

Opportunity Southend

www.southend.gov.uk

Southend·on·Sea City Council



“Our vibrant coastal city is fuelled by a relentless drive for growth and expansion. We invite businesses to join us on this exciting journey, where their ambitions align seamlessly with ours.”

Chief Executive of Southend-on-Sea City Council
Colin Ansell

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Welcome to Southend-on-Sea

Welcome to the City of Southend-on-Sea, a bustling coastal destination less than one hour from London.

As a historic seaside retreat for both Londoners and tourists from further afield, we are proud of our heritage, but we are equally proud to welcome more than 7 million visitors to Southend every year. We are proud of our reputation as one of the UK’s leading visitor destinations but have so much more to offer.

With key employment growth sectors in advanced manufacturing, healthcare, digital technology and cultural and creative industries, we have a huge appetite for growth and expansion, and we are looking to attract businesses who match our ambitions.

We are already home to the UK’s fastest growing airport and international businesses such as Olympus Keymed, Natwest, and Ipeco.

We are investing in our future, with significant regeneration plans across the city and are one of the UK’s first ‘Gigabit Cities’.

In addition to being a great place to do business, Southend-on-Sea is also a great place to live with seven miles of coastline and over 80 parks and green spaces. Southend boasts two theatres, internationally significant cultural heritage collections, art galleries and famously, the world’s longest pleasure pier, 1.33 miles long!

Southend ranked 4th most productive council in England

- The IMPOWER Index February 2026

Southend-on-Sea is committed to enabling economic growth and building strong and prosperous communities, so please get in touch to find out more about investment opportunities across our city.

Southend-on-Sea is ideally situated close to London with excellent access to trade, services, and supply chains.



Southend by air:

- **London Southend Airport,** our award-winning airport, is easily accessible by road and has its own on-site rail station. Executive private jet services are available through London Southend Jet Centre, whilst central London is just a 13-minute helicopter ride away.
- **London Southend Airport:** flying to 26 destinations
- **London Stansted Airport:** Less than one hour by road
- **London City Airport:** Less than one hour by road or rail

Southend by rail:

Southend-on-Sea is served by two main trainlines into central London.

- **Southend Central** to London Fenchurch Street**.**
- **Southend Victoria** to London Liverpool Street.

The 2 train lines serve 9 stations across the city.

Journey times:

- Under 50 mins to London Fenchurch Street
- 34 mins to Shenfield Elizabeth Line
- 40 mins to West Ham and the Jubilee Line
- 45 mins to Stratford and HS1 rail access to Europe

Southend by road:

36mins drive to the M25, London's orbital motorway

Southend by sea:

DP World London Gateway port – state of the art deep sea port just 17 miles up river

Southend in numbers

Southend-on-Sea City Council welcomes visitors, stimulates start-up and growing businesses and above all, supports residents to fulfil their potential.

High growth sectors:

- specialist construction
- specialist manufacturing
- creative cultural and digital industries
- healthcare

Strategic sectors:

- tourism
- retail
- aviation
- engineering
- medical tech
- financial services

185,256 Population (2024) (unitary authority)

£3.5bn Gross Value Added (GVA) for Southend-on-Sea was reported March 2025

1 million sq ft of high-quality business space at Southend Airport Business Park.

58 schools, and 2 colleges.

7 million tourist visitors per year.

7 miles of award winning beaches.

South Essex is a vital economic driver, contributing £19.4bn to the UK economy in 2021 (Nomis) supporting over 354,000 jobs, and home to nearly 1 million people.

