

# SOUTHEND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

## ECONOMY & TOURISM TEAM

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With the on-going hot weather Southend is continuing to attract in the tourists. In a recent survey commissioned by the Trainline app more than half of Brits admit they're more likely to go on a "staycation" this year than ever before. The Echo quoted that "The town has surged in popularity by more than 200% since 2016. Southend has come out top, beating Margate, Birmingham, Manchester, the New Forest and St Ives in Cornwall".

This is great news for the town and although Tourism only represents part of our economic prosperity it is important to recognise the positive contribution this is making and for us to celebrate living and working in such a great location.

With this in mind Southend on Sea Borough Council has launched a new "Coaches Welcome" scheme to provide free parking and a welcome reception for coaches bringing visitors to the town. Coaches book in advance by calling the Visitor Information Centre on 01702 215620 8am - 5pm daily. Parking is in the "Gasworks Car Park" and visitors are welcomed on arrival and provided with information about what is on and how to navigate Southend to make the most of their trip.

We are in the process of finalising the details of our next Southend Business Partnership Briefing on 13th September which will be held at the Forum. The theme is Med - Tech and we are delighted to announce that we will have Yvonne Blucher, Managing Director of Southend University Hospital, Richard Cherry, Director of Corporate Services at Olympus Keymed, Richard Phillips from the Association of British Health Tech Industries as keynote speakers. With the strength of this sector in Southend it will be interesting to see the opportunities offered to other Southend businesses through the new procurement processes of this sector. To book your place please click on the link [here](#).

The following briefing will be on Wednesday 14th November at the Cliffs Pavilion and the Theme will be on Youth and Recruitment with presentations and stands focusing on apprenticeships, recruitment, retention and training. Please click [here](#) to secure a place.

We are also delighted to announce that on Thursday 4th October, 11am - 4pm the Skylark Hotel Rochford, will host the LoCASE Showcase II - a massive exhibition and networking event for businesses focusing on "Innovations in Lighting, Heating and the Internet of Things. This free event is a chance to exhibit and promote your lighting, heating and business services that save energy and or lower emissions. Call 01375 652271 or email [business@thurrock.gov.uk](mailto:business@thurrock.gov.uk) to book a place. Please note that any SME's with vehicles can use the funding to help pay to replace vehicles with electric or dual fuel options and can get up to £20k back based on a 40% contribution. It is certainly worth calling the team on 01375 652271 for more information.

I would like to congratulate I Am Emily, a local digital marketing company, that has been awarded a Gold Southend Business and Community Charter Award, in recognition of their excellent support and engagement with the local community. Social Value is hugely important and I Am Emily is a great example of how a small company has worked to support the community in which they work.

We sent an email out last week to let everyone know about the consultation on the Bell Junction, but it is not too late to have your say. Roadworks associated with upgrades create challenges as well as the longer term benefits, so please use the opportunity to let the Council know yours and your staffs views. For more information and to take part please click [here](#). Closing date 9th September.

Southend on Sea is inviting local residents and businesses to have their say on proposed changes to the Borough's Gambling policy, all comments should be received by 2nd September 2018. For more information please click [here](#).

Four Southend Parks have retained their Green Flag status ( Chalkwell, Priory, Southchurch and Belfair's) while Southchurch Hall Gardens was awarded a Green Flag for the first time. This is a great accolade and reflects the hard work of our Southend on Sea Borough Council Parks teams which maintain the green spaces.

Finally, businesses are reminded that working parents can apply for up-to 30 hours of free childcare for their 3 - 4 year old's to enable them to access work and extend working hours. This is part of the Government's initiative to improve financial support for working parents. It is easy to apply, parents should go-to the [Childcare Choices](#) website and follow the instructions to apply for a code which they will need to give to their childcare provider. In addition, Southend has been working with the Colleges, Jobcentre and Carers Industry to develop a Sector Based Work Academy. In the first cohort, 27% of people who took part, were offered jobs. This is a great result and they will be working with other sectors to see if this model can be used to support recruitment in areas which are finding it hard to recruit, Please contact [economicd@southend.gov.uk](mailto:economicd@southend.gov.uk) if you would like to become involved.

For those of you who have been on your holidays and for those who are yet to go, we hope you have a great summer and look forward to seeing you at the next Business Briefing.

*Murray Foster*

**Chair of the Southend Business Partnership**

### Events/Workshops

- Southend Business Partnership Briefing - Thursday 13 September 2018, 7:30am – 10am at The Forum, click to book your place [here](#).
- Make a Change Southend Recruitment Event - Tuesday 21 August 2018, 6 - 7:30pm at University Square, Southend. To book click [here](#).
- ISO 45001: 2018 Foundation Training - Thursday 6 September, 8:30am - 5pm at The Hive Enterprise Centre. To book click [here](#).
- South Essex Apprenticeship Matching event - Thursday 6 September 2018, 10am - 1pm at the Youth Club Basildon. To book click [here](#).
- Growing Your Business Through Fantastic Leadership and Management - Wednesday 12 September 2018, 9am -12pm at the Hive. To book click [here](#).
- SE JLD District Judge Talk, Tuesday 18 September 2018, 6-7:30pm at Tickfield Centre. To book click [here](#).
- Southend on Sea Business Market - Tuesday 25 September 2018, 10am - 3pm, at Saxon Hall. To book click [here](#).
- Southend Business Partnership Briefing - Wednesday 14 November 2018, 7:30am – 10am at Cliffs Pavilion, click to book your place [here](#).
- Southend Jobs Fair - Wednesday 28 November 2018, 10-2pm at Park Inn Palace Hotel Southend. To book click [here](#).
- Professional Boundaries - Business event - Thursday 13 December 2018, 7-9pm at the Jubilee Centre. To book click [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](http://www.thehive.org.uk/events)

