Friday 29th May

Social Enterprise Awards UK Open for 2015 Entries

The Awards, which are hosted by Social Enterprise UK (SEUK) and have been running for 17 years, recognise social enterprise organisations for their business excellence and contribution to society. They also seek to identify and reward the achievements of individuals working within the social enterprise sector.

UK social enterprises of any size may apply, providing that they trade primarily for social and/or environmental purposes, earn at least half of their income through trading activity, and commit at least half of their profits to social purposes or back into their business. They must also be able to show that their social purpose is evidenced in their governing documents.

This year there are eleven award categories:

- Category 1 – UK Social Enterprise
- Category 2 – One to Watch
- Category 3 – Prove It: Social Impact
- Category 4 – ‘Buy Social’ – Market Builder
- Category 5 – Social Investment Deal
- Category 6 – Health and Social Care Social Enterprise
- Category 7 – Consumer Facing Social Enterprise
- Category 8 – Education, Training and Jobs Social Enterprise
- Category 9 – Environmental Social Enterprise
- Category 10 – Inspiring Youth Enterprise
- Category 11 – Social Enterprise Women’s Champion

Organisations which are not social enterprises are eligible to enter Category 4, Category 5 and Category 10, whilst Category 11 is open to women working in the social enterprise sector only. All the categories listed above are open to organisations from England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Category winners and the overall UK winner will receive an award presented at the ceremony. Winners also receive a package including PR support, mentoring and business support consultancy.

The winners of all categories will be announced at an awards ceremony being held on 26 November 2015 in London.

The deadline for applications is 10 July 2015.

Head to the Social Enterprise UK Awards Website for further information and how to apply.
Thursday 28th May

Are your employees getting more than just pay?

It’s not just about the pay. If your employees receive expenses or benefits in kind, your forms P11D/P9D need to reach HMRC in time.

From company cars to paying for hotels and meals, make sure you get it right. Join HMRC for an online presentation (webinar) and they can show you how easy it is and answer your questions.

Just for you, HMRC have also included webinars on statutory payments. Make sure you’re up to date with recent changes.

01 June at 12:00 Statutory payments for births
03 June at 13:00 PAYE expenses and benefits
04 June at 15:00 Statutory shared pay and leave
05 June at 11:00 PAYE expenses and benefits
09 June at 09:00 Statutory sick pay

When you click a registration link, you will be asked to provide your name and a valid email address, so that HMRC can send you a link to attend.

You do not need a camera or microphone to attend a webinar. Even if you do have these, the webinar will not activate them, and the presenters will not be able to see or hear you during the webinar.

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Wednesday 27th May

Lloyds Bank National Business Awards UK – 2015 Entry

Designed with the aim of being a significant endorsement of corporate achievement, the National Business Awards UK enable businesses and social firms from different industries and sizes to compete on a level playing field.

Lloyds Bank has recently announced that it has joined the National Business Awards as this year’s headline sponsor. This partnership means the provider is now able to deliver even more to support UK business, greater exposure for finalists and winners, and exclusive expert mentoring from Lloyds Bank to the category finalists.

The 2015 categories to enter are:

- The Corporate Citizenship Award
- The Customer Focus Award
- The Lloyds Bank Digital Business of the Year
- The Employer of the Year
- The Smith & Williamson Entrepreneur of the Year
- The UKTI Growth Business of the Year
- The Market Gravity Innovation Award
- The Lloyds Bank New Business of the Year
- The Inflexion International Growth Business of the Year
- The Duke of York New Entrepreneur of the Year
- The Lloyds Bank Small to Medium-Sized Business of the Year
- The Social Enterprise of the Year
- The Vonage Business Enabler of the Year
- The Grichan Partnerships Sustainable Business Award
- The Duke of York Award for University Entrepreneurship

The 2015 nomination categories are:

- The QBE FTSE 100 Business of the Year
- The Ashridge Business School Leader of the Year
- The Lloyds Bank Excellence in Business Award

The year-round programme will see a series of thought-leadership events focusing on key aspects of growth. These events will take place in various UK cities throughout the spring.