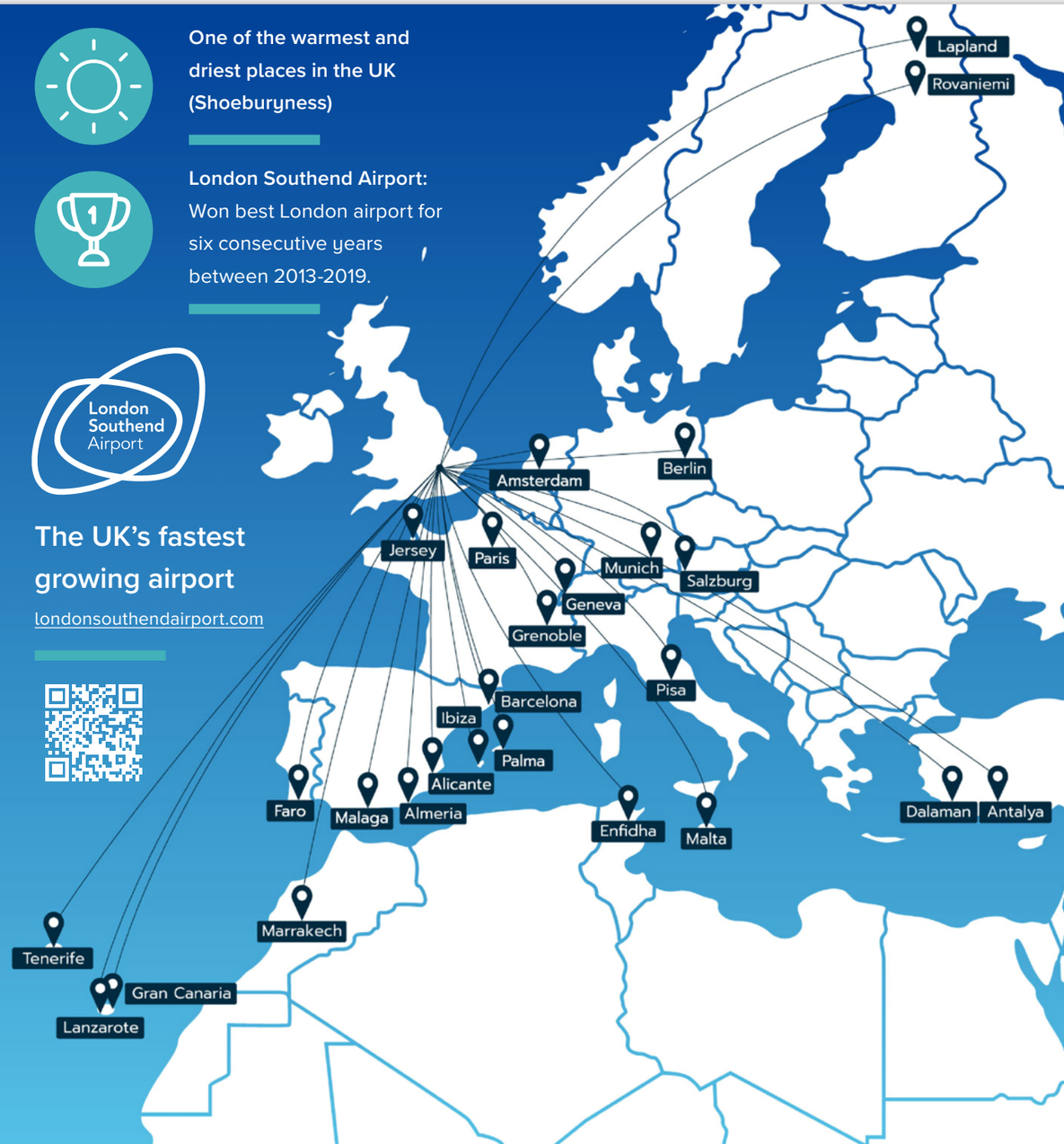
One of the warmest and driest places in the UK (Shoeburyness)

London Southend Airport: Won best London airport for six consecutive years between 2013-2019.

London Southend Airport

The UK's fastest growing airport

londonsouthendairport.com



Southend Pier is the city's most treasured, historical icon as well as being the longest pleasure pier in the world, stretching 1.33 miles. The pier was awarded 'pier of the year' 2023 from the National Pier Society.

Poppies on the Pier

The striking display featured

- 110,471 knitted and crocheted poppies
- 4,872 metres of knitted and crocheted chains
- 1,578 kilometres of yarn





Pier webcam

The pier webcam went live in 2023, putting Southend on the global map of landmarks that can be viewed online.

The webcam provides a live stream view of the sea end of the pier looking out over the water.

Whether you want to check the weather, tides or just be nosy, check out the live streaming pier webcam on the Southend pier website.



1 million sq ft of space at the Airport Business Park

Airport Business Park Southend

The £150m Airport Business Park Southend is a world-class, multi-use business park just minutes from London Southend Airport, Europe's fastest growing airport. It has its own train station too, with direct services to London Liverpool Street.



It comprises of flexible business space, large-scale industrial and warehousing facilities, and the Launchpad, a centre for innovation. The Launchpad is a dedicated facility designed to champion start-ups and entrepreneurs.

