

SOUTHEND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

ECONOMY & TOURISM TEAM

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December 2017



As we approach Christmas Southend is encouraging businesses to create a festive atmosphere with their Festive Business Competition. Businesses can take part by sending in a photo of their store window or business to economicd@southend.gov.uk and asking their staff and customers to vote for them via the Visit Southend [website](#). The winning business based on the public vote will win a short promotional film produced and donated by [Blatella films](#), while the runners up will receive a Cream Team at [Gleneagles Hotel](#). We will also have winners from each of the key retail areas.

Small Business Saturday was on 2nd December, SBC supported this with FREE parking at six council car parks, SBC would be interested to hear your views on this event. Last year over 100 small businesses registered on the national campaign, <https://smallbusinessaturdayuk.com/small-business-finder>, this year there were less but we will be randomly selecting a winning business, who will receive a Cream tea for two at the Gleneagles Hotel.

With the New Year fast approaching there will be another New Year New Finance Budget Briefing on 18th January 2018. During the briefing you will get the chance to hear about the 2018/2019 budget for Southend from Councillor John Lamb, Ali Griffin, Chief Executive of Southend Borough Council and Joe Chesterton, Head of Finance for Southend Borough Council. We are inviting all businesses to this briefing to find out how the budget might affect your business, to book your place click [here](#).

On Thursday February 8th 2018, 10am-3pm the BEST Growth Hub is hosting The BEST Essex Business Show. Come along to Essex's ONLY one-stop-shop business show and talk to all BEST Growth Hub business support partners at Chelmsford's prestigious Hylands House. This unique event will give your business, and anyone else thinking about starting up or growing, an opportunity to find out for themselves the diverse services our many partners offer, helping to strengthen BEST Growth Hub's commitment to the Essex business community and to you. To book your place click [here](#).

The next business briefing will be taking place at the Park Inn Southend on Thursday March 22nd from 7:30am – 10am. The Speakers and stalls are yet to be confirmed but please save the date in your diary or [book a place](#) and more information will follow shortly.

Businesses who are registered with the Southend Business Partnership receive a monthly newsletter and advance information about what is happening in Southend that could affect businesses, to register your interest please email economicd@southend.gov.uk with your name, business name and contact details.

Following the success of the Digital Southend Working Group (DSWG) this month which saw more than 50 people attending who were committed to driving the Digital Agenda in Southend. The www.TechCityOnSea.org.uk was launched at the TechCity Event at the Hive. Businesses are asked to take a look and provide input and feedback on this so we can continue to support Southend as a Digital City. Southend is being supported by the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP Minister of State for Digital at Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Better Queensway is a Southend Borough Council Scheme to transform a significant area of Southend with quality housing, outdoor space and improvements to the transport network. Southend are inviting residents and businesses to comment on these proposals, so please [take a look](#). The deadline for feedback is Friday 15th December.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council is continuing to consult on Ambition Southend, a Skills and Labour Market Strategy for Southend-on-Sea. The strategies aim is to enable an efficient, effective labour market with clear, accessible career pathways for residents, which are able to respond to emerging economic risks and opportunities.

All comments must be received by 17:00 on Friday 22nd December 2017. Please visit www.southend.gov.uk/ambitionsouthend for the consultation papers and further information.

Finally Southend is asking “What you want the Borough to look like in 2030” to have your say as a business, resident or visitor please click on the [link](#).

Don't forget to follow the team on twitter @businessonsea, [facebook](#), the Business Southend website www.businesssouthend.co.uk or sign up to our [Linked-In](#) group for more information and business opportunities.

