

Business and IP Centre Services for the Sheffield City Region

The Business & IP Centre (BIPC) in Sheffield Central Library has proven success in supporting pre-startups, startups and SMEs in achieving their goals. Continuing the proud tradition of libraries supporting local businesses and individuals, over the coming months we will provide support throughout the Sheffield City Region through this particularly tumultuous period with two exciting projects. Both projects will help businesses to reset, restart and ultimately thrive.

BIPC Regional Expansion

Part of a National Network led by the British Library in London, the BIPC provides

- free access to in depth databases and books that help businesses research their market and protect their Intellectual Property.
- expert advice on all aspects of business by providing 1-1s, seminars and major events.

When it comes to helping with market research and Intellectual Property, from trademarks to patents, we are unrivalled across the region. 90% of new businesses who use the BIPC are still trading after three years, compared to a 60% national average.

The British Library has secured funding until 2023 to expand the network regionally. Working with regional partner councils we will

- put BIPC services in four new libraries across the Sheffield City Region, making it easier for businesses and individuals to access our services.
- subscribe to more databases, allowing our customers to research their markets in even more depth and across a wider range of business types whether they need local street level data or are planning to expand into international and emerging markets.

The Reset. Restart Programme

The British Library recognises that it's a difficult time for small businesses and business owners so have developed a dedicated programme to support SMEs across the country, all of which can be accessed remotely, wherever you are.

Open to all business owners, our *Reset. Restart* programme is here to help you transform, future-proof or grow your business through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond with ten monthly webinars for practical, jargon-free training and advice. From this point attendees are invited to receive further, tailored support from their local BIPC Centre.

In the Sheffield City Region we're working with trusted partners to provide free 1-1 advice and coaching in far greater depth than we can normally offer. We'll also provide webinars and events led by inspiring entrepreneurs and have staff ready to help with in depth research. We can't solve Covid but we can help the entrepreneurs of the Sheffield City Region to survive and develop despite it.

For further information please contact Alex Holyoake – alex.holyoake@sheffield.gov.uk

Democratising entrepreneurship: libraries as engines of economic growth

A three-year economic impact analysis, January 2016 – December 2018

Driving economic growth

Helped to create
391
new businesses



*Gross Value Added

and **321**
additional jobs

£2.8m
GVA created*

Across the Business & IP Centre Network,
a payback of
£6.95
for every £1 of public
money spent

- City wide reach
- County wide reach
- Pilot Centre



Supporting diverse entrepreneurs



Of those people who used the services:

57%
were women

25%
were black,
Asian and minority
ethnic

20%
were disabled

23%
were aged 35
and under

41%
were from the most
deprived areas



Capitalising on existing assets

Delivered via the
public library network

Source: ERS Research & Consultancy, based on a survey of 120 respondents conducted in March 2019. Net additional impacts for the local economy, applying BIPC Network averages.



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