Quick facts

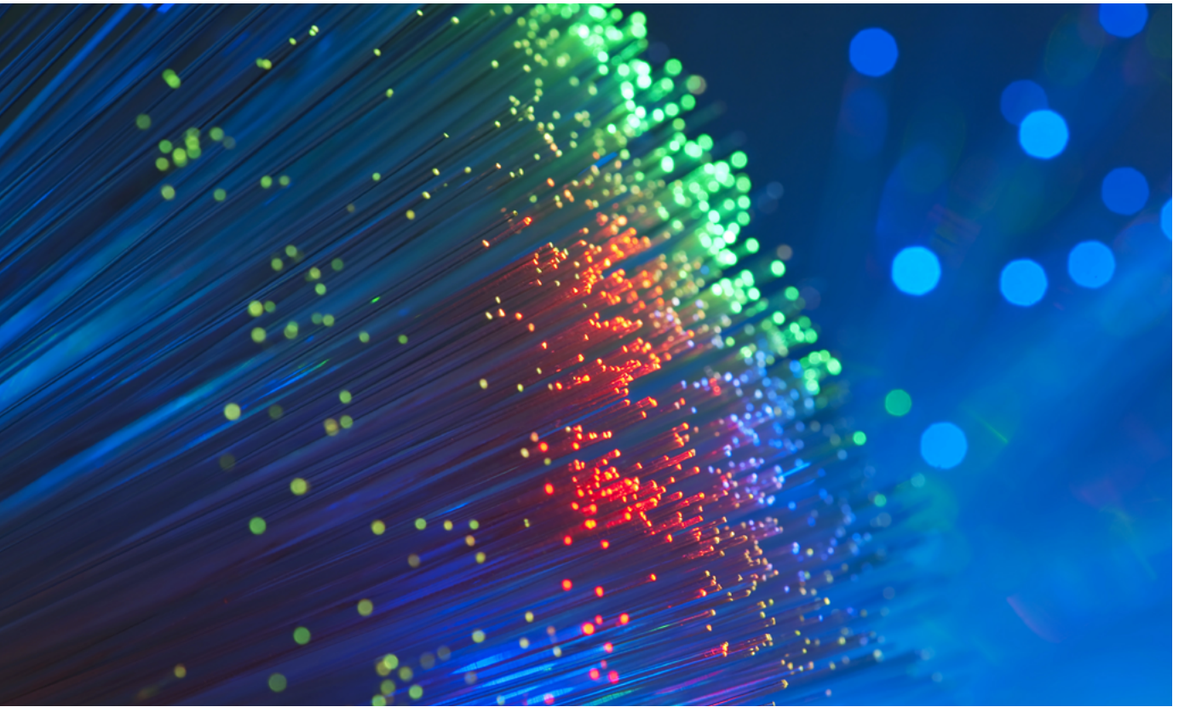
- Up to 52,800 sq. ft bespoke employment space opportunities available to let/for sale.
- Buildings constructed bespoke and tailor-made to your requirements within 18 months of agreeing Heads of Terms.
- IPECO Holdings, a global aircraft furnishings supplier, now occupy a total of 257,000 sq ft in two buildings at the business park.
- The business park is also home to Cama Asset Store and The Event Co – London two thriving businesses benefiting from the unique location and environment
- Site set in natural parkland with carefully considered infrastructure making it aesthetically pleasing and sustainable.
- Immediate business audience of 5000+ employees, offering fantastic opportunities for hotel, food and beverage signature brands and independents.
- The Launchpad offers 25,000 sq. ft of incubator spaces to help tech start-ups and SMEs. Launchpad aims to improve local infrastructure and offer next step opportunities to local businesses through innovation.
- A Costa Coffee Drive Thru is established on the site and trading very well.
- Plans for a further SME focused scheme are being prepared to follow on from the success of the exciting Quad scheme of 12 industrial units all let or sold within 12 months of completion.

Southend-on-Sea: a leading connected city

Southend-on-Sea continues to be one of the UK's foremost Gigabit Cities, underpinned by major investment in world class digital infrastructure. The £30 million fibre build that first positioned the city as an early gigabit pioneer has been followed by extensive public and private sector rollout programmes, creating one of the most advanced digital connectivity environments in the country.

Today, Southend boasts superfast coverage of 99.8% >30Mbs+ (87490 properties). Ultrafast coverage is 98.5% (86497 premises) and Full Fibre access at 97.1% (85280 premises). 97.9% are gigabit capable, placing Southend significantly above national averages and firmly within the top tier of UK cities for ultra fast digital infrastructure.

Businesses across the city are already leveraging gigabit speeds to transform their operations, adopt cloud technologies at scale, enhance resilience, and fuel innovation and growth.



Why Businesses Choose Southend for Connectivity

As businesses grow, so do their bandwidth and networking requirements. Traditionally, many organisations have upgraded their managed services incrementally - each time absorbing higher costs. Southend's full fibre environment breaks that cycle.

A city wide gigabit fibre network allows organisations to scale efficiently, future proof operations, and access ultra high capacity connectivity at significantly lower costs than London, while maintaining exceptional performance and reliability.

Quick facts

- **Full Fibre Coverage:** 97.1% of premises — one of the highest in the UK.
- **Gigabit Capable Coverage:** 97.9% citywide.
- **Superfast Coverage (30 Mbps+):** 99.6%, ensuring universal baseline connectivity.
- **Ultrafast Coverage (100 Mbps+):** 98.5%.
- **Ideal for enterprise and co-location environments** due to resilient, high bandwidth fibre.
- **Enables modern business service industries** through ultra low latency, secure, dedicated fibre.
- **Unlocks rapid growth** for technology driven businesses.
- **Maximises value from cloud computing** and digital transformation with substantial cost efficiencies.
- **Access to Southend's 'SmartSouthend' data and analytics platform**, providing open data, insights, and intelligence for businesses and residents.

The Digital Advantage

With near universal full fibre coverage and continued strategic investment through public-private collaboration, Southend on Sea offers a digital environment that is:

- **Fast:** gigabit speeds up to 1,000 Mbps and beyond
- **Stable:** full fibre direct to premises, built for reliability
- **Scalable:** ready to meet bandwidth demands for the next decades
- **Cost effective:** enterprise grade connectivity at significantly lower operating costs than major metropolitan areas
- **Future ready:** enabling AI, automation, cloud, cybersecurity, remote work, and smart city capability

Broadband Coverage and Speed Test Statistics for Southend-on-Sea

Southend-on-Sea City Council

Southend-on-Sea's key growth sectors include creative and cultural industries, health and social care, specialist construction and specialist manufacturing. Our strategic sectors include aviation and engineering, financial services, medical technologies, retail and tourism.

