

# SOUTHEND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2015



**ECONOMY & TOURISM TEAM**  
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There was a fantastic attendance to the many events that took place during Global Entrepreneurship Week at the end of November, including the First Youth Market in Southend-on-Sea. At the beginning of December, businesses across the borough took part in Small Business Saturday, which is now in its third year. It was great to hear that so many businesses took part, along with the Best Festive competition which was run alongside, which was generously sponsored by the Genting Club. The winners will be announced shortly. In addition, Blatella Film is presenting a special prize to the overall winner.

As 2015 draws to a close, Southend-on-Sea can expect another busy schedule planned for 2016 with lots of FREE events and workshops taking place including the New Year New Finance Budget consultation and business support workshops in January.

Christmas festivities have already started in Southend-on-Sea, which include Skating-on-Sea which will be an exhilarating experience skating under the stars alongside the Forum's Big Screen and in addition the annual pantomime at the Cliffs Pavilion.

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 wish you all a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year when no doubt we will continue to learn of and see also the delivery of further significant developments in and around Southend.

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



### NEW YEAR, NEW FINANCE

Would you like to find out about the 2016/17 budget for Southend-on-Sea Borough Council? Then Councillor Ron Woodley, Rob Tinlin and Joe Chesterton would like to invite you to their Business Budget Consultation at the Holiday Inn Southend on 19th January 2016.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### LOTS MORE EVENTS

Lots more workshops will be available in the New Year being delivered in the Southend area. Take a look now at what is available and being delivered for FREE by the BEST team.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### POP-UP CAFE

Free advice for start-ups and existing businesses from specialists from industries, such as Accountants, Solicitors and Intellectual Property and more. Join us for complimentary tea, coffee and cake – and the chance to access expert support from the private sector.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### SKATING-ON-SEA

Celebrate Christmas in style with your colleagues at Southend's very own outdoor Ice Skating Rink. Booking is at a reduced price exclusively for your staff and guests. For enquires and bookings email [corporateskatingonsea@gmail.com](mailto:corporateskatingonsea@gmail.com). Or advertise on the rink by calling Damon Langlois M 07515 905336 E [damon@greenlightps.com](mailto:damon@greenlightps.com)



### BIMFEST

The seminars will consider the council's obligations as a client within a BIM environment, as well as the legal implications of BIM compliance. Held in conjunction with Crown Office Chambers, building consultancy Ingleton Wood on 28th January 2016.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know what your business needs. In order that the correct training and support are given in Southend, complete a survey to help to shape the programme of free funded workshops that will be on offer in 2016.

## 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](#)



### WORK EXPERIENCE

Are you a business that can introduce a young person to the world of work in a supportive way? The Care Management 16+ Team are looking for any opportunities that could engage the young people in work experience.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

The University of Essex can provide expertise and facilities for businesses in a wide number of areas including Internships Placements and Recruitment, Business Partners Club, SME Internship Funding, Innovation Vouchers and lots more.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### 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](#)



### 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](#)



### 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.



### MY SOUTHEND

MySouthend is an amazing online facility which has the residents, landlords and businesses of Southend at the heart of its design.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### SHARE YOUR VIEWS

The Valuation Office Agency services is improving how they work and want to find out how you, as a business owner, use their services. They want to refine their online services and would like to invite you to share your views.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### COULD YOU OFFER SOMEONE 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 contact Southend Jobcentre on 01702 575797 or

[EMAIL THEM HERE](#)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE COUNCIL'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TEAM. THE 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
- **Familiarisation tours:** Southend-on-Sea has a lot to offer and we can support you and your staff with relocation advice, information on schools, housing, healthcare, leisure and other facilities
- **Aftercare:** 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