



CANTERBURY DISTRICT

Soft Landing Guide

choosecanterbury.co.uk



Start & grow your business in Canterbury, Whitstable & Herne Bay

The Canterbury District Soft Landing Package supports startups, scale-ups, freelancers, and businesses relocating across Canterbury, Whitstable, and Herne Bay. Whether you're launching a new venture or expanding your existing business into the South East, the district offers a combination of connectivity, affordability, professional services, and lifestyle that makes it an ideal place to establish and grow a business.

Our Soft Landing Package is designed to help you access local resources, reduce early costs, and embed your business in the vibrant ecosystem from day one.



What's included in the Soft Landing Package

The package gives new businesses access to high-value professional services and support:

Professional Services

- ▶ Discounted coworking and desk space across partner hubs in Canterbury, Whitstable, and Herne Bay.
- ▶ Accountancy support covering tax planning, bookkeeping, payroll, and compliance.
- ▶ Legal services including company formation, contracts, IP protection, and regulatory advice.
- ▶ Marketing and branding guidance from experienced local agencies.
- ▶ Property sourcing support for commercial offices, studios, or coworking spaces.

Business ecosystem access

- ▶ Connections to local founders, investors, mentors, and business networks.
- ▶ Invitations to workshops, networking events, and pitch sessions.
- ▶ Guidance on grants, funding programmes, and investment opportunities.

This package ensures your business can start quickly, reduce overheads, and access the support you need to scale successfully.

Our partners



Our partner offers

A simple, supported way to establish and grow your business in Canterbury District

The Canterbury Soft Landing Package has been designed to help new and relocating businesses set up quickly, cost-effectively and with expert local support. Through a trusted network of partners, we provide flexible workspace, IT and automation advice, workplace design expertise and professional services – all tailored to help your business hit the ground running.

EKSDC

Flexible Workspace Solutions

Clover House Whitstable & Canterbury Innovation Centre

Our workspace partners offer flexible, easy-in/easy-out solutions to suit businesses at every stage.

Dedicated Desk Space: Clover House

- Dedicated desk with filing and lockable cupboard
- Fibre broadband and 24/7 access
- Free printing (up to 50 sheets)
- Reduced meeting room hire
- Use of postal address as registered office
- All-inclusive pricing: **£175 + VAT per month**
- **50% off month one, 25% off month two**
(Currently at Clover House, coming soon to Canterbury)

Offices to rent

- Private offices on flexible terms
- Super-fast broadband and 24/7 access
- Staffed reception during working hours
- Reduced meeting room hire with AV
- Free or allocated parking (site dependent)
- Onsite café and EV charging (location dependent)
- **50% off month one, 25% off month two**
(Letting criteria applies)

SELECT TECHNOLOGY

IT, AI & Automation Support

Ever looked at your business processes and thought, “There must be a better way”? Select Technology helps businesses work smarter using Microsoft 365, AI and automation.

Spend **30 minutes** with Nick, Select’s AI and automation expert, walking through how your business currently operates – from invoicing and training schedules to project planning or stock management. Nick will identify opportunities to streamline, simplify and save time, leaving you with clear, practical next steps and tools to improve efficiency.



RAP INTERIORS

Workspace Design & Fit-out

Opening a new office? Rap Interiors offers **Soft Landing Package** clients a **free initial site visit and consultation**. This includes reviewing your space, discussing your requirements and developing a tailored design brief to support your business needs.

With over **30 years’ experience**, Rap Interiors delivers innovative commercial interior design and fit-out solutions across London and the South East. Their in-house team manages projects end-to-end – from concept to completion – ensuring workspaces are delivered on time, on budget and aligned with your brand, culture and future growth.

AZETS

Professional & Financial Services

Azets combine specialist expertise, progressive technology, and international scale to provide trusted accountancy and business advisory services locally. Your goals, our people, a fresh mindset – solving problems so you can confidently focus on what you do best.

Receive a one-hour meeting (telephone, video call or face to face) free of charge. During this meeting, the Azets experienced team will get to know your business and its current challenges, plus your plans for the future, and suggest options available to you to make your business a success.

With 4,000 local specialists deliver advisory and accounting services from over 70 office locations to more than 80,000 clients across the UK and are here to guide you through any challenges, ensuring you are making the most of any opportunities available to you.

Why choose the Canterbury district?

The Canterbury District combines historic charm, a vibrant coastal lifestyle, and a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem. Canterbury, Whitstable, and Herne Bay together create a diverse, resilient business environment with strong networks and collaborative communities.

A hub for small business

Small and micro-businesses are the heartbeat of the district:

- Over 80% of businesses in the district are micro or small enterprises, reflecting a thriving entrepreneurial culture.
- A collaborative community supports innovation, networking, and shared learning.
- Strong links with Canterbury Christ Church University, University of Kent, and University for the Creative Arts provide access to graduate talent and research expertise.
- The district offers affordable workspace, coworking hubs, and professional services compared to London and the wider South East.

Whether you prefer the historical and cultural energy of Canterbury, the creative, seaside charm of Whitstable, or the entrepreneurial, coastal spirit of Herne Bay, the district provides a launchpad for success.



Business clusters & district strengths

The Canterbury District benefits from diverse and complementary clusters that foster innovation and collaboration:

Creative, digital & design

Strong activity in Canterbury and Whitstable, including creative agencies, design studios, filmmakers, and developers.

Tech, innovation & research

Technology and research-led enterprises flourish, supported by university initiatives, accelerators, and coworking spaces. Areas of growth include AI, digital health, data analytics, and software solutions.

Tourism, culture & hospitality

Tourism underpins local economies:

- **Canterbury:** historic city, arts, education, festivals
- **Whitstable:** food, arts, coastal experiences, independent retail
- **Herne Bay:** seafront attractions, events, leisure-based enterprises

Professional services

A district-wide network of accountants, lawyers, marketers, HR specialists, and business advisors provides accessible support for startups and scale-ups.

Marine, coastal & environmental enterprises

Whitstable and Herne Bay foster sustainability-focused businesses and marine-linked innovation.





The district: live, work & thrive

The Canterbury District is not just a great place to do business — it's a fantastic place to live and work.

Connectivity & strategic location

- London St Pancras: under 1 hour by High Speed rail
- M2/M20 corridors: easy access to London, Maidstone, Ashford, and the wider South East
- Proximity to Dover Port & Eurotunnel: rapid access to France and continental Europe
- Strategically located for South East and cross-Channel trade

Lifestyle & environment

- **Canterbury:** vibrant historic city with cultural venues, universities, and coworking spaces
- **Whitstable:** coastal town renowned for food, arts, and independent businesses
- **Herne Bay:** energetic seafront town with events, leisure, and growing business hubs
- Abundant countryside, beaches, and green spaces
- Safe, welcoming, walkable communities suitable for families and remote teams

Workforce & talent

- Access to three major universities plus specialist skills providers
- Strong graduate retention
- Skilled workforce across creative, digital, professional, and technical sectors

How to access the Soft Landing Package

Getting started is simple:

1. Register your interest via the Choose Canterbury website: www.choosecanterbury.co.uk.
2. Book a 15-minute discovery call with our team to discuss your business needs.
3. Receive tailored introductions to workspace providers and professional services partners.
4. Activate your Soft Landing Package and start benefiting immediately.

Get in touch

To explore the Soft Landing Package or learn more about opportunities in the Canterbury District:

visit choosecanterbury.co.uk

or email enquires@choosecanterbury.co.uk