Enabling economic growth and a strong and prosperous business community is integral to the work of Southend-on-Sea City Council. It has a key role in levelling up disparities across the city and bringing positive changes that benefit all communities in Southend-on-Sea.



The Southend-on-Sea Economic Growth Strategy 2024 to 2028 is a key document for the council and the city. It is realistic, strategic, and adaptable. With this strategy, we aim to:

- Support established businesses and organisations in Southend-on-Sea to achieve sustainable economic growth, particularly those in our key growth and strategic sectors, and drive the development of local skills, employment, and infrastructure.
- Promote Southend-on-Sea as the home of micro, small and medium sized enterprises to deliver a growing business base in the city.
- Improve our skills base, attract new talent, and improve access to high quality jobs for employees, jobseekers, and students, particularly those in wards with lower skills and employment levels.
- **Southend ranked 4th most productive council in England** - The IMPOWER Index February 2026

Southend-on-Sea City Council has been ranked 4th most productive council in England in the latest IMPOWER Index Top 10. The Index measures how effectively councils deliver outcomes for every pound spent and aims to promote outcome focused decision making and celebrate strong management across the sector.

Southend's position reflects the council's reset over the past two years, strengthened performance, and the dedication and professionalism of staff. It also highlights the value we deliver for residents and the strong organisational focus on using public money well.

Southend-on-Sea City Council economic inclusion

Business

Local businesses can access a free initial triage with our business navigators, where we will look to gain key insights about the business.

Whether they are starting up, looking to grow, or are seeking to overcome challenges to their business, we can help. Our team are dedicated to helping them find the right support and provide advice on all aspects of business growth.

Follow us on:
Facebook: BusinessOnSea
Linkedin: BusinessOnSea
Website: www.businessonsea.co.uk



Skills

We host and deliver Halo Mid and South Essex to prepare our residents with health and social care training pathways and experience to raise confidence, develop skills and take steps towards securing employment.

halo Southend, Basildon, Chelmsford & Thurrock

Greater Essex CAREERS HUB

The Greater Essex Careers Hub brings together secondary schools, colleges, special schools and alternative provisions with partners from across the county to help every young person take their next best step into further education, training or employment.

There are a range of flexible ways for employers to get involved. Opportunities include offering strategic insight to help schools and colleges strengthen their careers provision, as well as engaging directly with young people to share industry knowledge and real world experience. This could involve activities such as career talks, mock interviews, careers events, workplace visits, skill building workshops or work experience placements.

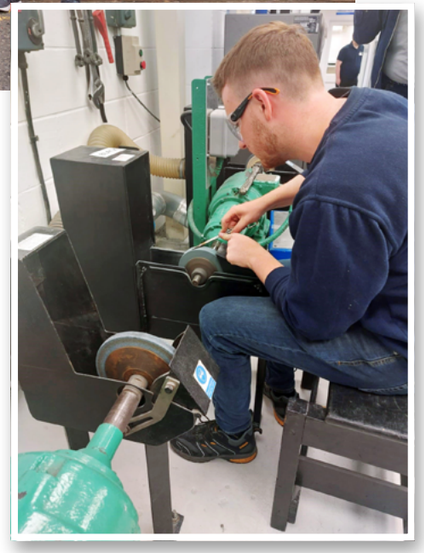
Whatever the level of involvement, employer engagement plays a vital role in inspiring and preparing young people for the world of work.

INDUSTRY CHAMPIONS



surgicalholdings

Founded in 1988 and deeply rooted in the heart of Southend-on-Sea, Surgical Holdings is a trusted family-run business that boasts over thirty years' experience. The company's passion for finely crafted surgical instruments started four generations ago by George Poole, who created his own business making finely crafted surgical instruments back in 1910. George's commitment to excellence was passed down through generations, resulting in the creation of Surgical Holdings.



Case study: Surgical Holdings

Today Philip Coole remains as Chairman, with his son Daniel at the helm as Managing Director – a role he took in 1995 after a gruelling apprenticeship! With a reputation for quality and excellence, the company is proud to have CE accreditation for the manufacture and supply of instruments and orthopaedic implants. They employ a team of highly skilled surgical instrument technicians and sell finely crafted instruments directly to the NHS and private sector organisations worldwide.

Daniel Coole, Managing Director of Surgical Holdings, said...

"At Surgical Holdings, we've always believed in the power of skill-sharing and education. It's been ingrained in our DNA for four generations. We love opening our doors to visitors at our friendly workshop right here in Southend-on-Sea. We encourage them to have a chat with our talented technicians because there's nothing quite like firsthand knowledge from the experts themselves.

"We are incredibly proud of our partnership with South Essex College. They are our go-to for engineering training and RM training for admin apprenticeships. We are firm believers in investing in the local talent pool and equipping them with the skills they need to shine in their chosen fields.

"Our team of highly skilled technicians all undertake a minimum apprenticeship of five years and are also trained to manufacture instruments, not just repair them. This gives us an essential 360 degree understanding of the challenge and the importance of correctly functioning medical devices. We believe it's this comprehensive knowledge that sets us apart.

