> <li>• Diversify income streams</li> </ul>	<p>Charities, third sector organisations, social enterprises, and co-operatives in the West of England</p>	

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

WHAT DO I GET?	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*	MORE INFO
Business Innovation Fund		
<p>Research, development and innovation (R,D&amp;I) can help your business adapt for the future, build resilience, get ahead of the competition, reach new customers, and create jobs. The Business Innovation Fund supports R,D&amp;I by making grants and wider support available to SMEs that are progressing innovative projects. Application rounds are open at various points during the year.</p> <p><b>You'll get:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A grant to help progress your project activity that will lead to the creation of a new product, process, or service</li> <li>• Wider support to develop your R,D&amp;I ambitions</li> </ul> <p>The Business Innovation Fund is supported with £1.89m of funding from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's West of England Investment Fund. When available, details of the latest application window will be shown on the Business Innovation Fund website.</p>	<p>You are able to match fund the cost of your project</p> <p>Less than 250 employees</p> <p>Businesses and projects are West of England based</p>	

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

WHAT DO I GET?	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*	MORE INFO
Made Smarter		
<p>Made Smarter provides manufacturing and production businesses in the West of England with the tools and guidance they need to grow and get ready for a digital future.</p> <p>Eligible businesses will be able to apply for a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A grant of up to £20,000</li><li>• Heavily discounted digital leadership training</li><li>• Fully-funded student intern</li></ul> <p>Spaces are limited so don't miss out!</p>	<p>SMEs in the West of England (including North Somerset)</p> <p>Operate in the manufacturing / production sector</p>	

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

## WHAT DO I GET?

### Tech for Growth

Tech for Growth is a fully-funded initiative designed to help small businesses thrive. It offers access to expert workshops, hands-on business support, and skills development. This programme aims to assist businesses in getting online, enhancing their digital presence, and adopting new technologies or digital practices. The goal is to increase productivity and boost sales.

Tech for growth provides dedicated, targeted, tech adoption consultancy supporting organisational development solutions. You'll get:

- Dedicated one-to-one specialist consultancy support
- Access to a suite of workshops and useful resources
- Support to identify current and future skills needs

Support through Tech for Growth will enable businesses to put in place new systems to improve processes, productivity and competitiveness along with approaches to entering new markets, attracting new customers, increasing sales, supporting growth in turnover and employment.

Delivered in partnership with TechSPARK and Business West.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA\*

SMEs based in the West of England

Minimum of three full time employees

Minimum of £100,000 turnover

## MORE INFO

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

WHAT DO I GET?	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*	MORE INFO
Barclays Eagle Labs		
<p>A digital learning platform to help tech founders start and scale their business. The programme covers the key aspects of launching and growing a business, with bite-sized lessons that allow you to learn at your own pace.</p>	SMEs in the West of England	
Creative Tech programme		
<p>The new Creative Tech Programme is supported by the Barclays Eagle Labs Ecosystem Partnership Programme, funded by the UK Government. It's designed to help creative tech ventures in the South West raise investment to undertake the research and development needed to take their products and services to the next level and accelerate their business growth. It will support creative tech founders to become investor-ready and better engage with Angels and VCs.</p> <p>The creative tech sector is a growing and important sector in the South West and its technologies and solutions feed into many other vital industries including health, Net Zero and education. This programme aims to support its growth and resilience and nurture the next generation of start-ups creating the technologies of the future.</p>	SMEs in the West of England	
Boost your productivity with AI		
<p>This resource gives learners an overview of cutting-edge AI tools that are already available from Google and others, to show some of the smartest ways digital-age workers can use them to save time at work and on tasks.</p>	SMEs in the West of England	

## PINKMANS BAKERY AND MADE SMARTER

Pinkmans Bakery is an artisan bakery that produces handmade, wild yeast-based goods. Operating from its bakery in Barton Manor, it supplies three Bristol based cafés located on Whiteladies Road, in Westbury-on-Trym, and at Bristol Cathedral. The business prioritises using traditional methods and minimising commercially manufactured processes.

In 2019, Pinkmans Bakery faced significant challenges after a fire destroyed its main store and production site on Bristol, Park Street. With no premises, equipment, or insurance payout, the business was at risk of closure. Owner Ross sought support to restart operations, generate revenue, and create a foundation for future growth.

After discovering West of England Growth Hub, Ross was encouraged to sign up to Made Smarter to address specific issues. By registering, Ross would have access to:

- A full review of the business and production challenges by the National Composites Centre (NCC).
- Financial support to invest in production equipment.
- Guidance to drive cost savings, improve sales increase revenue and streamline operations



# GREEN BUSINESS

## WHAT DO I GET?

### Carbon Surveys

The Carbon Surveys offer free, impartial support for SMEs to find ways to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs.

