

SO you want to ...

RUN A HAIRDRESSING BUSINESS

This leaflet should help you with some advice and useful contacts

South Norfolk Council Planning Services

Before you start

Consider whether the business is viable and what consents you may need.

Organisations exist which can help with starting a new business and grants or loans from South Norfolk Council may be available. Do you need help in preparing a business plan or want some general business advice?

Contact Business Link, the Norwich Enterprise Agency Trust (NEAT) and the Economic Development Unit of the Council for further advice and assistance.

Do you need planning permission?

This will depend on the scale and location of use proposed. If you are proposing to operate from home, then permission is not always required, but if you are devoting one room exclusively to the business use, are operating for the majority of the week and have customers frequently visiting the premises then permission may be needed. If you are looking to lease commercial premises then hairdressers are considered in planning terms as similar to shops. You will need to check that the unit concerned has the relevant permission to enable you to operate from the premises.

Check first before you start!

Write to the Council's Development Control section in Planning Services with full details of the location of the site and type of use proposed, numbers of customers and employees involved, intended trading hours and the parking available. We will contact you to advise you whether you need planning permission.

What if permission is required?

You will need to make a formal application which will take about 6-8 weeks to process. More information is available about this process in separate leaflets.

Do you need Building Regulation approval?

Again, you may do. It will depend on whether the premises have been designed for this use. If so, there may be a need to make certain alterations to meet technical requirements and fire safety standards.

If you are writing to the Council to ask about any permission you require, include the question about building regulation approval in your letter and we will provide a joint response.

Waste management

Arrangements for trade waste and recycling should be made with the Council's Direct Services organisation or another private refuse contractor. You should be aware of the waste management legislation which is enforced by the Environment Agency.

What about Business Rates?

This is considered and assessed by the Valuation Agency - part of the Inland Revenue.

At home, the use of a room exclusively is likely to attract Business Rates and you should contact the Valuation Agency to check first before you start.

Health and Safety

You should be aware of your responsibilities under the Health and Safety at Work Act and may wish to contact the Council's Health and Safety section within Environmental Services for more advice in this respect.

Drainage

You will need to make sure that the existing drainage facilities are appropriate for the use. If new connections are proposed, Building Regulation approval is normally required and separate consent from the Environment Agency and Anglian Water may also be necessary. For new parking areas, oil and fuel interceptors may be required on drainage gullies.

Other matters:

You should also check with the Inland Revenue concerning you own taxation and, if you are proposing to operate from home, with your insurance company and with the utility providers as some, for example, phone and power companies may have a different tariff for business customers. It is also advisable to check the deeds on the property to ensure that there are not any restrictions which would prevent you from running a business from home. If the property is rented it is wise to gain the written permission of the landlord. If you have a mortgage on the property you will normally need to inform the mortgage provider.

ONE STOP SHOP SERVICE

South Norfolk Council Planning Services provides this service for small businesses. If you complete a questionnaire about your proposal we will contact the other sections likely to be involved within the Council and provide a co-ordinated response. This service, which takes about 4 weeks, provides advice at an initial stage only but can be useful prior to submitting a formal application. You should contact other agencies outside the Council separately.

Useful contacts:

South Norfolk Council:

Planning Services	- Development Control	01508-533845
	- Building Control	01603 430100
Environmental Services	- Food Control	01508 533714
	- Pollution Control	01508 533708
	- Direct Services	01603 810441
Economic Development	- grants, loans, premises	01508 533666/ 533834
	- Tourism	01508 533816
Licensing	- Alcohol & entertainment	01508 533692
	- Food	01508 533714
	- Animal	01508 533714

Norfolk County Council:

Economic Development	01603 222143
Planning – General enquiries	0844 8008020
Planning & Transportation	01603 222143
Trading standards	0844 8008013
Norfolk Fire Service	01603 810351
Social services	0844 800 8014

Other:

Environment Agency	08708 506506
Health & Safety Executive	01603 753800
Norwich Enterprise Agency Trust	01603 283465
Norwich Valuation Office - Business Rates	01603 241000
Women’s Employment Enterprise & Training Unit	01603 767367
Norfolk Rural Business Advisory Service	01603 748844
Business Link for Norfolk	08457 218218
The Business Library, Norfolk & Norwich Millennium Library	01603 774760
Norwich Tourist Information Centre	01603 727927
East of England Tourist Board	01473 822922