

# SOUTHEND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2015



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Against a background of continuing UK economic growth and a rapidly approaching General Election, there's a flurry of activity that could be significant for your businesses happening at the moment. Southend has been successful in its efforts to attract growth funding towards the building of a new business park at Southend Airport. Also, new rounds of European funds for research and innovation (Horizon 2020) are open for applications, with further funding rounds for supporting businesses being planned for March.

Locally, we've got plenty of business support activity taking place. There's an opportunity for businesses to find out about Skills & Apprenticeships and free support to get your business 'Fit 2 Tender'. We also have one of our quarterly Business Briefings coming up, along with a whole range of free workshops that are taking place from now through to the end of March.

I'd recommend you visit [www.businesssouthend.co.uk](http://www.businesssouthend.co.uk) for more details on these and many other events that can help you improve your business in 2015. Outside of business support there are some great art exhibitions at the Focal Point and Beecroft Galleries including 'Etchings of the WWI trenches' by Percy Smith and the fascinating 'Black Bile 84' by local artist Rick Buckley.

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 on 5th March 2015.

*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



### BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Southend Business Partnership Briefing is on 5th March at the Park Inn, where you can hear from Director of Corporate Services at Olympus Keymed, and hear news affecting Southend.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### PROCUREMENT WORKSHOP

Six FREE workshops on the subject of Procurement and Selling to the Public and Private sector, the first being on 25th February, with further workshops throughout March.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### YOUR FUTURE WORKFORCE

Skills and apprenticeships event at The Maritime Rooms, Cliffs Pavilion on 11th March. Helping you to get the skills support or apprentices you need to boost your business.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### THE BUSINESS

A programme of free workshops and training events delivered by Business Southend and Essex Chambers of Commerce, with 50 different business topics to choose from.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### YOUR CREATIVE NETWORK

A new networking group to support businesses in the creative and cultural industries. For more information or to book onto the next meeting or to book onto the next meeting call 01702 215368.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### ESSEX MEANS BUSINESS

Project Europe Conference is on 26th February 2015 at Anglia Ruskin University, Chelmsford, and will outline the funding and opportunities available for all Essex Businesses.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### INTERNATIONAL JUDO

International Judo Championships returns to Southend on 24th and 25th October. Would you like to sponsor this fantastic event? There are a number of packages available, call Pascal on 07961 184740.

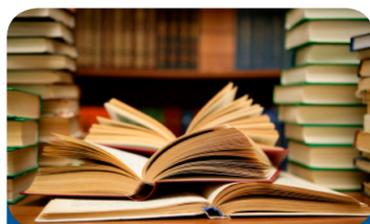
[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY CHARTER AWARD

A rolling award for businesses of any type and size, to officially recognise their contribution to the local Community.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### SIX BOOK CHALLENGE

Encourage your staff to take part in the Six Book Challenge! The theme this year is 'Read Anything. Read Anywhere' and you can literally read anything from newspapers, to poems or websites!

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## BUSINESS SPECIFICS

## SUPPORT FOR YOUR BUSINESS



### HERE TO HELP YOUR BUSINESS

Are you looking to expand your business? Are you a start-up company seeking funding? Find out what opportunities are available to you and your business by calling 01702 534348.

[VISIT THEIR WEBSITE](#)



### MEDICAL TECH BUSINESS?

Are you a medical technology business, supply-chain provider or start-up in the sector? You can now access a free package of business support, as well as a great range of cash grants.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### BUSINESS RATES RELIEF

Retail Rate Relief is available to rate payers of retail properties with a rateable value of £50,000 or less that are being used as shops, restaurants, cafes and drinking establishments.

[AM I ELIGIBLE?](#)



### DIGITAL SKILLS FOR GROWTH

Digital Skills for Growth is an Essex Employment and Skills Board programme offering funding to train new employees in advanced skills relating to the use of digital technology.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### FREE BUSINESS SUPPORT

Create for Built and BRE are working in partnership to offer SME businesses 12 hours of FREE business support which includes BRE events, resources and anytime CPD accredited resources.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



### GROWTH VOUCHERS

There's a government backed research project called Growth Vouchers offering matched funds for strategic business advice up to £2k - You need to act quickly as registration ends 31st March

[FIND OUT MORE](#)