"We love being based in Southend-on-Sea, which is known for its thriving entrepreneurial community, creating a perfect environment of innovation and collaboration, all aligning with our vision and values. Beyond the exceptional work environment, it helps to have the stunning coast at our doorstep.

"We're also an excellent location for export customers. Our repair workshop is conveniently based just 40 miles from London, at the mouth of the Thames Estuary, and 5 minutes from London Southend Airport, which ensures swift turnaround times.

"While we've been around for generations, our commitment to training the next generation of skilled technicians remains as strong as ever. We're proud of our legacy, our partnerships, and the incredible community we call home."

www.surgicalholdings.co.uk

Flexible office space

The flexible space market has experienced significant changes as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. The demand for flexible space will continue to increase, as the need for a more agile portfolio strategy and employee mobility options expand.

In Southend there are a range of flexible business office spaces, tailored to suit every business's evolving needs.



Space282

Space282 was set up to be different, change with the times, give local people a space they want to work from. We don't just offer an office, but also the support of the workspace community, encouragement to believe and the ability to get stuff done. Our sites are located in Leigh-on-sea, Southend and Rayleigh.

Further details at: www.space282.co.uk
Contact: info@space282.co.uk



One Hub

Southend's entrepreneurial community is thriving, and One Hub provides a home for your business in the City Centre of Southend. We offer flexible terms on a range of workspaces from serviced offices and co-working options for local professionals from a variety of industries, all wrapped up in one fully inclusive bill with no lengthy leases or utility bills to worry about, leaving you to concentrate on building your business.

One Hub, 3rd and 7th Floor, Maitland House, Warrior Square, SS1 2JY

Further details at:
www.onehubsouthend.co.uk

Regional growth



The Thames Estuary Production Corridor is a significant new programme to unite East London, the North Kent coast and South Essex to create a world class centre for:

- **creative** and cultural production
- **leading** global innovation
- **creating** new jobs
- **developing** local talent
- **supporting** the rapid growth of the creative economy.

The potential of the corridor has already unlocked over £4.6million investment from central government into the estuary, including £4.3 million for the bold **Creative Estuary programme** using culture as the catalyst for growth.

CREATIVE ESTUARY

Local workforce

Southend-on-Sea is home to a large, diverse and willing workforce, ready to help your business reach its full potential.

- **Population (2024):** 185,256 (unitary authority).
- **Highly skilled workforce:** About 42.7% of working-age residents hold RQF4+ (degree level and above) – around 49,100 people.
- **Typical pay (employees):** Median full-time earnings for jobs worked in Southend are about £663.60 per week (ASHE 2024 workplace); residents' median is £828.90 per week (residence-based).
- **Regional labour market:** East of England has one of the highest employment rates (~78%) and among the lowest inactivity rates (17.9%) in late 2025, providing a deep talent pool.
- **Visitor economy:** Over 7 million visitors a year bolster the local customer base.
- **Largest employment sectors (employee jobs, 2023):** Human health & social work (17.5%), Wholesale & retail (14.3%), Education (11.1%).
- **Employment rate (residents):** 75.6% in the year ending Dec 2023; rising on the latest APS annual view into 2024/25.
- **Self-employment trend:** Fell from pre-pandemic levels in 2019 to 10% in 2023, with a rebound to 12–13% in 2024/25 (APS).
- **Business base:** 6,915 enterprises (2024).
- **Employee jobs:** 63,000 employee jobs in 2023 (BRES).

Essex Chambers of Commerce deliver local engagement, regional representation, and global opportunities.

As the only British Chambers of Commerce accredited Chamber in Essex, we are a forward-thinking membership organisation that continually evolves to meet the needs of modern business. We represent organisations of all sizes, supporting economic growth by championing major infrastructure projects and empowering our members through exclusive networking, professional development, and expert international trade support.

We operate countywide from two hubs located at the Launchpad at Southend Airport Business Park and the Innovation Centre, Colchester.

Further information can be found at www.essexchambers.co.uk

Federation of Small Business (FSB)

As experts in business, the Federation of Small Businesses offers members a wide range of vital business services including advice, financial expertise, support, and a powerful voice in government. As a not-for-profit business support organisation, they also engage with all small businesses of up to 250 employees, by providing an extensive programme of events, business guides, webinars, and reports.

Their Essex Development Manager works closely with partners and stakeholders in Southend to ensure that the small business community is represented.

For further details visit www.fsb.org.uk

The Southend Business Partnership (SBP)

A free network of around 2000+ businesses and community organisations across Southend and nearby areas. It brings together organisations of all sizes to share best practice, contacts, knowledge and news, supported by an Executive body.

Chaired by Murray Foster, SBP meets three times a year for early morning networking with free refreshments and talks from local business leaders. Members also receive monthly e newsletters with the latest news and opportunities. SBP is one of the largest business networks in Southend.

More information: www.businessonsea.co.uk/support-grants/southend-business-partnership/



Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

The online Midlife MOT to help older workers with financial planning, health guidance, and to assess what their skills mean for their careers and futures.

