**LOCAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE COOKIE POLICY**

At the Local Enterprise Office ("**we**", "**us**" or "**our**"), we want to ensure that your visit to our website (the "Website") is smooth, reliable and as useful to you as possible. Subject to your consent where required by applicable law, we use cookies and similar technologies (“**cookies**”) to help us improve the use and functionality of the Website and to better understand how visitors use the Website and the tools and services offered on it.

Please also see our Data Protection Notice for further details about the ways in which we collect and use your personal data.

1. **WHAT ARE COOKIES?**

Cookies are small data files that are stored in your web browser on your computer, tablet or smartphone (each a "**Device"**) when you visit a website. Cookies serve a number of purposes like letting you navigate between pages efficiently, remembering your preferences, interests or log in details, and generally improving your experience.

Most web browsers automatically accept cookies, but if you do not want to allow cookies or only allow the use of certain types of cookies, please refer to your browser settings which should allow you to accept or deny cookies (please read section [5] below for more details about how to do this). You can also use the browser settings to withdraw your consent to the use of cookies at any time or delete cookies that have already been set on your Device. Keep in mind that by disabling certain categories of cookies, you may be prevented from accessing some features of our websites. You should be able to find more in depth information about opting out of cookies on your browser settings menu.

1. **DO WE USE COOKIES?**

Yes, we use cookies to enhance the visitor experience on our Website. The information is used to customise your visit by storing your search details to the browser, saving your shortlists and for interacting with social media platforms from within our Website.

We may place cookies on partner websites to advertise our brands and/or services. These cookies are mainly used to display content tailored to your interests and to evaluate our content (including advertising). Our cookies are also used by third party sites in order to provide advertising that is relevant. This relevance is based on a profile built form your previous visits to our Website, including the services you have visited. Please see our section on third party cookies below ***<<Insert link to third party cookie section>>***

**3. WHY DO WE USE COOKIES?**

We use cookies for the following purposes:

* To customise your visit.
* To improve our Website.
* To save a visitor's recent searches to save them time when revisiting our Website.
* To provide visitors with advertising that is relevant (third parties are involved in providing this).

**4. WHICH COOKIES DO WE USE?**

**General Information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Source (Where cookies come from)** | |
| **First Party Cookies** | These cookies are provided by us and used by various features on our Website. Examples may include customising a visitor's visit, providing statistical information, and verifying a visitor's identity for security purposes. |
| **Third Party Cookies** | These cookies are provided by “Third Party” vendors who provide products and features we have integrated into our Website. Examples include social media sites, ad networks, and security systems. |

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| **Expiration (How long cookies last)** | |
| **Session Cookies** | These cookies are added when a visitor starts to browse our Website or interacts with a specific feature and are deleted when the browser is closed. |
| **Persistent Cookies** | These cookies are added when a visitor starts to browse our Website or interacts with a specific feature, but may remain stored on your Device until a certain termination date is reached (in terms of minutes, days or years from the creation/update of the cookie). |

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| **Type (What application uses the cookie)** | |
| **Necessary cookies** | These are essential in order to enable you to move around the Website and use its features, such as accessing secure areas of the Website. Without these cookies, our Website would not work properly and services you have asked for, like shopping baskets or secure client accounts, cannot be provided. |
| **Performance cookies** | These collect information about how visitors use the Website, for instance which pages visitors go to most often, and if they get error messages from web pages. These cookies don’t collect information that identifies a visitor. All information these cookies collect is aggregated and therefore anonymous. We use these cookies to test different designs and features for our Website and we also use them to help us monitor how our visitors reach our sites and how effective our advertising is. |
| **Functional cookies** | These allow the Website to remember choices you make (such as your user name, language or the region you are in) and provide enhanced, more personal features. These cookies can also be used to remember changes you have made to text size, fonts and other parts of web pages that you can customise. |
| **Targeting cookies** | These are used to deliver adverts more relevant to you and your interests. They are also used to limit the number of times you see an advertisement as well as help measure the effectiveness of the advertising campaign. Some of our partners may also use cookies or web beacons (a single-pixel image file) so that you see more relevant advertisements when visiting other websites. Quite often targeting or advertising cookies will be linked to site functionality provided by the other organisation. |
| **Flash Cookies** | These cookies are added when a browser displays a Flash application. Flash is used to display some versions of our digital publications. The cookie may be used to track statistical information pertaining to the digital publication, such as pages were viewed. |

**6. MANAGING AND DISABLING COOKIES**

You can control the cookies placed and retained on your Device. The Data Protection Notice and this Cookie Policy are provided to be transparent about our practices regarding the use of cookies and to allow you the opportunity to make an informed choice.

Where applicable, we will obtain your prior informed consent to use cookies and other tracking technologies which store or access information on your Device. Most browsers accept cookies automatically but they can be set up to ask for your prior consent before an individual cookie is set on your Device. This will give you control over your cookies, however, it may interfere with your browsing experience as some websites may not function properly and you may not be able to take advantage of all the features offered by our website.

For instructions on blocking and deleting cookies, see the privacy and help documentation of your specific browser’s website. If you use more Devices and/or browsers you will need to disable cookies on each Device and on each browser separately. Here are the locations of the cookie settings for all major web browsers:

* **Internet Explorer** - Tools > Internet Options > Privacy tab.
* **Mozilla Firefox** - Tools > Options > Privacy menu.
* **Safari Users** - Edit > Preferences > Privacy menu.
* **Chrome Users** - Settings > Content Settings > Privacy > Cookies.

If you limit the ability of our websites to set cookies, this may prevent you from using certain features of our Website properly and your user experience – which will no longer be personalised for you – may deteriorate. You may also be able to opt-out from certain cookies through third party cookie management sites. Disabling cookies may prevent you from using certain parts of our Website. If you delete your cookies from the browser, you may need to remember to re-install opt-out cookies.

**7. WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COOKIES?**

You can find more information about cookies by visiting the following information websites:

*www.aboutcookies.org*

*www.allaboutcookies.org*