



North Essex partnership working

North Essex Economic Board

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Background

- In 2019 Tendring, Colchester, Braintree, Uttlesford and Essex County Councils agreed to develop an economic strategy that would articulate the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the North Essex economic corridor.
- Inspired initially by the need to articulate a vision associated with, but independent to, the North Essex Garden Communities.
 - Joint ambition to deliver 40-45,000 homes across 3 garden settlements
- An informal Board, made up of Leader and Cabinet Member representatives from each local authority, was convened towards the end of 2019 to oversee the development of the strategy and resulting action plan.
 - An officer Steering Group was also convened to deliver the work.
- ECC supported the commissioning of the North Essex Economic Strategy document which was produced in October 2019 and approved by all local authorities in January/February 2020
 - The Strategy sat alongside the county wide Essex Prosperity and Productivity Plan released by ECC in January 2020.
- The strategy confirmed the vision of the North Essex Board:

"North Essex is a high-value, productive and sustainable economy. People choose to live and work locally, in new and established communities that are well connected and inspire innovation and creativity"
- The vision is associated with four missions:
 - Driving innovation and technology adoption*
 - Creating a network of distinctive, cohesive communities*
 - Growing a greener, more sustainable economy*

- Subsequent to the development of the North Essex Economic Strategy, officers began work to develop an action plan to deliver against the vision and 4 missions agreed within the strategy.
- Before the action plan was developed, the Board turned its attention to Covid response activity, ensuring delivery of individual authority business support and grant provision programmes.
- Chelmsford and Maldon were invited to join the board in May 2020. NEEB now therefore covers half of the second tier authorities in Essex.
- In the autumn of 2020, the partners agreed (subsequent to discussion with BEIS and MHCLG) to pool 10% of their Additional Restrictions Grant (Covid) funding to deliver a coordinated programme of activity stretching across North and Mid Essex
 - Collective pot of nearly £2m to spend on joint project commissioning and delivery
 - Focus on covid response - business support and skills projects.
- This ambition was supplemented by the agreement to appoint a NEEB project manager (appointed November 2021) and coordinated communications activity across the geography.

NEEB – guiding principles

- Clear motivation
 - Recognition of a coherent economic corridor and that project delivery and impact best operates at different levels (regional, sub regional, local)
- Political commitment
 - Cross party support for the delivery of outcomes for residents and businesses
- Informal partnership
 - MoU in place but not constituted with formal committee or governance structure
- Additionality
 - NEEB works best at the level where it adds value
 - Each local authority already has its own economic strategy, team and objectives
- Proportionality
 - The funding is split as per the proportion that's put in
- Shared workload
 - Each local authority takes on a share of the work: procurement activity, financial administration, communications activity etc.
- Evolution is fine!
 - There wasn't a grand governance structure or independent team structure in place at the start

What have we done: Business

Programme	Provider	Intended outcomes
<p>Importing & Exporting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivers fully funded import and export advice. 	Colbea	15 businesses supported 15 internationally trading business supported 6 training courses provided 6 business case studies
<p>Digital & E-commerce</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver free business specific digital support and e-commerce advice. 		100 businesses supported 10 businesses safeguarded
<p>Business start-up support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fully funded advice and support to pre and start up businesses. 		150 businesses supported 40 new business created 50 jobs created 150 students reached 6 training courses provided 6 business case studies
<p>Low Carbon support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver free advice and support to businesses. 		200 businesses attending free structured 1-2-1 and 1-2-many support sessions 4 networking events spread across the NEEB 200 hours of specialist low carbon 1-1 advice 40 businesses developing a carbon reduction plan 6 case studies produced.
<p>Business navigational support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver free business navigational support 	BEST Growth Hub	600 business supported 300 referrals to other programmes of support Provide local drop ins.
<p>Finance & Debt management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide specialist 1-2-1 financial and debt support. 	Let's Do Business Group	150 Businesses supported 20 Finance raising interventions 150 jobs safeguarded/created 10 business safeguarded 6 workshops held