Check the status of your work, health and money - Midlife MOT

The free Midlife MOT website encourages people to review their skills and help to break down barriers to the labour market. It brings together trusted services, help such as a jobseeker toolkit and charity resources. It will allow people to identify job opportunities as well as better preparing them for later life and their retirement.

The website signposts key organisations and charities, including the NHS, Mind, MoneyHelper, Citizens Advice and DWP's find a job portal. www.gov.uk/find-a-job

As part of this, MoneyHelper has created a financial tool which will provide a personalised report to help people understand what to prioritise to improve their financial position, from now through to retirement. www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en/everyday-money/midlife-mot

Opportunity Southend

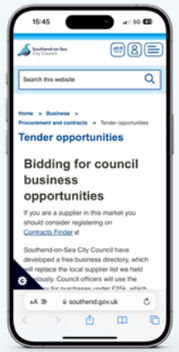
Southend-on-Sea City Council

it's local Business Directory

Southend Business Directory

'It's Local Southend' is a free dedicated business directory and marketing platform, for all businesses in the city. Council officers use the directory to source local companies and seek quotes for supplies and services up to £25,000 – making sure we spend as much as possible locally to support businesses.

To register visit: www.itslocalsouthend.co.uk/southend



Bidding for tender opportunities with the Council

The 'It's Local Southend' free business directory, replaces the local supplier list we held previously.

With our E-tendering system (Proactis) - local businesses can register and you will be notified of all public sector contracts from the dozens of public sector organisations advertising in your sector.

Find out all you need to know about bidding on public sector contracts within Southend-on-Sea.

Businesses Session - The Procurement Act 2023 and Bidding and Winning Public Sector Contracts 2025. visit: - www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Q8nxShRXhU

Find out more about tendering opportunities by visiting: - www.southend.gov.uk/procurement-contracts/tender-opportunities

Southend City Business Improvement District (BID)

Southend City BID was established in 2013 to provide levy paying businesses with a range of projects and additional services. Now in its third term these activities include the Street Ranger team who patrol the BID zone seven days a week, streetscape enhancements such as floral baskets and Christmas lighting, Southend Business Against Crime meetings and other safety initiatives. The BID also run events like the Christmas Switch on and Southend Cocktail Week and share business updates and information to levy payers.

For further details please visit www.SouthendBID.com

SOUTHEND CITY BID



Case study: Indirock

Indirock began as the idea of husband and wife, Gordon and Emily, back in 2019. After sharing their dreams with Southend Council's Economic Development Officer and then Director of Public Health, the idea quickly snowballed into a reality.

Keen to be based on Southend high street, the council helped connect them with the Victoria Shopping Centre, which was struggling at the time with high vacancy rates. After raising over £0.5m investment, all was set for Indirock's build and launch in time for summer 2020.

Then the pandemic struck, and the rug was pulled from under their plans. The shopping centre owners went bust. The couple faced deep uncertainty and it looked as though both their dreams of building Indirock and their own personal finances would go up in smoke.

However, Southend-on-Sea City Council stepped in to buy the Victoria Shopping Centre and although substantially delayed, builders were able to commence work and finally open Indirock's doors in March 2022. Indirock has enjoyed a close partnership with the council ever since and has benefitted from the tight-knit business and third sector community here in Southend.

Emily Vermont, CEO of Indirock, says:

"Despite all the challenges thrown at us, we came out fighting and couldn't have asked for a more successful first year in business. Through a crowdfunding campaign before launch, our local community came out in droves to support Indirock and were literally queuing out of the door to get in on day one.