- Understand your current energy use – we help you to learn more about your bills and find where the energy hotspots could be in your business
- Discover ways to reduce your emissions and energy bills – we'll visit you at your premises, discuss how you work and suggest ways to reduce your environmental impact
- Work out how to make your staff more comfortable - warmer in winter and cooler in summer, building resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Identify the quick wins – you don't always need to invest to save, a lot can be done for little or no upfront cost
- Access funding to realise savings – understanding your investment options can help you to secure loans or grants to carry out improvement works

During your survey, we will assess the fabric, heating and lighting systems in your building, as well as discuss your business operations and equipment with you. A few weeks after we visit, we will send you a Carbon Report which will summarise our findings and recommendations.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA\*

Less than 250 employees  
 Business or registered charity  
 Commercial premises in Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol or South Gloucestershire

## MORE INFO

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# GREEN BUSINESS

## WHAT DO I GET?

### Green Business Support

The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is committed to supporting businesses within the region to improve their sustainability. As part of this, we have introduced our Green Business Support pillar. The pillar is made up of eight steps which support on the journey to creating a green business and in turn, contributing to a greener economy.

**The steps are:**

1. Build your plan
2. Attend events
3. Measure and report
4. Get structured support
5. Take action
6. Connect with organisations
7. Search for funding support
8. Keep up to date

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA\*

- Open to all West of England businesses
- Less than 250 employees
- A legal entity, such as a private limited company
- Based in the West of England

## MORE INFO

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# GREEN BUSINESS

## WHAT DO I GET?

### Green Business Grant

A Green Business Grant is designed to help SMEs purchase and install new products and equipment that reduce your greenhouse gas emissions, cut your utility costs and improve your energy efficiency.

Previous applicants have used a grant for:

- LED lighting and better lighting controls
- Solar photovoltaic panels
- Roof, wall, pipe and technical component insulation
- Solar film to reduce the need for air conditioning in the summer
- More efficient heating and better controls

The grants are now open in 2025, please check the website for further details.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA\*

## MORE INFO

Less than 250 employees

A legal entity, such as a private limited company

Based in the West of England

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

## LOW CARBON BUSINESS SUPPORT: BRICKS

Bricks are a charity working with creative, local and social enterprise communities in Bristol and the West of England. They established their community hub at St Anne's House in 2021. By producing public artwork campaigns and delivering collaborative and creative activities, their aim is to build community resilience, foster connections, grow local talent, inspire creativity, and provide a space to test out new ideas.

St Anne's House has many challenges due to its large size, concrete construction and aging energy systems. Any project that they wanted to complete would require large investment and could be disruptive to occupants. However, they have been recently successful in extending their lease on the building, allowing them to plan for the future.

Brick's motivation to apply for support was simple – to reduce the cost of energy bills, improve the appearance of their public spaces, and reduce their carbon footprint.

Bricks were awarded a Green Business Grant of around £14,600 to support the replacement of over 400 fluorescent light fittings with LED panels and occupancy sensors. The £53,900 project is estimated to have resulted in:

- Over £12,300 annual savings on energy bills
- 40% reduction in electricity use
- 39 tCO<sub>2</sub>e annual reduction in carbon emissions



# GREEN BUSINESS

## WHAT DO I GET?

### Green Futures Programmes

The Green Futures Programme is supported by the Barclays Eagle Labs Ecosystem Partnership Programme, funded by UK Government. It's designed to support sustainable tech businesses to develop scalable and ambitious business models and successfully bid for funding for collaborative research and development with academic partners.

Given the essential role that innovation will play in achieving Net Zero, this programme aims to support the growth and resilience of the sector and nurture the next generation of start-ups creating the green technologies of the future.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA\*

SMEs in the West of England

## MORE INFO

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# GREEN BUSINESS

WHAT DO I GET?	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*	MORE INFO
<h2>Nature and Business Tool Kit</h2>		
<p>The West of England Mayoral Combined Authority has created a Nature and Business kit to help SMEs across the region to incorporate nature into business planning and operations.</p> <p>The Nature and Business kit is your guide to practical, actionable ways to make positive changes for nature through nature-friendly purchasing, supply chains and employee engagement.</p>	<p>SMEs in the West of England</p>	
<h2>Retrofit West</h2>		
<p>Retrofit West Business Support is here to raise awareness of the retrofit sector and help you meet growing demand in retrofit. Our mission is to create a skilled retrofit workforce, promote sustainable practices, and support businesses like yours to deliver low-carbon measures effectively.</p> <p>We aim to develop the regional supply chain capacity for home retrofit in the West of England, focusing on sole traders and small businesses. Retrofit West Business Support provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Networking (and an online Hub to stay connected)</li> <li>• Support</li> </ul>	<p>Builders, plumbers, electricians, heating system installers, insulation installers and solar installers based in Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire.</p>	

