Welcome

**The Business Plan**

You’ve got a business idea. You’ve decided to start a business.

You want to get going.

But there’s a lot more to a good business than a good idea.

You need to think things through to maximise your chances of success.

Are you the right person to run the business? Will customers like your product?

A business plan will help you turn an idea into a business. It needs you to think through all the parts of your business to plan how everything will work. It will take a few weeks to write if you’re going to do it properly. Some parts will be easier to complete than others.

Stick at it because it’s not the final document that’s important, it’s the process. Although you want to have a good plan when you’re done, an OK plan is better than no plan.

**DARe Business Plan Pack**

The best business plans aren’t long and complex; they explain only the most important information – what you want to achieve, how you will get there and the things you need to do along the way.

It’s best to tackle a business plan in small chunks. DARe Business Plan Pack can help. This is The Business Plan divided into sections to help you develop your business idea. You can use the information in The Guide to help you complete the sections. Some of the sections of The Business Plan have tables to record the financial parts of your business. The tables are also available in MS Excel format and the sums in these are automatic.

**DARe Enterprise Programme**

DARe has helped many young people to complete their business plans and start their own businesses. Our Enterprise Programme team runs regular workshops to guide you to prepare your Business Plan.

To take part, you need to be interested in self employment and have a business idea that you would like help to test and explore. The programme can then help you to see if your business idea will work and whether self employment is right for you. If through this process you find out it is, the programme can offer mentoring support and, if you really need it, financial support to start your business. However, if self employment turns out not to be the right option, the programme can offer support to secure other goals in employment, education, training or voluntary work.

We can’t guarantee that your business will work or that we will be able to offer you money, but if you are up for a challenge and want our help to explore your business idea, get in touch and come and meet us.

Getting started

**WHOSE PLAN IS THIS?**

**Business and owner details:**

**Business name:**

**Owner(s) name:**

**Full business address:**

**Business telephone number:**

**Business email address:**

**Full home address (if different from above):**

**Home telephone number (if different from above):**

**Home email address (if different from above):**

Section one

**Executive summary**

**1.1 Business summary:**

**1.2 Business aims:**

**1.3 Financial summary:**

**Elevator Pitch**

**1.4 Your business name:**

**1.5 Strapline:**

**1.6 Elevator pitch:**

Section two

**Owner’s background**

**2.1 Why do you want to run your own business?**

**2.2 Previous work experience:**

**2.3 Qualifications and education:**

**2.4 Training:**

**Details of future training courses you want to complete:**

**2.5 Hobbies and interests:**

**2.7 Additional information:**

Section three

**Products and services**

**3.1 What are you going to sell?**

**[ ]  a product**

**[ ]  a service**

**[ ]  both**

**3.2 Describe the basic product/service you are going to sell:**

**3.3 Describe the different types of product/service you are going to be selling:**

**3.4 If you are not going to sell all your products/services at the start of your business, explain why not and when you will start selling them:**

**3.5 Additional information:**

Section four

**The market**

**4.1 Are your customers:**

**[ ]  individuals**

**[ ]  businesses**

**[ ]  both**

**4.2 Describe your typical customer:**

**4.3 Where are your customers based?**

**4.4 What prompts your customers to buy your product/service?**

**4.5 What factors help your customers choose which business to buy from?**

**4.6 Have you sold products/services to customers already?**

**[ ]  yes**

**[ ]  no**

**If you answered “yes”, give details:**

**4.7 Have you got customers waiting to buy your product/service?**

**[ ]  yes**

**[ ]  no**

**If you answered “yes”, give details:**

**4.8 Additional information:**

Section five

**Market research**

**5.1 Key findings from desk research:**

**5.2 Key findings from field research – customer questionnaires:**

**5.3 Key findings from field research – test trading:**

**5.4 Additional information:**

Section six

**Marketing strategy**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What are you going to do?**  | **Why have you chosen this marketing method?** | **How much will it cost?**  |
|       |  |       |
| **TOTAL COST** |  |       |