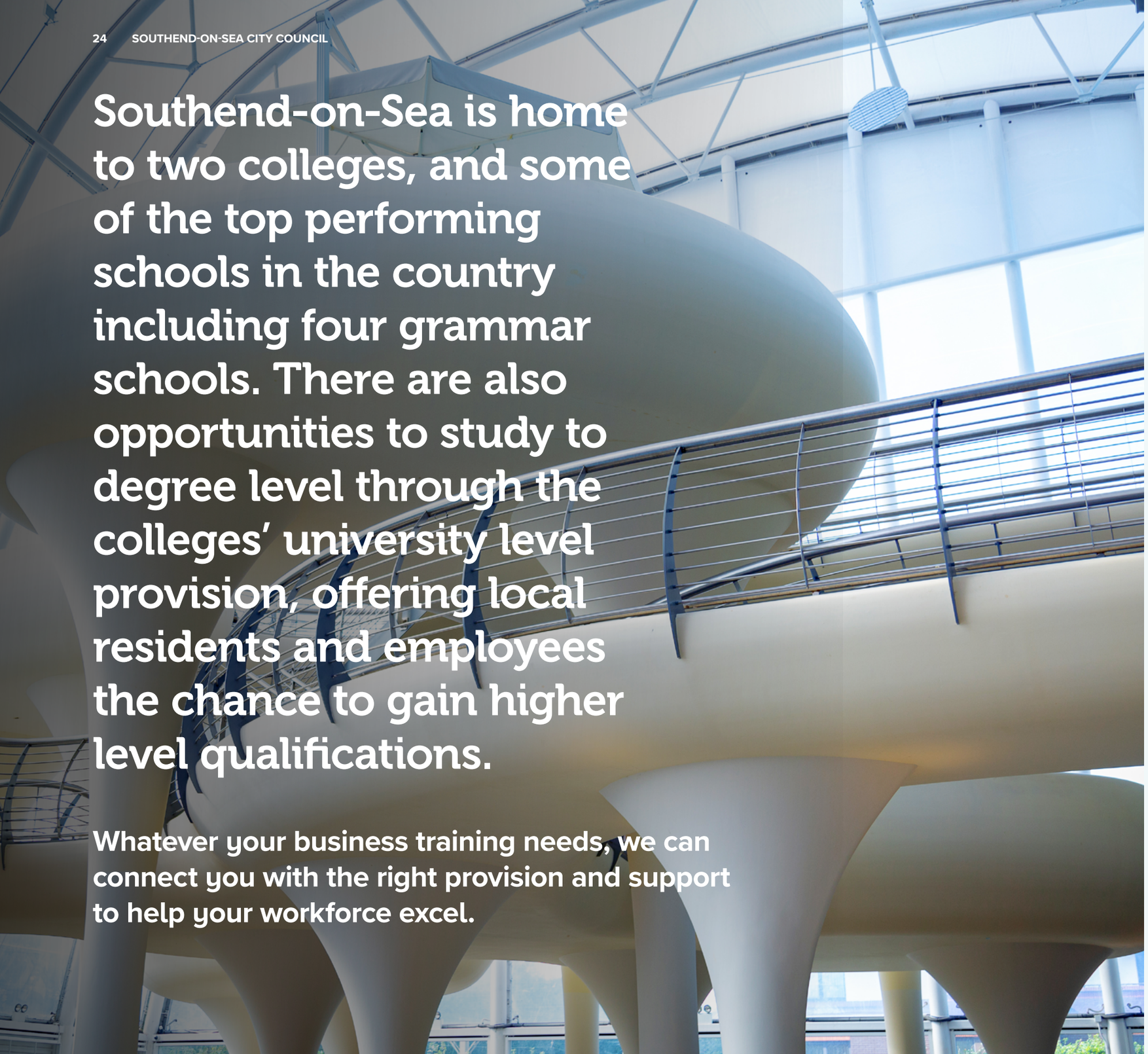
"Being located on our high street, although more expensive than renting an industrial unit, has proved a great move in attracting interest from passing footfall. We also regularly collaborate with other small businesses, and love the entrepreneurial buzz there is in our city. We couldn't imagine living or basing our business anywhere else!"

indirock.co.uk



INDIROCK

Indirock is an indoor climbing wall and coffee shop, hailed as the coolest new venue to hit Southend high street. It offers bouldering for all ages, from one to 70 plus!



Southend-on-Sea is home to two colleges, and some of the top performing schools in the country including four grammar schools. There are also opportunities to study to degree level through the colleges' university level provision, offering local residents and employees the chance to gain higher level qualifications.

Whatever your business training needs, we can connect you with the right provision and support to help your workforce excel.

Education

Southend-on-Sea offers a high-quality education and skills ecosystem, including four grammar schools, schools with selective grammar streams, sixth forms, further education colleges, and higher education through University Centre South Essex. Pupils achieve strong outcomes, with 76.5 % attaining GCSEs in English and Maths and excellent early-years and Key Stage 2 results. Thriving vocational training, community education at Southend Adult Community College and Council led initiatives support industry-ready skills, entrepreneurship, and microbusiness growth. This combination creates a talented, adaptable workforce aligned to local sectors such as digital, health, engineering, and business.

Southend-on-Sea City Council hosts the Greater Essex Careers Hub and supports the operation of the My Future My Southend initiative, creating a strong, future focused talent pipeline. This early preparation ensures employers can access a skilled, career driven workforce ready to support long term growth and innovation.

Green city

In 2021, the Council delivered its first Net Zero Carbon homes in partnership with Essex-based contractor Marfleet and Blyth. The scheme comprised four homes at Saxon Gardens, Shoeburyness and was highly commended at the Essex Housing Awards, demonstrating the Council's commitment to delivering high-quality, low-carbon affordable housing.

Building on this success, in early 2025 the Council completed 12 new homes at Eagle Way, Shoeburyness. These homes were designed in line with the emerging Future Homes Standard and benefit from enhanced fabric performance, increased insulation, solar PV panels, and air source heat pumps. The scheme was key to our success in winning the Low or Zero Carbon in New Build award at the Essex Housing Awards.

The Council is due to commence on site this year on three further sustainable housing schemes:

- Eagle Way (Phase 2) – 16 flats, highly insulated with low-carbon heating and solar PV. The scheme includes four M4(3) wheelchair user dwellings.
- Lundy Close – 9 homes, highly insulated, low-carbon heating and solar PV, including two M4(3) wheelchair user dwellings.
- Passivhaus Pilot – three homes comprising two semi-detached dwellings certified to the Passivhaus standard, and one home built to Passivhaus principles.

In addition, the Council is developing a larger Passivhaus scheme along Prince Avenue (the "Cattery" site), which is expected to deliver circa 28 certified Passivhaus homes, comprising a mix of houses and flats.