Skills programmes

Provider	Programme	Participant s
Tech Talent	<p>Training to level 4 in software, data, cyber and cloud skills. Certification upon completion (in partnership with BCS, Microsoft and AWS). First cohort – 31st May – 12 learners. Following completion of the course, graduates will be offered a pathway into entry-level jobs through a programme of employer partnerships.</p>	120
We Are Digital	<p>Supporting individuals with kit, connectivity and basic digital training. Multi-channel digital skills service (phone, remote trainer, 1:1 in-home and local group centre support) across the SELEP region. Upon completion of the Triage Process, eligible customers are provided with a tablet and/or data sim card and the programme is also supported by training sessions delivered by the We are Digital in-house trainer network.</p>	120
Shaw Trust	<p>The NEEB Skills Path programme will support with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bespoke, one-on-one support. • Support for your mental health and wellbeing. • Coaching and mentoring to increase your confidence. • Training in priority sectors such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction • Health and social care • Customer service • Warehousing and storage • Business administration • Retail • Digital skills. 	120
Job Fairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funded by NEEB and provided by ECC using Learn Live platform and ECC skills team. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colchester and Tendring • Maldon, Chelmsford Uttlesford • Braintree 	Reach over 1000 job seekers online attendance



Communications

Issue 24 : Summer 2022

Free training and support for businesses

A SERIES of free business support packages, helping firms with topics such as finance, low carbon and digital skills, have gone live in mid and north Essex.

The programmes, funded by the North Essex Economic Board (NEEB), are designed to help local small and medium-sized enterprises

NEEB is a joint venture between Braintree, Uttlesford, Tendring and Maldon Borough, Colchester and Essex County Councils working together to improve the economic

Councillor NEEB Chair businesses to access their own or rural business

Essex then this support is here to help you. There is a programme for everyone, whether you need help with finances, growing your business, or upping your digital skills – or even if you're looking for support we're not funding with the navigation offer. Firms like these are the cornerstone of our regional economy, which is why we are playing our part to help them," he said.

The fully-funded support programmes are offered to

For companies worried about debt or looking to raise finance, the finance and debt management support from Let's Do Business could be vital to boost your firm and take it to the next level.

Meanwhile Colbea is also providing an Introduction to Finance course to help you to understand the fundamentals of finance and tax within your business and for those looking to set up their own business, the

deal with imports and/or exports or are looking to start.

To find out more and to sign up visit www.tendring.gov.uk/north-essex-ecb

Cllr Cunningham support, worth £600,000 in total and will allow you to grow – can you take this opportunity?

Other streams of support being funded using a local resident workforce capacity and economic region.

IB has recruited as a UK Nations representing the current and across the region in the Covid-19 Recovery Programme)

A helping hand for your business



GROWING a business is often compared to cultivating a plant, with analogies about setting down roots, branching out, making sure it has access to water and sunlight, and protecting it from a hard frost.

But knowing how to take each step can be difficult. Which do you tackle first? When is the right time to water it? And with so many different composts available, how do you choose?

It is a difficult time for businesses, looking at how to adapt and recover from Covid-19, transitioning to a more digital age and looking at how to grasp opportunities afforded by Brexit.

That is why the North Essex

Economic Board (NEEB) has put in place fully-funded support to help you navigate the obstacles and truly grow your business.

Made up of the combined district, borough and city councils of north Essex – Uttlesford, Braintree, Colchester, Tendring, Maldon and Chelmsford – along with Essex County Council, NEEB has committed almost £525,000 to procure four business support programmes.

Provided by Colbea and BEST Growth Hub, the help is across themes of start-up support, digital support, import/export support, and business support navigation.

The support will get underway in the coming weeks.

For updates on when they launch – and, crucially, how to sign up – keep an eye on the BusinessTime in Essex online news/PR service – www.businesswire-essex.co.uk – or contact your local council's business support team.

The year-long programme has the potential to help hundreds of firms across mid and north Essex, covering all the local council areas represented on the North Essex Economic Board.

As we enter 2022, this is both one of the most difficult times for business in more than a decade and, simultaneously, a time of huge opportunity and potential, especially for our small and medium-sized businesses.