Any company within the UK, whether public, private or third sector, can enter the Awards, regardless of size or industry sector. Organisations may self-nominate and entries may be submitted for multiple categories.

The entry deadline for the 2015 awards is Friday 5 June 2015.
Tuesday 26th May

Creative England Looking for Entrepreneurs to Represent UK in the 2015 Creative Business Cup

Creative Business Cup is a global network and marketplace that allows creative entrepreneurs to scale their business concepts, connect with investors and partners and boost their international business potential.

Each year National Partners around the world host national Creative Business Cup competitions. Creative England is launching the annual competition to find the UK Winner who will go on to compete against other national winners from across the world to win the global title of Best Creative Entrepreneur at the Global Award show in Copenhagen, Denmark, in November 2015 during Global Entrepreneurship Week.

Start-ups from all countries also have the opportunity to come to Copenhagen for the international finals, but will not be qualified to compete for the title as the world’s best creative entrepreneur.

The goals of Creative Business Cup are to:

- strengthen the business skills of entrepreneurs within the creative industries;
- promote entrepreneurship within the creative industries; and
- promote winners and role models.

As a start-up, the National Partner in each country is the entry point to competing as a finalist at Creative Business Cup in Copenhagen.

The international jury chooses the winners based on:

- creativity: Creative competencies are crucial for the success of the business concept; and
- market potential: The business concept has a large market potential.

2014’s entries included GIGI bloks, a giant construction toy for children which allows kids to express their imagination through playing. The winner, from Poland, was an interactive educational computer game that teaches science.

The total value of prizes on offer is worth more than $100,000 and during the Global Award Show participating delegates can benefit from a programme of seminars, one-on-one sessions, investor matchmaking and showcasing opportunities.

The Creative Business Cup is open to new and established entrepreneurs from the creative industries anywhere in the world and looks for new and revolutionary business ideas with strong market potential.

To apply applicants need to submit a Business Concept in no more than 10 pages or 12 PowerPoint slides and apply online.

The deadline for applications is midnight on 29 May 2015.
Friday 22nd May

What business expenses can you claim?

It’s important that businesses know what expenses they can claim and how. After all, HMRC just wants you to pay the right amount at the right time.

Many businesses have already benefitted from joining our free online presentations, ensuring you only pay what you owe.

So let us help by offering you a range of webinars, selected with you in mind, to help you get it right first time.

26 May at 10:00 – Record Keeping for the Self Employed

26 May at 14:00 – Business Expenses for the Self Employed

28 May at 9:00 – Business Expenses for the Self Employed

28 May at 13:00 – Capital Allowances for the Self Employed

29 May at 9:00 – Simpler Income Tax – Cash Basis and Simplified Expenses

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Thursday 21st May

Countdown to launch of Southend’s first energy company on 28 May

Southend will soon have its own energy company for the first time in over 60 years when Southend Energy is officially launched on Thursday 28 May.

A partnership between Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and OVO Energy, Southend Energy promises to offer a fairer deal for residents and businesses with a Southend (SS) postcode and provide competition to the larger energy companies. It will be the first time Southend has had its own energy company since Southend-on-Sea County Borough Corporation was disbanded in the late 1940s, when gas and electricity energy industries were nationalised.

Very competitively priced standing charges and fairer tariffs will be available to all residents in the borough looking for a local alternative to their current supplier, with particular benefits for those who are fuel-poor and those on pre-payment meters.

Southend-on-Sea borough Council will be hosting a launch event for the press and residents on Thursday 28 May from 12pm to 1pm on Southend Pier. The launch will include speeches by Rob Tinlin and Ron Woodley, together with an escapology performance by acclaimed Magic Circle escapologist, Stuart Burrell. There will also be the opportunity to sign up to Southend Energy, which takes as little as 10 minutes.

Wednesday 20th May

Southend United are heading to Wembley on Saturday 23rd May!

Southend United FC are heading to Wembley on Saturday 23rd May and you can show your support!

