

Flexible office solutions

Last August, during the most challenging year for all of us and the most difficult for many small businesses, OX9 - Thame's flagship serviced office and flexible office space provider - opened its beautifully renovated, grade 2 listed doors to welcome an ever-growing roster of clients...

Businesses across all industries have had to adapt quickly in response to the challenges of the pandemic, which has driven the current shift towards remote working, social distancing in the workplace, and an increased focus on reducing overheads.

Serviced office space meets all of these needs in a variety of cost-effective ways, providing businesses with a workplace of the size they need at present, and - at a time when more people than ever are working from home - serviced offices also help companies looking to downsize, whilst retaining a physical office base.

Property development investment firm, Accumulate Capital, recently commissioned an independent survey of more than 500 businesses all over the UK and found that 73 per cent of them expect to downsize as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, which goes some way to explain the recent growth of the flexible office space sector.*

Paul Howells, Accumulate Capital's CEO, said: "As a result of the pandemic, the increase in remote working will see businesses look for smaller, more flexible workspaces. The days when a company would own or rent an office with a desk in it for every member of staff are coming to an end - in reality, this trend was already taking shape, but the coronavirus crisis has greatly accelerated it."

On a local level, this is something OX9's Managing Director, Caroline Cope, and Business Centre Manager, Katie Holliday, who have been the team behind OX9 and The Sanderum Centre for more than 20 years, have seen reflected in the enquiries they are receiving for all three of their serviced office sites in Chinnor and Thame.

In particular, Katie has reported an unprecedented demand for their virtual office services, driven by the number of people now working from their own kitchen tables or spare rooms. Katie reports: "With more and more professionals forced to work from home, a virtual office address at either OX9 in Thame, or The Sanderum Centre in Thame



Flexible office solutions in Thame and Chinnor

or Chinnor gives a professional, competitive edge without the costs or commitment of a physical space. We can forward mail and redirect phone calls through to you, without you ever needing to come into the building in person. If you need to join a virtual meeting or hold a private interview, you can hire our high-specification meeting rooms, and as your business grows, we can help you graduate seamlessly from a virtual office into our serviced office space, so you can continue to expand as market conditions improve."

For the Serviced Office sector, Caroline has reported a growing number of enquiries from businesses who desperately need office space without the cost or commitment of a long-term contract, noting how many businesses are now turning away from commercial lets towards serviced offices to help them ride out the coronavirus storm.

All set up and ready to go from the date you move in, a serviced office is the simple, no-hassle option for businesses in the current climate, with bills, utilities, furniture and day-to-day running costs packaged into one affordable, all-inclusive monthly fee, with short-term, fully flexible, rolling contracts.

Serviced offices offer much more flexibility than conventional long-term commercial leases, which is great news for businesses who aren't sure how quickly they are going to grow,

or how long it will take to recover from the current challenging market conditions. They're also ideal for professionals who won't be commuting into the city for the foreseeable, but still need a dedicated, private space to work from nearer to home.

Indeed, the overwhelming feedback from clients who have recently taken out office space has been that they can concentrate much more easily in the office and are much more productive, away from all the noise and distractions of home and family life.

To facilitate the increased demand of the local market, and to support businesses affected by the pandemic, OX9 and The Sanderum Centre will also be offering offices on a non-contractual basis from 1st March, covid regulations permitting, which will greatly assist those businesses who need the time and space to build their businesses back up, without the worry of being tied into a fixed contract.

To find out more about a serviced office space for your business or a virtual office address whilst working from home, contact Caroline or Katie at: hello@ox9thame.co.uk or call: 01844 211060.

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The Sanderum Centre:
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The Sanderum Centre