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Free help for small firms looking for growth funding

Help is on hand for local businesses looking to grow as Harwood Hutton rolls out the 'Investment Readiness Service' which will provide small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with financial guidance to help drive their business to the next level.

Delivered by Harwood Hutton as part of Buckinghamshire Business First's Growth Programme, the service will combine bespoke one-to-one consultancy with a series of interactive workshops and is free of charge to qualifying local businesses for a limited time.

"We know the pressures facing SMEs in Buckinghamshire and some of the areas where they need expert help," said Harwood Hutton director and corporate finance specialist Adam Stronach. "One of those areas is understanding the avenues available to them if they want to grow.



"We have distilled our extensive experience of helping SMEs secure growth funding into an eight-hour package that we are certain will be of tremendous value to any ambitious SME business leader.

“We will help with the creation of the business plan or refine an existing one and then, following the workshops, we will work on how to pitch that plan to a potential investor.”

The four workshops within the Investment Readiness Service will tackle business-critical subjects such as the basics of business finance; budgeting and forecasting; the different types of funding that are available; and how to present a business in the best light, involving Dragons Den-style role play.

The Investment Readiness Service is a core element of The Growth Programme, funded by the European Regional Development Fund and delivered by local Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First.

“There has never been a better time for SMEs to grow their business, with such an abundance of support on offer,” said Philippa Batting, Managing Director of Buckinghamshire Business First. We are delighted to be working alongside Harwood Hutton on the Investment Readiness Service – Adam Stronach and his team are specialists in preparing businesses for investment and we encourage any Buckinghamshire based business with growth ambitions to get involved.”

The Growth Programme is part-funded by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and therefore eligibility criteria apply. If a business is not eligible, Buckinghamshire Business First can signpost them to other local and national business support programmes available.

For more information on the Investment Readiness Service:

Call Adam Stronach on 01494 739500 or email inform@harwoodhutton.co.uk

Notes to editors:

Harwood Hutton

Harwood Hutton is a chartered accountancy firm, tax adviser and business growth specialist with offices in Beaconsfield and London. The firm was established in 1957 and its directors have more than 400 years of front line experience. Harwood Hutton

offers a fully supportive, personal service backed up with strong technical and administrative assistance. In the past year Harwood Hutton has achieved nationally recognised awards including M&A Insider Awards Business and Tax Advisor Firm of the Year and the Global 100 Forensic Accountant of the Year.

Buckinghamshire Business First

[Buckinghamshire Business First](#) (BBF) is the Growth Hub for Buckinghamshire and is backed by Buckinghamshire-based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP and Local Authorities. BBF provides the link between public policy and the business community in Buckinghamshire and works with partners to create a dynamic business environment in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

European Regional Development Fund

Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>.