Murray Foster

Chair of The Southend Business Partnership

Events/Workshops

- New Year New Finance – Southend Council Budget Briefing 2018 – Thursday 18 January 2018 7:30 – 10:30am at the Holiday Inn Southend. Book your place [here](#).
- Southend Business Partnership Briefing - Thursday 22 March 2018, 7:30am – 10am at the Park Inn Southend, please book your place [here](#).
- Better Business for all Workshop, Wednesday 10th January 2018 10am – 4pm at Council Chamber, Chelmsford City Council CM1 1JE, please book your place [here](#).
- Becoming a Council supplier and Tendering for contracts workshop – Wednesday 6 December 2017 at The Hive Southend, to book please click [here](#).
- How to bid for Council Business – Tuesday 23 January 2018 at The Hive Southend, to book please click [here](#).
- GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) How does it impact your Business? – Tuesday 5 December 2017 9:30 – 12:30 at University of Essex Southend Campus. To book please click [here](#).
- Implementing Quality Market Research - Tuesday 5 December 2017 1:30 – 4:30pm at Toby Carvery Southend. To book please click [here](#).
- The Business Bites Business Growth “Working Lunch” Programme - Wed 17 January 2018 12:00 – 14:00, book [here](#).
- For information about business support, networking events, funding opportunities, workshops and much more please visit <http://www.bestgrowthhub.org.uk/>
- New events programme at the Hive www.thehive.org.uk/events

Networking

- A Creative and Digital networking event has been planned on Tuesday 20 February 2018 at the Twenty One on the Southend seafront. For further details and booking a place please click [here](#).
- Taylor Hawkes are very pleased to be working with a wide range of professional services firms in Essex, to create ‘The Saxons Business Networking Group’. The inaugural event takes place on the 8th December 2017 10-12 at Southend Saxons Rugby Club. Please click [here](#) for the Eventbrite link.
- Southend Digital Professionals monthly meetup - Thursday 7th December 7pm – 9pm at The Old Waterworks, North Road, Southend, SS0 7AB. Booking and more details [here](#).
- View [the Best Growth Hub Website for](#) further networking opportunities

Funding Opportunities

- [European Grant Funding](#) up to £20k for start-ups and growing SMEs to assist with capital asset purchases to support business growth.
- [BEST Business Growth hub](#) – for business support, advice and funding support.
- South Essex Business Boost Funding – 30% grant funding up to the value of £10k grant for capital expenditure. Perfect if you need to expand your business. Contact the [BEST Business Growth hub](#)

Funding Opportunities - cont

- [Applications for Pitch@Palace 9.0 are now open](#). The explosion of Big Data has created opportunity, but also risk. Generating, capturing, and analysing large datasets has given rise to artificial intelligence tools and machine learning, blockchain and cryptocurrencies, and has given companies profound new scope to understand and serve their customers. However, the proliferation of powerful datasets raises critical concerns around the future of privacy, security, and defence. Pitch@Palace 9.0 will explore this world, and discover entrepreneurs and companies that have identified opportunity in the following areas: Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, IoT, Cyber-security, Blockchain, Defence, Cloud, 3D Printing.

Other Information

- Fundraising event at Twenty One Acoustic duo '[Silbury Hill](#)' present an evening of live music to raise money for Southend Youth Offending Service's gardening project. The project was represented in this year's Hampton Court flower show, with the exhibited garden currently installed on the top of Pier Hill, Southend-on-Sea. Thursday 7th Dec.
Tickets www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/silbury-hill-plus-special-guests-tickets-39487239396 **FREE**
- MIND are offering a wide range of services including [mental health training](#), [counselling services](#) and [supported housing](#). South East and Central Essex Mind, 112a Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2LX. www.seandcessexmind.org.uk
- The **Enterprise Adviser Network** aims to increase engagement between employers and schools so that young people have a better understanding of the world or work. Business volunteers are matched with schools to provide advice on the schools/colleges careers provision. For further details visit [The Careers and Enterprise Company website](#) or contact Hyla Grimwade, hylagrimwade@southend.gov.uk, 01702 534253
- Nesta have released a data led report on the state of small businesses in the UK with an [interactive website](#).
- Prevent is the Government initiative to identify individuals at risk of radicalisation. Schools have received training on how to identify pupils at risk but the same principles apply to businesses. If you have any concerns about a member of staff or someone you meet in connection with your business then please contact **0800 789 321** or Essex Police.
- Does your business invest in young people? If so why not apply for the [liYP Award](#) to demonstrate to your customers and the wider community your company's commitment to investing in and supporting young people into employment.
- Southend Borough Council is consulting on Ambition Southend, a Skills and Labour Market Strategy for Southend-on-Sea. The public consultation closes on the 22nd December 2017. For more information and the consultation papers, visit southend.gov.uk/ambitionsouthend
- A [Creative and digital Facebook page](#) has been created across Southend and Thurrock for Networking and sharing ideas why not request to join?

If you have events or information you would like us to include in the newsletter then please email us on economicd@southend.gov.uk