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# THE GOOD EMPLOYMENT CHARTER

WHAT DO I GET?	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*	MORE INFO
<h2>The Good Employment Charter</h2>		
<p>The Good Employment Charter is an initiative launched to improve and set the employment standards in the West of England by encouraging organisations of any size, and within any sector, to join the Charter and take steps towards bettering their employment practices.</p> <p>Looking after your business is not only the right thing to do but also makes good business sense. Raising the standards of employment by adopting more inclusive, fair and sustainable working practices that benefits people and society and contributes to a thriving economy. This also leads organisations to higher staff retention rates, better productivity and a stronger workforce.</p> <p>The Charter encourages organisations to meet seven characteristics of good employment in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement fair employment practices</li> <li>• Help raise the standard of good employment across the West of England</li> <li>• Increase staff retention</li> <li>• Achieve better productivity, growth and access to top talent</li> </ul> <p>Supporters and Members of the Charter pledge and commit to fulfilling the seven characteristics of good employment, demonstrating how they will make improvements in their organisations through new and improved practices including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secure work</li> <li>• Flexible work</li> <li>• Real living wage</li> <li>• Engagement &amp; voice</li> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Developing people</li> <li>• Health &amp; wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>Open to all businesses in the West of England</p>	

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# City of Bristol College

City of Bristol College, one of the South West's largest further and higher education institutions, is a proud Supporter of the Good Employment Charter. The College offers a broad spectrum of academic and vocational courses, catering to both full-time and part-time students from entry-level to degree-level education. The college is deeply committed to its mission, strategic objectives, and values, focusing on equality, diversity, sustainability, and the well-being of both students and staff.

“ By Becoming a Supporter of the Good Employment Charter, the college are demonstrating their commitment to continuous improvement for their staff and are seeking to go above and beyond to provide staff an environment where they feel secure and where they can grow. ”



# LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

WHAT DO I GET?	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*	MORE INFO
<h2>Leadership Fundamentals Programme</h2>		
<p>The Leadership Fundamentals Programme delivered by the University of the West of England is a 10-week course designed for new leaders in small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs). It focuses on practical skills to build strong teams, boost resilience, drive performance, and promote innovation. The programme supports inclusive leadership and sustainable growth, aligning with the West of England Employment and Skills Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen your team’s leadership to drive innovation and growth</li> <li>• Boost productivity and resilience through improved team management</li> <li>• Enhance employee retention by fostering an engaging work environment</li> <li>• Drive long-term growth with customer-focused and sustainable leadership practices</li> <li>• Gain access to industry networks and resources to address emerging challenges</li> </ul>	<p>SMEs (including Co-operatives, CICs, or Charitable Companies) based in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, or Bath and North East Somerset</p> <p>Have at least one year of submitted accounts and a turnover of at least £100,000</p> <p>Employ a minimum of three staff members</p> <p>Demonstrate clear potential for growth in turnover and/or employees</p>	

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WHAT DO I GET?	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*	MORE INFO
<h2>HR Essentials</h2>		
<p>HR Essentials is a free programme that provides SMEs across the region with expert HR advice and guidance, funded by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority.</p> <p>Launched in collaboration with Cool Ventures and HR Dept, HR Essentials will provide eligible businesses with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional advice on creating essential documentation such as contracts, staff handbooks, and policies.</li> <li>• Guidance on staff development and retention.</li> <li>• Support with recruitment and onboarding processes.</li> <li>• Assistance in understanding and applying employment laws.</li> <li>• Tools for performance management.</li> <li>• Training on effective communication and team dynamics.</li> </ul>	<p>SMEs based in the West of England</p> <p>A turnover of more than £100,000</p> <p>Between 3 and 250 employees</p>	

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## WHAT DO I GET?

### Workforce development

Through the expertise knowledge of Growth Hub, you can discover ways to support your business to grow and ensure your business has the right skills and experience for the future.

#### We can support with:

- Workforce planning  
The team can support through an organisational needs analysis of your current business and provide support and planning. We work with various partners that can navigate a pathway for you to grow your current workforce or train your existing staff.
- Apprenticeships  
With 862 Apprenticeship standards to choose from, from Level 2 (GSCE) to Level 8 (Doctorate) we can guide you through the requirements, rules, and areas of funding available to you as an employer.
- Recruitment, retention, and accessibility resources  
The accessibility of resources we have at Growth Hub will lead you to work with a variety of Partners that can support you with recruitment and look at retention within your business.
- Talent resources  
Whether it is new talent or to upskill your existing team, we can help navigate and help you to discover different ways to resource your business needs.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA\*

SMEs in the West of England

## MORE INFO

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## WHAT DO I GET?

