



Devon Reinvestment Service

## OCKMENT CENTRE, OKEHAMPTON

*The Devon Reinvestment Service has assisted the Ockment Community Centre in Okehampton with a major review of its business.*

### About the project

The Ockment Community Centre is a busy and vibrant place in the centre of Okehampton. It is the focus for the local voluntary and community sector and is the chosen venue for over 230 different organisations to hold meetings, carry out training and for social events. The centre provides ITC training in an open-access IT suite, offers a weekday creche facility and provides over 150 meals a week through its catering service.

The Devon Reinvestment Service has worked with the Ockment Centre on an all-encompassing review of its current position and as a result of this, has jointly produced a business plan outlining how the organisation can achieve financial sustainability over the next four years.

The business plan provides the commercial and financial rationale for the centre to maximise the revenue from the hire of its meeting spaces and other facilities and through the expansion of its catering and childcare activities. This is the start of a phased programme of development which enables the centre to become a viable, self-supporting Company Limited by Guarantee. As such, the centre is in a strong position to oversee a programme of capital works to upgrade the building, for which grant funding has been sought.



### Benefits to the community

The long-term vision for the Ockment Centre is to be a financially viable and self-sustaining organisation which brings the people of Okehampton and its environs together in a welcoming environment that actively promotes individual growth, community support and lifelong learning.

In working to achieve this vision, the centre will be able to broaden the range of benefits it brings to the community through:

- supporting a wide range of community activities
- helping nurture and develop a community spirit in Okehampton
- promoting and supporting the health and wellbeing of local residents
- up-skilling local residents and equipping them either to gain employment or to move to higher wage employment
- providing local access to a wide range of services including legal and financial information and support, access to community transport, support for families with young children and access to lifelong learning

#### Devon Reinvestment Service

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