Tweet a picture of you backing the blues with the hashtag #BLUESATWEMBLEY and the best photo chosen will win two tickets for a game next season.

You can also find out more about Tickets for the play off final by heading to the Southend United FC Tickets page.
Tuesday 19th May

Children and Young People Now Awards Invite UK Entries for 2015

Now in their 10th year, the Children and Young People Now Awards recognise and celebrate the innovative and inspiring initiatives undertaken by professionals who are working to improve the life chances of children and young people and their families. The awards provide pride and recognition for all those who strive day in, day out, to improve the lives of young people, and offer an opportunity to raise the profile of projects and initiatives to both funders and the general public.

Any group, organisation or individual project within the UK is eligible to enter relevant work, whether it falls within the public, voluntary or private sector. Projects delivered by a partnership of organisations are also eligible for entry, providing that all partners are mentioned on the application form.

For 2015, there are 22 Award categories, including Early Years, Play, Youth Volunteering, Arts and Culture, Young Carers, Youth Justice and Safeguarding.

The Awards are free to enter, although late entries received after the official closing date without prior agreement will be charged a fee of £50 + VAT, irrespective of whether the entry is from the public, voluntary or private sector.

Winners will be announced at an Awards Ceremony held on 26 November 2015 at the Hurlingham Club in London.

The deadline for entries is 3 July 2015.
Monday 18th May

**HP Go Global Awards Launched to Support UK SMEs Trading Internationally**

The [HP Go Global Awards](#) aim to recognise the achievements of some of the country’s most dynamic, innovative and expanding small and medium-sized businesses. The awards will showcase those that have successfully entered the international export market and encourage those looking to break into new territories.

From all the entries received, a shortlist of six businesses will be offered a complimentary place on Enterprise Nation’s upcoming 2015 trade mission to China, gaining access to one of the world’s largest markets, as well as training and consultancy.

Two overall winners will go on to receive an HP Go Global Award for under the following categories:

**Breakthrough Exporter of the Year**
Awarded to the SME that has successfully broken into the export market within the last five years.

**Next Breakthrough Exporter of the Year**
Awarded to the SME that demonstrates, in the eyes of the judges, the best market entry strategy to crack a new export market within the next 12 months.

In addition to their place on the mission to China, the two winners will receive:

- A selection of HP’s top of the range business products chosen to meet the winners’ specific business needs. This bundle will include a printer, PC and software – specific models and specifications will be decided by HP; 12 months’ complimentary membership to techUK; access to a Business in the Community arc one day training workshop, such as “The Six Box Strategy”, “Recruiting and Developing a Team” and “Develop a Marketing and Communications Strategy”; four mentoring sessions on commercial banking to help grow your business, with Richard Bearman, UK Director of Small Business, HSBC; and a HP Go Global Awards trophy.

Business owners who are aged 18 or older may enter this competition. The entrant must be a resident of the UK with a business operating in the UK. The business must be small to medium in size and employ no less than 250 staff.

The deadline for submissions is 3pm on Friday 31 July 2015.
IPSE Freelancer Awards Competition Offers £5,000 for Self-employment

The IPSE Freelancer Awards Competition aims to reward the country’s most ambitious and enterprising self-employed people.

Entrants will have an opportunity to win funding and additional support to help their business reach its potential. Fifteen finalists will be invited to London to pitch themselves and their business to a judging panel before returning as guests at an Awards ceremony in November, where the winners will be revealed.

The overall winner will receive £5,000 to put towards their business, while the two-runners up will both receive £2,500. All three winners will receive expert media and presentation training.

The remaining five finalists, under the age of 23, will compete to win the Aspire Award – IPSE’s award for a young independent professional showing the promise of one of tomorrow’s self-employed younger generation. The winner will be presented with £3,000 to help their business, coupled with expert media and presentation training.

All fifteen finalists from both categories will receive a variety of technology prizes and business support to help them succeed in business.

The Awards are open to freelance or independent professional self-employed people from across the UK. Examples of industries include designers, writers, developers, architects and inventors; however most industries will be within the scope of the programme.