Navigating this landscape can be a maze, where not only can it be difficult to know which way to turn, but some grant schemes and support programmes have such short application deadlines, you can almost blink and miss them.

That is why we NEEB has set



North Essex Economic Board

Activity summary 2021

BUSINESS SUPPORT



Import/Export



Finance & Debt Management support



Navigation



Sustainability & Low Carbon training



Start-up



Energising Essex key sector support



Digital



Digital

SKILLS PROGRAMME



Shaw Trust
- Key sector skills



We Are Digital
- kit & basic training



Tech Talent
- Level 4 training

OTHER SUPPORT



Jobs fairs



Programme officer

Delivered in Partnership with the North Essex Economic Board



HIGHLY COMMENDED

OVID-19 Response and Recovery – Local Government

North Essex Economic Board (NEEB) – made up of Braintree, Maldon, Tendring and Uttlesford District councils, Colchester Borough Council, Chelmsford City Council & Essex County Council

businesswire.essex.co.uk

Grahame Steed
Chair, GO Awards Judging Panel



NEEB future working

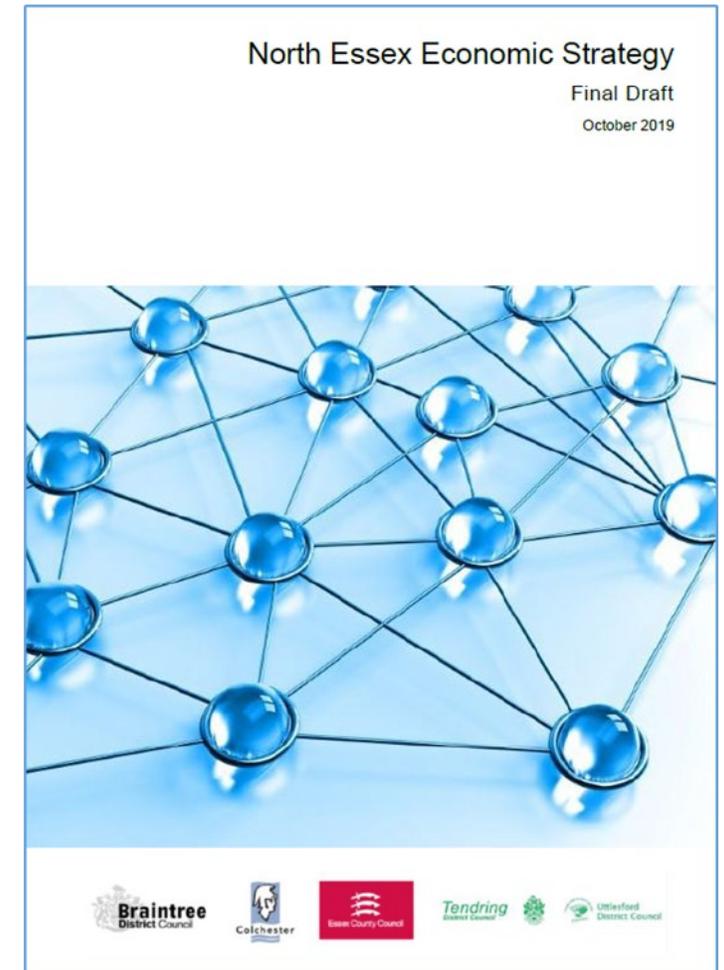
As well as monitoring the current programme of delivery, partners have committed to deliver joint projects through the Shared Prosperity Fund.

The North Essex Economic Strategy is out of date and needs refreshing to reflect a number of factors:

- When the strategy was first created Chelmsford and Maldon had not yet joined NEEB.
- Need to recognise the impact of Covid and Brexit on the North Essex Economy.
- Change in government focus from Industrial Strategy to Levelling Up.

Recognising that the partnership is currently local authority focussed and led – a new strategy will allow the Board to reflect on how to engage business and educational institutions in its work.

NEEB also offers an example of local authority joint working across traditional authority boundaries and is informing current debate on the potential of devolution discussions with government.





For Further Information please contact -

<https://www.tendringdc.gov.uk/north-essex-economic-board>

NEEB@Braintree.gov.uk