



What are Growth Hubs?

The network of 38 Growth Hubs across England exists to support and improve business performance, enabling businesses to build their capacity and capability. Growth Hubs are supported and managed by Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), with core funding from Government.

Each Growth Hub sits at the centre of the local business support ecosystem, bringing together the best of public, private, third sector and university support, providing a single 'go to' contact point for businesses of any size or any sector to access advice and support.

Growth Hubs act as a vital link between businesses and national and local policy and initiatives as well as private sector provision - using their unique position and data insights to bring a deep understanding of their areas and local business to tailor provision to meet local needs, target and communicate essential information through their extensive networks, and to inform Government policy - such as business support schemes, innovation, skills, productivity and sustainability.

Supporting Business

Growth Hubs provide access to the knowledge, expertise, specialist resources and the inspiration required to help businesses start, grow and scale, and to realise their true potential – including developing and grasping new opportunities and new routes to market.

Growth Hubs simplify access to advice and support, hiding the complexity of multiple sources to provide an impartial and free to access single-entry point for businesses.

In 2020/21 Growth Hubs engaged with over 2.2m million businesses:

- Helping businesses find and use the information they need
- Determining the best forms of help and support.
- Helping them access support, delivered in-house or externally

Growth Hub services are supported by informed front-line advisors and specialists with a deep understanding of local business issues. Help and activities may be delivered on a one-to-one basis, “one to many” through workshops and online self-help content, or through business to business peer learning.

Each Growth Hub offers access to a range of services to meet local priorities and business needs, to support every stage of the business journey, including:

- Starting, growing and running a business
- Improving business leadership, management and workforce skills (including mentoring)
- Harnessing innovation
- Access to funding and finance
- Internationalising products and services
- Understanding and navigating the regulatory landscape

Through their networks, Growth Hubs also ensure that businesses get timely, valuable information on issues that matter to them, whether changes that will impact on their business, or new opportunities. If there are local and national economic shocks, Growth Hubs help businesses find the right help quickly in response, supporting business resilience and recovery.

A National Network

The 38 Growth Hubs in England work together and with Government individually, as a single network, and as part of pan-regional groups such as the Northern Powerhouse, Midlands Engine and the Western Gateway. They work in local clusters to coordinate activity and intelligence to maximise the network's reach and effectiveness and to foster more local service collaboration, best practice exchange and joint approaches to harness funding. The core Growth Hub offer is defined by Government but designed and delivered locally, ensuring targeted, consistent and high quality customer journeys.

Strategic Partnerships, Strategic Impact

A key strength of the Growth Hub network is its convening power. Growth Hubs along with their LEPs bring together strategic partners to develop and deliver integrated national and local business-facing programmes, services and campaigns, supporting priorities such as the Plan For Growth, Levelling Up, and Net Zero. This enables individual hubs - and the network as a whole - to improve awareness and coordination of local and national business support, increasing its impact and reach, as well as acting as a valued two-way conduit between local business and central Government.

Growth Hubs work with central Government Departments and agencies including BEIS, DIT, DCMS, Innovate UK, HMRC, DfE and DWP to help develop Government-led business support policy, programmes and campaigns that are delivered and promoted locally and nationally.

In 2020-2021, Hubs delivered for Government extensive outreach and support for businesses on EU Transition - helping over 130,000 businesses in four months - and during Covid delivered £30m of grants to businesses whilst helping target billions in local authority grants, and providing extra support for struggling businesses.

Growth Hubs deliver the national Peer Networks programme for BEIS, are key delivery partners for the Made Smarter programme, and promote Help To Grow. Growth Hubs are at the core of evolving how businesses access the Government's business support offer for exporters and innovators.

They work closely with local and national partners such as local authorities, business representative bodies, the financial sector, professional & business

services, universities (including Small Business Charter business schools), as well as organisations such as the British Business Bank, Be the Business, and the network of government funded Local Energy Hubs (supporting and delivering local Net Zero initiatives).

Growth Hubs also gather and analyse information on local business and economic conditions and business views, providing a far richer picture than can be gained through surveys and statistics alone. This has proven vital at times of upheaval, for example around the UK's departure from the EU and Covid 19, with Hubs providing valuable "real time" information and insight on local impacts, not visible in national data.

Benefits for Businesses

- Single local 'go to' contact point
- Knowledge of and support to find the right solutions – local and national, public and private sector - for challenges and opportunities
- Access to intensive deeper support for businesses with the greatest potential to grow and scale-up
- Collaboration opportunities through local peer-to-peer or sector networks and online communities
- Free or low-cost conferences, workshops, seminars and masterclasses

Benefits for Partners

- A national network of trusted advisors and experts in business support – covering every postcode
- A reach of millions of businesses across England
- Driving consistent adoption and delivery of national programmes, locally
- Unique knowledge and relevant insights into the local economy, business needs and concerns
- Help to target the right businesses, in the right way
- Support in delivering new and emerging business-facing schemes, campaigns and programmes

You can find your local Growth Hub here:

<https://www.lepnetwork.net/local-growth-hub-contacts/>