Wychavon District Council operate a grant scheme to support local businesses to take on apprentices. The Council has joined forces with Worcestershire Training Provider Association to help local employers employ local residents and grow Apprenticeships within the district. £22 000 is available in Wychavon District in the current financial year 2015/16. Businesses will be able to apply to help fund starting their first apprentice (a maximum of 2 grants at £1,000 per Apprentice start are available per employer).

For the 2015/16 financial year the grant will be prioritised for the following sectors:

- Engineering and Manufacturing
- Cyber and IT
- Agriculture Technologies and Horticulture

**Employer Criteria**

- The Employer is located in Wychavon district postcode area
- The Employer is providing an apprenticeship in the priority sectors of Engineering and Manufacturing, Cyber and IT or Agriculture Technologies and Horticulture
- The Employer employs less than 250 employees.
- The employer has not had an Apprentice within the previous 12 months

**Apprentice Criteria**

- The Apprentice resides in the Wychavon district postcode area
- Aged 16 – 24 years
- Not previously employed by the Employer

**Apprenticeship Criteria**

- Must be completing an Approved Apprenticeship Framework
- Must have a duration of between 1-2 years minimum
- Must pay at least the Minimum Wage for Apprentices

The grant is subject to a successful application to Worcestershire Training Provider Association and the availability of funds. The scheme will be run on a first come first served basis, with the grant only guaranteed once the employer has an apprentice ready to start and they have signed the agreement. The Grant will be payable by Wychavon District Council direct to the employer once the Apprentice has completed 13 weeks on programme.

**Evidence Requirements**

- Signed agreement between the employer & District Council
- Copy of Apprentice contract of employment
- Declaration signed by the employer and Training Provider organisation

For further information contact:

Kim Cook  kim@wtpa.org.uk  07917 631342