### Networking

- LoCASE Showcase II - Innovations in lighting, Heating & Internet of Things - Thursday 4 October 2018, 11am - 9pm at Skylark Hotel. Booking link will be live shortly on eventbrite so please diarise.
- Indie Business Club Brunch - Monday 10 September 2018, 9:30am - 12:30pm at Frank & Lunas, Southend. To book click [here](#).
- Breakfast Networking Club, BOB Club Southend - Tuesday 11 September 2018, 8-10am at Beefeater, Southend. To book click [here](#).
- Mums in Business Association Essex Networking - Thursday 16 August 2018, 1-3pm at Quart Pot, Wickford. To book click [here](#).
- #FSBConnect Southend Networking - Wednesday 19 September 2019, 7:30 - 9am at The Saxon King. To book click [here](#).
- Business BUZZ- Southend, Wednesday 22 August 2018, 10-12pm at Revolution on Queens Road, Southend. To book click [here](#).
- 3 Chamber network meet-up - Tuesday 25 September 2018, 5:30-7:30pm at Marcos Bar Rayleigh. To book click [here](#).
- Creative Networking event - Wednesday 26 September 2018, 4 - 6pm at Coach House Café, High House Production Park. To book click [here](#).
- Networking and Cake - Friday 28 September 2018, 10am - 12pm at The Hive Enterprise Centre. To book click [here](#).

- South Essex HR Networking Club - Wednesday 10 October 2018, 8-10am at Little Havens Hospice Benfleet. To book click [here](#).
- View the [Best Growth Hub Website](#) and [Hive Enterprise Centre](#) for further networking opportunities.

## **Funding Opportunities**

- Businesses can claim up to £3,000 against the cost of fibre broadband connection either individually or as part of a group project. Residents can benefit from the scheme as part of a group project which also includes businesses, and can claim for a voucher of up to a value of £500. More details on GBVS can be found [here](#).
- The South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) is seeking proposals from local areas for projects to drive economic growth. There is at least £8.3 million of capital grant funding available to support projects across Kent, Medway, Essex and East Sussex. Express interest by 31 August 2018 at <http://www.southeastlep.com/opportunities/open-call-for-projects/>
- Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has opened the Business Basics Fund: a new fund aimed at testing ways of getting small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to take up technology and business practices that can help them become productive. To find out more on the two strands of funding please visit the [innovation funding services website](#).
- Businesses can benefit from University of Essex's £5000 innovation voucher which can be used in any sector. To find out more how the voucher works click [here](#).
- Low Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE) provide professional advice and match funded grants (up to £10K) helping businesses to reduce energy usage, lower carbon emissions and grow your businesses. [Read more.](#)
- South East Cultural, Creative and Digital Sector (SECCADS) project provide sector specific business support and match funded grants (up to 20K). Details to come.
- [BEST Business Growth hub](#) – for business support, advice and funding support.
- Essex for Business invites all to register to Funding Alerts and News for the Business Sector. To register please visit [here](#).

## **Other Information**

- The Southend Thursday General market is calling market traders to join the already diverse team. Priorities will be given to those who trade fresh meats, fishes and cheeses. To apply please click [here](#).
- Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses is an investment to help entrepreneurs create jobs and economic opportunity by providing greater access to education, capital and business support services. Applications for the January 2019 start are now open and can be accessed [here](#).
- BSTLC CIC is leading a campaign to use the Power of Leverage to encourage businesses of all sizes to support local charities, community groups and educational establishments. To read more about and donate (either once off or monthly) to this good cause please visit: <https://goto.gg/33512>
- Southend Borough Council Public Health & Sports and Leisure team launched the MoveOut programme on 4 July, encouraging working age adults to get outdoors and make the most of the Southend's local parks. For full timetable for the next 6 weeks please visit their [facebook page](#).
- [Opportunities South East](#) provides a citizenship toolkit by gathering employability support, local jobs, training, business, work experience, voluntary, personal support, mentoring and apprenticeship opportunities in one place. Free to register and use.
- If you run or work in a Social Enterprise in Southend and would like to be involved in a working group that is being set up to support SE then please contact

[economicd@southend.gov.uk](mailto:economicd@southend.gov.uk) for more information and to register your interest. Social Saturday 2018 will be on Saturday 13 October.

- If you enjoy working with young people and sharing your life story, the 60 Minutes Mentor programme would like to hear from you. To find out more please contact [Rosie Powley](#).
- 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](#), or call 01702 534253.

**If you have events or information you would like us to include in the newsletter then please email us on [economicd@southend.gov.uk](mailto:economicd@southend.gov.uk)**