The competition opens on 1 June 2015 and applications must be received by 1 September 2015.

Head to the ipse website for further information and how to apply.
Thursday 14th May

Capital allowances and tax relief – want to know more?

It’s likely that at some point, your business will buy larger items of equipment that will wear out over time and reduce in value.

Capital Allowances is the way you claim for these items, including vans, computers and machinery. So, how do you get tax relief?

HMRC has a range of webinars covering Capital Allowances and other useful subjects, especially for self-employed businesses, like yours. Register for a webinar today.

18 May at 16:00 Business Expenses for the Self Employed
19 May at 12:00 Capital Allowances for the Self Employed
21 May at 14:00 Simpler Income Tax – Cash Basis and Simplified Expenses
21 May at 16:00 Record Keeping for the Self Employed
26 May at 10:00 Record Keeping for the Self Employed
26 May at 14:00 Business Expenses for the Self Employed

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**Wednesday 13th May**

**The Hive Southend Victoria – Open House Invitation**

The Hive: Southend Victoria, Essex’s newest premier flexible workspace and business hub is opening its doors for an open house day on Tuesday 19th May between 10am-7pm.

The team will be on hand to talk you through how joining as a Member of The Hive will help your business grow. During the tour, you’ll experience The HiveLounge our relaxing & informal workspace and The HiveHub FlexiDesk collaboration & co-working zones.

The doors to the Atrium Studios and SkyLoft SuiteSpots will also be opening, with impressive, self-contained serviced offices/studios now available to rent on no deposit, easy-in-easy-out terms.

Visit The Hive Enterprise Centre: Southend Victoria, at:

The Hive Enterprise Centre: Southend Victoria
The Old Central Library
Victoria Avenue
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS2 6EX

You can also follow @TheHiveSouthend or visit Facebook.com/TheHiveSouthend
Tuesday 12th May

Rochford District Business Summit – Profitable Businesses & A Thriving Community

Rochford’s next Business Summit is taking place on Thursday 21st May 2015 between 2pm – 5.30pm at the Rochford Hotel, Bradley Way, Rochford, SS4 1BU

The Business Summit provides business with the opportunity to discuss key issues with leaders of Rochford District Council.

It also provides you with a unique opportunity to hear from a specialist panel of guest speakers and workshop facilitators.

This event promises to be engaging, thought-provoking and should not be missed.

Book your place now:
www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/rochford-district-business-summit-tickets-15156608825

Agenda

* Business benefits of supporting the community

* How can businesses and communities grow together?

* Team Time promotion – Radio Essex

Workshops

* Auto enrolment

* Funding for Rural Businesses

* How to work with the community

* Local Business Briefings

* Recruitment & Advertising

* Searching for Funding
Monday 11th May

Upcoming competition: Finding value in complex biological data – integrated ‘omics’

Upcoming competition: opening for registration on 18 May

The upcoming competition: Finding value in complex biological data – integrated ‘omics’, run by Innovate UK and BBSRC is opening shortly for registration.

The aim of this competition is to build a commercial ecosystem to exploit the commercial opportunities of ‘omics (e.g. genomics, proteomics etc.), systems biology and complex biological data streams with a particular focus on bioinformatics and bio-data based business models. More information on this competition.

Competition Briefing Event – 2 June, London

This event is an excellent opportunity for you to receive first hand information about the competition – its scope, application process, key dates etc. as well as network with peers, potential partners, market leaders & innovators in the industry.

Register here for the briefing event or webinar.

For queries about this competition, please contact support@innovateuk.gov.uk.

Friday 8th May

Help for employers using Basic PAYE Tools (BPT)

It's no secret that employers leave payroll calculations to their software. But what happens when an employee questions their net pay or asks for a form P60?

You can be new to payroll or an existing employer. From downloading the latest version of BPT to submitting your Full Payment Submission (FPS) HMRC can help.

HMRC's free online presentation, shows how easy it is to use. Numerous employers have already benefitted. Don't lose out. Register now.

