

# SOUTHEND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2015



ECONOMY & TOURISM TEAM  
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April brings the new financial year and with it new challenges for all. I am delighted to announce that a new competitive energy tariff will now be available to residents and businesses in the Borough looking for a local alternative to their current supplier.

Announced last month, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council in partnership with the energy provider OVO are to offer all local residents and businesses benefit from a competitive deal. For more information about this new scheme, please contact Jeremy Martin on [jeremymartin@southend.gov.uk](mailto:jeremymartin@southend.gov.uk).

The Department for Communities and Local Government have now opened the first round of calls for the new European Structural and Investment Funds, which include ERDF, ESF and EAFRD. The programme is broken down by thematic priority and LEP area. If you have a project idea, you should contact your local LEP [here](#) or Low carbon [here](#).

Businesses and homeowners that suffered from local flooding from April 2013 to March 2014 could benefit from £5,000 of Government funding. For more information about how you can receive the Governments Flood Support Scheme, please [click here](#) or email [council@southend.gov.uk](mailto:council@southend.gov.uk).

As always, our Partnership is keen to hear from local businesses on what we could do to help your business grow. If you have a topic or issue that you would like to see us address at a business briefing or similar, then let us know by contacting the Economic Development Team on: 01702 215022 or email [economicd@southend.gov.uk](mailto:economicd@southend.gov.uk).

I look forward to seeing you all at the next Southend Business Partnership Briefing on 18th June 2015.

Best regards

*Murray Foster*

Chairman of the Southend Business Partnership

## NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

In Southend we have a number of different networking events which can be a great way of finding new customers and meeting valuable business contacts.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## FUNDING/GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

There are plenty of ways for your business to gain a boost through grant and finance opportunities. Follow the link for more details on what's available to you.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## WHAT'S GOING ON?

## EVENTS, BRIEFINGS & WORKSHOPS



### THE HIVE: BUSINESS HUB

Work is now complete on the 2nd and 3rd floor of Southend's Beecroft Gallery creating an enterprise centre for new businesses. The Hive offers flexible space from hot-desking to renting more formal office space.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### SOUTHEND CARNIVAL

Why not join the Carnival procession on 22nd August? It acts as a great advertising opportunity for your business and a team-building event for your employees. You can also help raise money for the charity of your choice.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### TOURISM AWARDS 2015

Get the recognition you deserve! You are invited to enter the 2015 Essex Tourism and Hospitality Awards. There are 22 categories to choose from, each with their own individual award. One of them could be yours!

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### SOUTH EAST LOCAL ENTERPRISE

The Skills Funding Agency are working with LEP's to enable them to encourage the use of skills budgets in their localities, to support them in engagement with the skills sector and demonstrate to them the actions available.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### PUBLIC SPEAKING EVENT

Whatever size your business is, one day you'll have to stand in front of a group and talk. Why not learn the skills ahead of time at the latest of the Meetup Groups on 12th May 2015 at 7.30pm?

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Come along on 16th April 2015 to find out about apprenticeships could benefit your business and what funding is available. Also hear from Ford about their remarkable apprenticeship programme.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### NETWORKING WORKSHOP

Want to know how networking can help you? Or how to market your business and encourage staff with personal development? Well there's a number of workshops available for you and your business, throughout 2015/16.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### WALKING FOOTBALL SESSIONS

Southend United Community & Educational is running Walking Football sessions starting April 20th. Walking Football is a slower version of the game designed to help people over 50 keep an active lifestyle. Call Craig Hughes, Community Projects Officer on 01702 341351 for more information.



### YOUR CREATIVE NETWORK

A new networking group called 'Your Creative Network' has been set up by the Southend Economic Development team. This group is especially designed to support businesses in the creative and cultural industries.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## BUSINESS SPECIFICS

## SUPPORT FOR YOUR BUSINESS



### BROADBAND VOUCHERS

Does your business need to upgrade your technology to improve your services? Businesses in Southend can now apply for grants of up to £3,000 each to boost your broadband connection as part of a national voucher scheme.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### BUSINESS SOUTHEND

Are you looking for support to expand your business? Are you a start-up company seeking funding to get your idea off the ground? There's lots of opportunities and funding available to you and your business.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### RETAIL RATE RELIEF

Available to ratepayers of certain retail properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or less that are wholly or mainly being used as shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments in each of the years 2014/15 and 2015/16.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### DIGITAL SKILLS FOR GROWTH

New developments in digital technology offer businesses in Essex significant opportunities to grow. Digital Skills for Growth offers funding for new employees of up to £4,000 (at up to 70% contribution from the programme).

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

A funding opportunity is available for your business! The Close Brothers Regional Growth Fund Asset Purchase Scheme is to provide grants to companies to enable them to purchase an asset which will in turn create or safeguard jobs.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### APPRENTICESHIPS

If you're recruiting or considering recruiting in the future, could the role be filled by a 16-24 year old, looking to start their career? There's a £1,500 Apprenticeship 16-24 Age Grant available to SMEs with a workforce of up to 50 employees.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)