

SOUTHEND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

ECONOMY & TOURISM TEAM

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We are finally starting to see the beginning of Spring, and with the sun brings visitors to the town. I do hope your business will benefit.

I was delighted that last week's Southend Business Partnership Briefing, held on 8th March attracted so many new faces with a great deal of positive feedback. With a Digital theme, it showed how Southend-on-Sea is transforming in this new digital era, with Cityfibre and OneCom bringing dark fibre to a digital Southend. At that meeting it was announced that the Southend Business Partnership are forming a Digital Southend Working Group, in collaboration with Digital Exploration Centre Trust (registered charity of which I am Chair) in order to influence and enable Southend to develop its digital skills and infrastructure, its digital communities and also borough wide digital initiatives. As you are all aware it was Rob Tinlin's last briefing before his retirement, and I would like to thank him for his support to the partnership and the business community over his 12 years in the Chief Executive role.

Southend-on-Sea is celebrating 125 years as a borough with a number of events taking place throughout the year including the arrival of Poppies: Wave at Barge Pier in Gunners Park, Shoeburyness.

Wave is one of two breath-taking sculptures, initially conceived as the key dramatic sculptural elements in the installation Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red at the Tower of London during the summer and autumn of 2014.

Southend-on-Sea is the only place in the East of England to host Poppies: Wave, and is one of just two locations in 2017 where visitors will be able to see Poppies: Wave against a backdrop of sand, sea and stunning coastal views.

The breath-taking sculpture is open to the public for free, from the 12th April until the 25th June. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information please see the 'What's going on' section.

With the number of free workshops Southend businesses have seen over the past six months, I hope you will take advantage of the further workshops which the Economy and Tourism team and the BEST growth hub have planned from April. I'd recommend you visit www.businessonsea.co.uk or www.bestgrowthhub.org.uk for more information.

To hear more about business support, networking events, funding opportunities, workshops and much more please visit www.businessonsea.co.uk this is an online marketplace to support businesses.

Don't forget to follow the team on Twitter, Facebook and sign up to our Linked-In group for more information and business opportunities.

Murray Foster

Chair of the Southend Business Partnership

NETWORKING

There are lots of networking events run in Southend and they are a great way to meet new customers and valuable contacts.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

FUNDING

There are different funding opportunities available to businesses in the local area. These are constantly changing and being updated so click the following link for more information.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

WHAT'S GOING ON?

EVENTS, BRIEFINGS & WORKSHOPS



LoCASE STEM WORKSHOP 15/03/2017

The STEM scheme is a free programme of learning and resources available to SMEs to implement an Environmental Management System (EMS). There are various concepts and three levels.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



CASH FLOW FORECASTING 15/03/2017

This webinar will take you through what a cash flow forecast is, why you should have one and how to read and interpret all the data so you can use your cash flow forecast as a management tool.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



TECH CITY-ON-SEA MARKETPLACE 15/03/2017

This free event is for local tech based organisations with an Infinity Marketplace. It is a great opportunity to join likeminded individuals at this inaugural digital tech networking event with pizza and refreshments included.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



BIDDING AND TENDERING 17/03/2017

This practical webinar will provide you with details about where to start with book keeping & making sure you are tracking the right information. The session will include what book keeping is, different methods that can be used & much more.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



HEALTH AND SAFETY 17/03/2017

This one hour session, is aimed at SMEs and start-ups and will give an introduction to Health and Safety at work. The webinar will cover employers duties, employees responsibilities, managing Health and Safety, Risk Assessments, First Aid and much more.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT IN FASHION LUXURY INDUSTRY 23/03/2017

Find out how potential improvements for fashion-luxury companies originate from the application of state-of-art techniques & of a scientific approach. It covers operations, logistics, production planning & more.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



MARKET AND CUSTOMER RESEARCH 24/03/2017

You have an idea for a business? Before you start up you need to understand your customer and market, if indeed there is one. This webinar takes you through the different elements to consider.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



POPPIES: WAVE, BARGE PIER, SHOEBURYNESSE

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and 14-18 NOW are pleased to present Poppies: Wave by artist Paul Cummins and designer Tom Piper at Barge Pier, Gunners Park, Shoeburyness, as part of 14-18 NOW's UK-wide tour of the iconic poppies.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



MORE WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS

Many more free workshops and webinars are available across Essex including: Don't manage absence manage attendance, Which social media for your business, Facebook for beginners & Bidding and tendering.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



BEST GROWTH HUB

The BEST Growth Hub helps businesses realise their growth potential. Essex businesses of all sizes, from innovative young enterprises to long-established firms, can access a business support service from the BEST Growth Hub.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



BUSINESS INNOVATION VOUCHERS

The University of Essex are offering innovation vouchers of up to the value of £5,000 which small & medium sized businesses can use to pay for experts time – giving you tailored support. The University will discuss your company needs & requirements.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



SOUTHEND PAYROLL GIVING PILOT

The Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS), are seeking businesses in the local area who might be interested in trailing payroll giving with local charities. There are many benefits to employers.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



ULTRA-FAST INTERNET SPEEDS ARE COMING TO SOUTHEND

Southend is joining the ranks of the UK's best connected towns and cities. Businesses will soon have access to a new generation of gigabit speed services. They have now officially launched and can provide businesses with fast broadband for better connection to improve productivity, business growth to all.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



LoCASE FUNDING

LoCASE provide professional advice, support and match funded grants helping businesses to reduce energy usage, lower Carbon emissions and grow your business. Available to small and medium sized businesses across Thurrock, Southend, Essex, Kent, Medway and East Sussex.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



60 MINUTE MENTOR SOUTH ESSEX

We are looking for passionate individuals from the local business community to help guide and support young people in need of extra support. Click below to email Rosie Powley for more information or call on 01702 534889.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



RDPE GROWTH PROGRAMME

The RDPE Growth Programme provides funding for projects in England which create jobs and growth in the rural economy. There are grants for rural tourism infrastructure, food processing & Business development.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



AIRPORT BUSINESS PARK SOUTHEND

A 1 million sq. ft. business park offering office, industrial and hotel bespoke opportunities, freehold or leasehold is now available. It is located immediately adjacent to London Southend Airport.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



APPRENTICESHIP LEVY

The Apprenticeship Levy will be introduced on 6th April 2017. The levy requires all employers operating in the UK, with a pay bill over £3 million each year, to invest in apprenticeships. The apprenticeship funding will operate from 1st May 2017.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT TO BUSINESSES:

- **Establishing your business in Southend-on-Sea:** connecting you with supply chain and local business networks
- **Regulatory advice:** we can connect you with local regulators like food hygiene, health and safety officers, licensing, trading standards and Essex Fire and Rescue Service.
- **Planning:** we can connect you with our planning team to ensure any building development is speedily actioned
- **Working on your behalf:** connecting you with the right people involving a diverse range of services such as transport, infrastructure issues and signage
- **Funding and Finance:** Information and advice on funding and finance incentives to grow your business
- **Access:** the team can provide you with useful contacts in other departments such as Business Rates, along with other stakeholders and partners, in order that you have the correct access of support your business requires.
- **Market and business intelligence:** providing you with access to research and local economic data
- **Recruitment:** connecting you with those that can help attract the right skills to your businesses, help with training and development of staff and with apprenticeships opportunities
- **Support is there:** our team will stay in touch with you, establishing strong relationships, proactively resolving any issues and helping you grow your business in Southend-on-Sea
- **Marketing:** Help with raising the profile of your business in Southend-on-Sea through our networks to the local business community

