

SOUTHEND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016

ECONOMY & TOURISM TEAM

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April brings the new financial year and with it new opportunities and challenges for all. On 1st April 2016 the Government introduced The National Living Wage for all working people aged 25 and over, and will be set at £7.20 per hour. It is something we all need to be aware of and the Economy and Tourism Team will be able to help you if you require further advice on this.

There continues to be a wide range of support available for businesses. One of these initiatives includes a partnership led by Anglia Ruskin University which has secured £9.4m of funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support innovation and growth amongst British small businesses. The funding will enable small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across the East and the South East of England to connect with expertise at universities through a new programme of subsidised research and development support co-ordinated by Anglia Ruskin University. Further details can be found within this newsletter.

Many business events and workshops are available this month including our next Briefing that will be held on 16th June 2016, so make sure you keep your diaries free. Further information can be found below.

Recently the Council's Cabinet approved options for the A127 Kent Elms junction improvements earlier this month, along with a preferred option, for a four week consultation. The consultation runs online until midnight on 15th April 2016. The consultation can be found [here](#). It is important to receive your feedback and suggestions via this consultation process on these proposals.

It is important that we keep regular communication with our businesses, so if there is anything the Enterprise and Tourism team can do for you please do not hesitate to contact them on 01702 215022 or email economicd@southend.gov.uk.

Best regards

Murray Foster

Chairman of the Southend Business Partnership

NETWORKING

Attending networking events can be a cost effective way of finding new customers and meeting valuable contacts. In Southend we have a number of networking events run by a variety of organisations, including the Southend Business Partnership and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

FUNDING

There are plenty of ways for your business to gain a boost through grant and funding opportunities. To find out about the wide range of opportunities that could be available to you and your business just follow the link below.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

WHAT'S GOING ON? EVENTS, BRIEFINGS & WORKSHOPS



LAST CHANCE TO GIVE YOUR VIEWS!

The Southend Borough Council A127 Kent Elms junction improvement consultation ends the 15th April at midnight. Don't miss out on giving your suggestions and views on how you would like to see this junction improved for your business.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



LOTS MORE EVENTS

Lots more events are going on up until the end of the year which includes a health check for local businesses along with a board meeting workshops. All the events and workshops for free that are taking place in Southend which may help support your business.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



MAKE SOUTHEND SPARKLE

Southend are taking a stand against the cluttered streets of Southend-on-Sea and Westcliff with their new campaign 'Make Southend Sparkle'

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



NEW COURSES FOR 2016

SAVS are delivering a variety of courses for the voluntary sector. The brochure has lots of information of their NEW offering for 2016.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



UNDERSTANDING BIM

An event to help you understand BIM issues affecting the construction industry. This free seminar on the 28th April at the Hive Enterprise centre in Southend will provide an important opportunity to consider the practical and legal aspects of Building Information Modelling obligations.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



BOOST YOUR WEBSITE BUSINESS

A very informative event to help you understand what your website should contain to help you become more successful, including overseas. This workshop is taking place 20th April at Southend Airport to help boost your business internationally.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



SELF-EMPLOYED?

Are you self-employed? or thinking of becoming self-employed? Have you faced difficulties due to your self-employed status? A FREE breakfast and networking event to discuss the issues around self-employment and find out what help is available.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

On 9th May The Careers and Enterprise are launching their event at Watt Tyler Country Park. With local business key note speakers as well as a briefing to talk through some of the key benefits and objectives of the initiative.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



BUSINESS EXPERIENCE SEMINAR

This free event on 13th May for all business owners and entrepreneurs that wish to learn from the experiences of fellow business owners. The seminar will feature a number of presentations covering a variety of relevant topics.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



ESSEX BUSINESS WOMEN

This is a unique opportunity to meet Essex Business women, learn from our speakers, enjoy great food and be inspired. On Friday 17th June at the Park Inn Palace there will be a whole day of networking and other opportunities.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



ENTREPRENEURS EXCHANGE

On Wednesday, 18 May, at 6pm, 40 of the UK's most successful entrepreneurs are offering business advice for free. If you want to grow your business, come along to be inspired and get practical help to make a real difference.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



SOUTHEND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP BRIEFING

The next Southend Business Partnership is on 16th June 2016 at the Royal Pavilion, on Southend-on-Sea pier. Hear the latest Southend news from Southend on Sea Borough council. The pier train to the venue will be free.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

BUSINESS SPECIFICS SUPPORT FOR YOUR BUSINESS



BEST GROWTH HUB

The new 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 new business support service.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

The Careers and Enterprise Company has launched in Southend with a vision of ensuring that every local pupil has access to world class careers and enterprise provision. More information about the company will feature in next month's newsletter. For more information please contact Mark Sexton on 07951 698363



EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

A partnership of universities including the University of Essex has secured £9.4m of funding from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) to support innovation and growth amongst British small businesses.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



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](#)



60 MINUTE MENTOR

60 Minute Mentor is a programme aimed at connecting local businesses with young people. In each session an individual from a variety of different occupations will talk about their work. We would love to involve more local businesses. If you would like to get involved email 60minute@southend.gov.uk



THE LIVING WAGE

From 1 April 2016 workers aged 25 and over will be entitled to a new minimum pay rate of £7.20 per hour, called the National Living Wage. Find out more by visiting the National Living Wage website.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



CAN YOU OFFER WORK EXPERIENCE?

Jobcentre Plus can help employers provide a positive experience of work for young jobseekers and develop local talent and skills. To find out more call 01702 575797 or dwp.gs@southend.gov.uk



RENT SPACE AT THE CIVIC CENTRE

With booking fees starting from £35.00 and with access to 1500 staff and residents every weekday between 11am and 3pm, you could hire retail space at the Civic Centre. If you need more information please contact Stephanie Tang on 215883.



ENTREPRENEURS EXCHANGE

Entrepreneurs Exchange is an initiative to support entrepreneurs right across the UK to grow their business. On 18 May, in 20 cities across the UK, at 6pm, over 40 of the nation's leading business founders are coming together to give free, real business advice to the next generation of British entrepreneurs.

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