

# SOUTHEND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

## ECONOMY & TOURISM TEAM

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**July 2018**



It was great to see so many businesses attending the last business briefing at London Southend Airport. I think you will agree that the speakers were all inspirational, providing a balance of some great news stories about business development in the area: with the Amazon distribution at Tilbury and the fantastic expansion of the airport with the Ryan Air announcement made the day before. Lyn Carpenter the Chief Executive of Thurrock Council and Andy Lewis the Deputy Chief Executive of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council were able to share some of their plans and aspirations for the South East which are being developed collectively to improve the strategic strength of the area.

Our next briefing will be taking place on Thursday 13th September at the Forum in Central Southend. The theme is Medi - Tech and we are delighted to announce that we will have Yvonne Blucher, Managing Director of Southend University Hospital, Richard Cherry, Operations Manager at Olympus Keymed, Richard Phillips from the Association of British Health Tech Industries and Ali Griffin, Chief Executive from Southend on Sea Borough Council will be launching the Ambition Southend Skills Strategy for Southend on Sea. 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 Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission report was published on the 25th June 2018 setting out an ambitious vision and delivery plan for north Kent, south Essex and east London up to 2050. To read the report please click [here](#).

Southend on Sea Borough Council is currently consulting on their plans for the upgrade to The Bell Junction on the A127. Their aims are to keep traffic flowing, the local economy growing and to improve air quality. The plans can be viewed [here](#), and we would be grateful if you could complete the [survey](#) so we can ensure that we take the views of local businesses and residents into consideration with the final scheme.

Southend on Sea Borough Council is conducting an Employment Land Review is looking to consult with a variety of agents, estate managers, developers and local businesses to obtain qualitative views on the supply and demand for employment premises across the Borough. They would be very interested to hear your views and would like to arrange a telephone call discuss the matter if this is agreeable? It would involve an informal interview and should take no more than 20 min. If you would be interested in contributing to this assessment and supporting the development of the future plans for Southend, then please call Paul Jobson at DLP Planning on 0117 905 8855 or email [paul.jobson@dlpconsultants.co.uk](mailto:paul.jobson@dlpconsultants.co.uk) who are conducting the independent review.

Visitsouthend and The BID have been very busy developing a fantastic activity programme for the summer to entertain and encourage visitors to Southend which combined with the marvellous weather we have been experiencing, has drawn the crowds to our beaches and cultural attractions. Our partners C2C have also been running a successful campaign to attract visitors to Southend and Leigh which you may have seen in print, social media and poster sites.

The 2018 Tech Nation report has been published which evidences the scale of the sector growth in the UK and highlights Southend on Sea as a Tech Town, with above average digital density, higher levels of tech employment and the potential to be a fertile breeding ground for the next generation of start ups. This has been supported by the Council who now have over 90km of black fibre laid across the borough which in enabling businesses to access the Broadband voucher scheme to connect using up to £3k of funding to access the commercial benefits of the new technology.

Government has established the Small Business Commissioner which will assign a Caseworker to help businesses with less than 50 employees pursue their late payments. Small local businesses are the back bone of our economy both locally and nationally they provide the bespoke services that the much larger corporations simply are unable to offer. However, they still need to compete with these big companies and as such need to offer the same payment plans which in some industries means being paid after the work has been carried out. Unlike the big companies our small local businesses do not have the resources to chase late payments which takes time and money. This service is free and completely impartial and will play a vital part in ensuring that our local businesses thrive. In order to raise a complaint with the Commissioner please email them at: [complaints@smallbusinesscommissioner.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@smallbusinesscommissioner.gov.uk)

Finally, Southend on Sea has launched a Social Enterprise and Responsible Business Steering group to link with the SELEP in order to encourage and support the development of existing and new Social Enterprises which is seen as a Growth Sector in the UK economy. For more information please contact [economicd@southend.gov.uk](mailto:economicd@southend.gov.uk). At present we are working to develop a database of Social Enterprises within Southend so please contact to provide your details.

As always we are interested to hear from businesses about the challenges of working in the area so we can lobby on your behalf, but also to hear about your successes, so we can promote and support your business growth and development. We are still hearing from a large number of businesses who were not aware of the grant programmes that are available to small - medium businesses across the South East. Grants are available with both Capital and Revenue funding linked to business growth, development and jobs creation. In addition, LoCASE offers grants of up to £20k for energy efficiency, the replacement of inefficient machinery and also for electric vehicles. Businesses can benefit from free business advice which is proven to increase revenue so please contact the BEST Business Growth Hub on 01702 417765 or email [economicd@southend.gov.uk](mailto:economicd@southend.gov.uk) for more information.

*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](#).
- Free 4 week healthy eating course - Tuesday 19 June 11.30-12.30 at The Business Centre, Southend-on-Sea (Just off the High Street). Booking is essential. Call 0800 022 4524
- LinkedIn Seminar- how to increase sales using LinkedIn! - Friday 20 July 2018, 9:30-11:30am in Southend. 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](#).
- Southend Business Partnership Briefing - Wednesday 14 September 2018, 7:30am – 10am at Cliffs Pavilion, click to book your place [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 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

- 3 Chamber network meet-up - Tuesday 24 July 2018, 5:30-7:30pm at Marcos Bar Rayleigh. To book click [here](#).
- Business BUZZ- Southend, Wednesday 25 July 2018, 10-12pm at Revolution on Queens Road, Southend. To book click [here](#).
- Double Whammy networking event - Thursday 26 July 2018, 6 - 8:15pm at Geneagles Guesthouse. To book click [here](#).
- The Westcliff Breakfast Business Networking Group - Wednesday 1 August 2018, 7:30-9am at My Kitchen, 157 Hamlet Court Road. 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](#).
- 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.
- The Essex Growth Programme provides business advice and access to grant funding (up to £20,000), more info [here](#).
- [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**

- Employment and Skills Board (ESB) has recently published the [Ultimate Guide to Getting A New Job in Essex](#), which includes advice on CV writing, applying for a job, key skills employers are looking for, financial support, real life examples, opportunities in some of the most in-demand sectors in Essex and the salaries that you could earn.
- 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](#).
- Basildon Borough Council, Essex County Council and Rochford District Council have teamed up to launch the clean air campaign to coincide with national Clean Air Day on Thursday, 21 June. Now the public are also being encouraged to help shape future efforts to tackle air pollution by filling out a short online survey at [www.essex.gov.uk/airquality](http://www.essex.gov.uk/airquality). The survey runs until Friday, 20 July. If you do not have access to the internet, you can call 0345 743 0430 to fill out the survey over the phone.
- Congratulations to Arnav Sharma (11 years old) and David Libbert who have been selected as Essex County Council's Challenge Dementia finalists. The winner will receive the Challenge prize of £100,000 to develop their solution. To follow up on this exciting competition please visit [Southendtech website](#).
- From early July 2018, levy-paying employers will be able to make transfers (max 10% of annual funds) of unused apprenticeship funds to as many employers as they choose. To find out the fine details please visit the [government website](#).

- Southend are having the their first Pride this year from 14 to 21 July. [12 Pride paintings](#) will be on display at Utopia Coffee Shop for the month of July.
- [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 Saturday 13th October. There will be events happening throughout the week from Monday 8th so save the date and start planning your Social Saturday activity.
- 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)**