

SOUTHEND BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2015



ECONOMY & TOURISM TEAM
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We are finally starting to see the beginning of Spring, and with the Sun brings visitors to the town - we hope your business will benefit! With the new business hub (The Hive) completed and with a management company now appointed, we hope to see businesses move into the former library, in Victoria Avenue, over the coming weeks. If you would like to know more about this then please contact the Economy and Tourism team.

I was delighted that last week's Southend Business Partnership Briefing, held on 5th March attracted so many attendees with a great deal of positive feedback. I would like to say a big thank you to Alison Semmence at SAVS and her team, who organised the Voluntary Service Marketplace along with Richard Cherry from Olympus Keymed for an excellent presentation.

The East Anglia rail franchise, which includes the Southend Victoria to Liverpool Street line, is currently being consulted on with the consultation process closing on 16th March 2015. There are 20 questions on the [DFT website](#), for you to submit your thoughts on how best this should be operated. This line may affect your business so don't miss out and have your say. On 24th of this month the Executive Committee of the Partnership will be meeting to consider further potential projects and initiatives to help businesses and the local economy further develop – if you have any ideas please contact me via the Economic Development Team.

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.

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



PROCUREMENT WORKSHOPS

FREE workshops throughout March on the subject of Procurement and Selling to the Public and Private sector, including Managing Contracts, Procurement Awareness and more.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



YOUR FUTURE WORKFORCE

On 11th March at the Cliffs Pavilion, this event will highlight the benefits to local businesses through employing apprentices as well as a marketplace for information on training available.

[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 call 01702 215368.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



INTERNATIONAL JUDD

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](#)



SOUTHEND CARNIVAL

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

[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](#)



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](#)



FREE APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

If you're recruiting, could your role be filled by an enthusiastic 16-24 year old, looking to start their career? Free Apprenticeship training is available from Southend Adult Community College, so give the Team a call on 01702 445736 to find out more.



CAREER ACADEMY NEEDS YOU

St Thomas More Career Academy are looking for an employer to secure an internship for a Career Academy student aged 16-19 for a four to six week internship over the summer.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



THE PRINCE'S TRUST

Can you help inspire young lives? Do you have apprenticeships or suitable job opportunities in the health/care or hospitality sector that the Prince's Trust young people could apply for?

[FIND OUT MORE](#)