12 May at 11:00 PAYE using Basic PAYE Tools

14 May at 11:00 PAYE using Basic PAYE Tools

18 May at 12:00 PAYE using Basic PAYE Tools

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Thursday 7th May

Southend Business Partnership Briefing - 18th June

You are invited to the next Southend Business Partnership Briefing which will be held at London Southend Airport Conference Centre, 1st Floor, New Terminal Building, on Thursday 18th June 2015. Registration will begin at 7.30am with briefing starting at 8.30am to 10.00am.

The event will also showcase the accomplishments that local businesses have achieved from South Essex Growth Grant over the last year, along with the funding opportunities that are still available to businesses.

Hear the latest news in Southend from Rob Tinlin, Chief Executive, Southend Borough Council. The keynote speaker will be Jon Horne who has recently taken up his new role of Managing Director of London Southend Airport, having been previously Chief Executive of Cardiff International Airport.

On the day, there will also be a Business and Funding showcase for you to find out how businesses in Southend have grown following their grant award, along with funding organisations giving you the opportunity to grow your business too. The Marketplace Showcase will be available to you, from 7.30am until 8.30am and then again, from 10.00am to 11.30am. As always, you will have time before, and after, the briefing for you to network with other businesses.

This is a very popular event and we have a restricted number of places available, so book to attend for free at our Business Briefing to avoid disappointment - on the day registration will start at 07.30am to provide you with an opportunity to network before the briefing starts. If you are unable to attend the Business Briefing and you have booked a ticket, please contact the Economy and Tourism team as soon as possible.

Head to the events page of Business Southend to book your ticket

Wednesday 6th May

Lorenzo Natali Media Prize 2015 Launched to coincide with the European Year for Development

The European Commission has launched a 2015 edition of the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize to coincide with the 2015 European Year for Development.

The Prize was originally established in 1992, in memory of Lorenzo Natali, former Commissioner for Development and a staunch defender of freedom of expression, democracy, human rights and development. The Prize is awarded to journalists for outstanding reporting on human rights, democracy and development issues and for the first time is open to amateur, as well as professional, journalists including bloggers. Prizes will be awarded to one amateur and one professional journalist from each of the following eligible regions:

EuropeAfricaMiddle East and the Arab WorldLatin America and the CaribbeanAsia and the Pacific

In addition, an independent Grand Jury will also consider all the regional winners for an additional €5,000 Grand Prize. Any article or report published (print or online) or broadcast (radio or television) between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015 can be submitted.

The deadline for submissions is 31 August 2015.

For further information and how to apply please visit the website
**Tuesday 5th May**

**Payroll: Giving employees a P60 End of Year Certificate**

You must give a P60 to all employees on your payroll who are working for you on the last day of the tax year (5 April). The P60 summarises their total pay and deductions for the year.

You must give your employees a P60 by 31 May.

If payroll software doesn’t automatically produce P60s you can [order copies from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-revenue-and-customs).

You can also give your employees an electronic version – but you must send it to an agreed email address or have a secure place where they can view and print it.

You can also find out more information on the annual reporting and tasks associated with being an employer running payroll [here](https).

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**Friday 1st May**

**Expenses and allowances – online help for the self-employed**

You’ve paid for it but what can you claim?

It doesn’t matter whether you’re new to business, claiming the right expenses and recording them correctly means you’ll pay the right amount at the right time.

Want to know more about getting a record keeping system in place and what expenses you can claim?

HMRC has a range of online presentations (webinars) to help businesses, like yours, get taxes right. Register today; it couldn’t be easier.

5 May at 12:00 [Record Keeping for the Self Employed](https://www.gov.uk)

6 May at 11:00 [Business Expenses for the Self Employed](https://www.gov.uk)

7 May at 9:00 [Capital Allowances for the Self Employed](https://www.gov.uk)

7 May at 11:00 [My Property Income and HMRC](https://www.gov.uk)

7 May at 15:00 [Simpler Income Tax – Cash Basis and Simplified Expenses](https://www.gov.uk)

11 May at 14:00 [Simpler Income Tax – Cash Basis and Simplified Expenses](https://www.gov.uk)

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