Section seven

**Competitor analysis**

**7.1 Table of competitors**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name, location****and business size**  | **Product/service** | **Price** | **Strengths** | **Weaknesses** |
|       |       |       |       |       |
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**7.2 SWOT Analysis :**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Strengths**      | **Weaknesses**      |
| **Opportunities**      | **Threats**      |

**7.3 Unique Selling Point (USP):**

|  |
| --- |
|       |

Section eight

**Operations and logistics**

**8.1 Production:**

**8.2 Delivery to customers:**

**8.3 Payment methods and terms:**

**8.4 Suppliers:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name and location of supplier** | **Items required****and prices**  | **Payment arrangements**  | **Reasons for choosing supplier** |
|  |  |  |  |

**8.5 Premises:**

**8.6 Equipment**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **If being bought** |
| **Item required**  | **Already owned?** | **New or second hand?** | **Purchased from**  | **Price** |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**8.7 Transport:**

**8.8 Legal requirements:**

**8.9 Insurance requirements:**

**8.10 Management and staff:**

**8.11 Additional information:**

Section nine

**Costs and pricing strategy**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Product/service name** |       |
| **A** | **Number of units in calculation** |       |
| **B** | **Product/service components**      | **Components cost**      |
| **C** | **Total product/service cost** |       |
| **D** | **Cost per unit** |       |
| **E** | **Price per unit** |       |
| **F** | **Profit margin ($)** |       |
| **G** | **Profit margin (%)** |       |
| **H** | **Mark up (%)** |       |

Section ten

**Financial forecasts**

**10.1 Sales and costs forecast**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Month** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **TotaL** |
| **A** | **Month name** |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |  |
|  | **Sales forecast** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **B** | **Product/service**      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| **C** | **Product/service**      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|  | **Costs forecast** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **D** | **Product/service**      |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |

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| **E** | **Assumptions****(e.g. Seasonal trends)** |       |

**10.2 Personal survival budget**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Section**  |  | **Monthly cost (£)** |
| **A****Estimated costs** | **Home financing/Rent** |       |
|  | **Electricity** |       |
|  | **Water** |       |
|  | **Clothing** |       |
|  | **Food and housekeeping** |       |
|  | **Telephone** |       |
|  | **Subscriptions (clubs, magazines etc.)** |       |
|  | **Dining out (meals and drinks)** |       |
|  | **Car tax, insurance, service and maintenance** |       |
|  | **Car petrol** |       |
|  | **Children’s expenditure and presents** |       |
|  | **Credit card, loan and other personal debt repayments** |       |
|  | **Other** |       |
| **B**  | **Total costs ($)** |       |
| **C** **Estimated income** | **Income from family** |       |
|  | **Part time job** |       |
|  | **Other benefits** |       |
|  | **Other income** |       |
|  |  |       |
| **D** | **Total income ($)** |       |
| **E** | **Total survival income required ($)** |       |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **10.3 Cashflow forecast** | **Month****10.3 Cashflow forecast** | **Pre-start** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6** | **7** | **8** | **9** | **10** | **11** | **12** | **Total** |
| **A** | **Month name** |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |  |
|  | **Money in ($)**  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **B** | **Funding from DARe** |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|  | **Funding from****other sources**  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|  | **Own funds** |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|  | **Incomes from Sales** |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|  | **Other** |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| **C** | **Total Money in ($)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Money out ($)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **D** | **Financing repayments** **to DARe** |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|  | **Personal drawings**  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
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| **E** | **Total money out ($)** |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| **F** | **Balance ($)** |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|  | **Opening balance** |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|  | **Closing balance** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**10.4 Costs table**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cost item** | **What is included and how you worked it out** | **Total cost** |
|       |       |       |
|       |       |       |
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Section eleven

**Back-up Plan**

**11.1 Short-term plan:**

**11.2 Long-term plan:**

**11.3 Plan B:**

**11.4 Plan B continued...:**