



Backing your business – one page summary

Our plan for small and medium-sized businesses

Growth is this government's number one mission and small and medium sized businesses are the engine room - your success is critical for delivering our Plan for Change. Small businesses are central to all parts of the country, from urban centres to our rural communities. We will make the UK the best place to start and grow a business, with a culture that supports businesses in every community and high street. We will breathe new life into our high streets, supporting traders, those just starting out, and existing businesses.

This government is giving small businesses the tools they need to grow, designed by small businesses to boost small

businesses. This includes going further than any previous government with the most significant package of legislative reforms in 25 years to tackle late payments, making us the strongest country on prompt payment in the G7; unlocking billions of pounds in finance to support businesses to invest; removing unnecessary red tape; and revitalising the high street as a place to do business; and delivering growth-boosting support with a new [Business Growth Service](#) to unlock business potential. Whether you're a local café, a manufacturer, or a marketing agency, this is for you.

This is our **Plan for Change** in action.



1. Opening Up Opportunities

Making it easier for businesses to grow and expand into new markets, including by:

- **Launching the new Business Growth Service** to simplify finding advice and support, including a new streamlined digital offer – [business.gov.uk](#).
- Making SMEs a national priority for **public sector and government contracts**.
- **Supporting under-represented entrepreneurs**, building on the success of initiatives like the Invest in Women Taskforce and Lilac Review.
- Supporting small businesses to trade abroad and **expanding UK Export Finance's capacity by £20bn**.



2. Fixing the Fundamentals

We're making it simpler and fairer to run your business, including by:

- **Tackling late payments with the most significant legislative reforms in over 25 years**, an issue that costs the UK economy £11bn per year.
- **Modernising the tax and customs system** to make it easier to use and save time.
- Supporting firms to decarbonise, alongside **lowering energy costs** and increased training for retrofit jobs.
- **Reducing regulatory admin costs by 25%**, saving businesses time and money.



3. Unlocking Access to Finance

Providing more routes to finance, including through:

- **69,000 Start-Up Loans** that come with a business mentor.
- Longer-term commitment to the British Business Bank's **Growth Guarantee Scheme**, helping more businesses access the finance they need to grow and invest.
- A **£3bn boost to British Business Bank** to help lenders offer more small business loans.
- **£340m for regional equity investment**, improving access to capital in every part of the country.
- Delivering a lender **Code of Conduct on personal guarantees** for government-guaranteed loans.



4. Backing the Everyday Economy

Revitalising our high streets, through tailored support for local businesses, including:

- **Creating a consistent national approach to licensing**, making it easier to set up or modify cafes & bars, and **establishing hospitality and night-time economy zones to cut red tape, support outdoor dining and late-night venues**.
- **New High Streets and Growth Incubators** to back local businesses.
- Transforming Business Rates, with **permanently lower rates for Retail, Hospitality and Leisure properties with rateable values below £500,000** from April 2026.



5. Future-Proofing Business Skills

Help to lead, adapt and grow, including through:

- **Launching new Digital Adoption pilots** and working in partnership with industry to drive SME tech skills, led by the needs of SMEs.
- **Funding leadership and management training** and creating a new Business Mentoring Council.
- **Backing the next generation of young entrepreneurs**, including boosting access to enterprise education and launching a new 'Youth Entrepreneur' King's Awards for Enterprise award.
- **£1.2bn more a year for skills**, ensuring more of the skills needs of SMEs are met.

Find out how you can start and grow your business at [business.gov.uk](#)
and read the full plan for small and medium-sized businesses [here](#).