### Thrive at Work West of England

Thrive at Work West of England provides interactive tools and training resources needed to help you embed good mental health practice in your business and support your employees, including:

- Our free e-Learning, developed by Mind, 'Managing Mental Health at Work' is designed to equip businesses with the confidence and skills to have supportive conversations with their staff about mental health and well-being, particularly in these challenging times
- Advice and guidance to implement Mental Health at Work Commitments and Mental Health at Work Standards and Wellness Action Plans
- Toolkits and research reports
- Suicide awareness training
- Psychological first aid

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA\*

Open to all businesses and voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSEs) based in the West of England

## MORE INFO

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WHAT DO I GET?	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*	MORE INFO
<p><b>Skills Bootcamps</b></p> <p>Skills Bootcamps are developed in partnership with employers and training providers to help fill local skills gaps and vacancies covering a wide range of sectors, full details of which can be found on our webpage. <a href="#">Skills Bootcamps</a></p> <p>Skills Bootcamps can help your business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop a loyal and talented workforce with the skills you need</li><li>• Quickly futureproof your business in a rapidly changing labour market</li><li>• Improve your productivity; learners are motivated to learn new skills, provide new ideas and a fresh perspective</li><li>• Recruit staff with the right training and skills from the outset</li><li>• Get access to a pipeline of skilled adults by working with existing Skills Bootcamps providers</li></ul> <p>Skills Bootcamps are funded through the Department of Education's National Skills Fund and form part of the Government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee, helping everyone gain Skills For Life.</p> <p>Employers upskilling their own employees are required to contribute toward costs. The contribution differs depending on the size of the business – please get in touch for more information. If you are an employer looking for an affordable route to develop the skills of your workforce or recruit qualified new employees, Skills Bootcamps could be a great option. Skills Bootcamps are free-to-employee, flexible courses of up to 16 weeks, offering employers access to specialist training for the skills they are looking for.</p>	<p>Residents and employees in the West of England</p>	

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

## WHAT DO I GET?

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA\*

## MORE INFO

### Skills Connect

Skills Connect is a valuable resource for businesses looking to strengthen and grow their workforce. Within the website is a dedicated workforce development guide, which helps employers to find the support their organisation and employees need. It covers training programmes, educational opportunities, and career advancement resources aimed at improving individual competencies and adapting to evolving industry needs.

On the website, you can find out more about development options ranging from financial and business support to mental health and wellbeing support for employees. You'll also be signposted to help and advice from other Combined Authority services including Growth Hub, Good Employment Charter and Invest Bristol and Bath. By connecting employers with tailored training opportunities and funding options, it supports businesses in upskilling their teams, enhancing productivity, and adapting to changing industry demands. Whether you're aiming to address skills gaps or future-proof your organisation, Skills Connect provides the tools and guidance to help you succeed.

More info: [www.skillsconnect.org.uk/workforce-development](http://www.skillsconnect.org.uk/workforce-development)

Skills Connect is also a one-stop shop for individuals, who can find events, training and careers advice in one simple place. Pulling together an array of support and provisions in the area, your employees can also contact the team of friendly advisers to help them at any stage of their career journey.

More info - [www.skillsconnect.org.uk](http://www.skillsconnect.org.uk)

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

WHAT DO I GET?	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA*	MORE INFO
<b>Employer Standards</b>		
<p>Employer Standards is a FREE online self-assessment tool that enables you to assess, benchmark, track and improve your careers education outreach to inspire young people for their best next step, prepare them to be career ready and work towards employers collaborating for success.</p> <p>Employer Standards can help your business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Build a strong talent pipeline</li><li>• Increase diversity in your workplace</li><li>• Deliver against your Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) or Social Value commitments</li></ul>	Open to all businesses	

\*Please check the website for more detailed eligibility criteria for each of the programmes.

# HOW TO GET SUPPORT

Contact the West of England Growth Hub for help navigating the range of local, regional and national support available for your business.

Tel: 0117 456 6955

Email: [wearegrowth@westofengland-ca.gov.uk](mailto:wearegrowth@westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

Website: [www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/growth-hub](http://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/growth-hub)

Invest  
**BRISTOL**  
**+ BATH**



Invest Bristol & Bath, part of the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, provides comprehensive support for businesses. From sector expertise and relocation assistance to research, property advice, talent acquisition, and networking opportunities, it helps both established and relocating companies thrive in the region.

In addition to the range of business support from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, our team of Enterprise Advisors can also help you navigate the Government's national and regional support programmes, funding and business advice.



[www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk](http://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk)

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