Alongside new-build delivery, the Council will continue to work with sustainable local contractors and partner with local businesses to support the delivery of its wider retrofit and sustainability programmes.

www.southendclimateaction.co.uk/retrofit/retrofit-1

ForwardMotion

ForwardMotion is the behaviour change brand of Southend-on-Sea City and Thurrock Councils. We work with individuals and organisations including businesses, training providers, schools and colleges to provide services that make alternative travel options accessible. Services include E-Cargo Bike loan, Bespoke cycle training, the cycle in hub in Southend-on-Sea offers free cycle checks & security tagging, and affordable recycled bikes for sale.

To get involved contact the ForwardMotion Team at forwardmotion@southend.gov.uk forwardmotionsouthessex.co.uk

Southend businesses are encouraged to be a 'Refill destination'



The council are encouraging local businesses and residents to help the city become a 'Refill destination' by providing greater access to drinking water as well as refill and reusable packaging.

This initiative, run by the not-for-profit EcoSurety, prevents plastic pollution and helps people live with less waste. The campaign is designed to create an alternative vison of the future and accelerate the transition away from single-use plastic and towards refill and reuse systems.

Southend also features on the EcoSurety refill app which connects people to places that provide free access to drinking water as well as places to eat, drink and shop with less waste.

If your business wishes to become a Refill station in Southend-on-Sea visit www.refill.org.uk where there are other useful tips to help you reduce plastic waste.



600 hectares of parks and open spaces

Southend has lowered it's emissions by 35%

Though it has experienced significant growth in recent years, Southend-on-Sea has retained strong links to nature and the environment.

With 5 internationally designated sites for nature conservation within the city and 600 hectares of parks and open spaces, Southend-on-Sea offers woodland, marshes, cliffs, meadows, rivers and glorious coastal scenery on your doorstep. We are committed to lowering our environmental impact in Southend and have a number of initiatives to lower emissions through energy efficiency and make Southend a truly Green City.

- 3 Blue Flag beaches at Shoebury Common, East Beach and Three Shells beach. 5 beaches won 'The Seaside Award'.
- 9 parks awarded Green Flag awards
- Access to regional walking trails including The Thames Estuary Path and the Roach Valley Way.
- Ancient woodland including Belfairs woods which is over 1000 years old and is the earliest recorded woodland in Essex.
- We have lowered our emissions by 35% from 2005.
- A commitment to plant 1,000 new trees over the next three years.
- Measures to promote electric car usage, rapidly increasing the number of charging points and offering free parking to electric vehicles.

Seaside living



The average sold house price in Southend is £341,893
Zoopla

Southend-on-Sea has a range of high-quality homes – from contemporary apartments with sea views to homes overlooking the beautiful Essex countryside and Thames Estuary. Recent developments include:

- **Clifftown Shore** A luxury Art Deco-inspired seafront development featuring 51 apartments and penthouses.
- **Prospects (Weston Homes):** A 92-apartment scheme located in Prittlewell, offering modern homes near the town centre.
- **Estuary View (Bellway):** A collection of 1, 2, and 3-bedroom apartments in Shoeburyness, close to Gunners Park and the seafront
- **Bluebell Place (Keepmoat):** Located at Fossetts Farm, this development offers a mix of residential options in a green, coastal setting.
- **The Meadow Grange** scheme is 221 dwellings, mixture of 1-4 bedrooms – 100% affordable scheme (Affordable rented & Shared ownership).
- **Regeneration Projects:** Significant developments are planned for Fossetts Farm and Shoebury Garrison, aiming to deliver over 1,200 and 700 new homes respectively.**Better Queensway** – bringing a new neighbourhood to Central Southend with new homes, new infrastructure and new places to work, play and thrive.
  McCarthy and Stone's Haydn Place - development on the former Nazareth House site. Haydn Place | Over 60s Retirement Home, Essex | McCarthy Stone.

These developments often feature high-spec, energy-efficient designs with easy access to London transport links via Southend Victoria Train Station and Southend Central Station.

The 2 train lines serve 9 stations across the city.



Quality of life and business by the sea

Southend has won multiple awards for it's beaches.

Southenders enjoy an outdoor lifestyle with 7 miles of glorious coastline which is part of the 350 mile 'Discovery Coast'. Southend-on-Sea combines desirable coastal living with access to numerous green spaces, nature reserves and sports facilities.

- Blue Flag and Seaside Awards. Southend-on-Sea has three Blue Flag Awards at East Beach Shoeburyness, Shoebury Common, Three Shells beach, and five Seaside Awards at Chalkwell Beach, Jubilee Beach, Leigh Bell Wharf, Thorpe Bay and Wescliff Bay. The blue flags for 2026 will be announced in May but these are the current accreditations.
- Southend Pier is the city's most treasured, historical icon as well as being the longest pleasure pier in the world. It stretches for 1.33 miles out into the Thames Estuary, putting Southend on the map as well as into the record books. The pier has been awarded 'pier of the year' 2023 from the National Pier Society and voted best pier by the Telegraph in 2025.
- The region receives praise for strong community spirit, skills, education opportunities restaurants, and shops.
- First class sports and leisure facilities with local swimming and diving facilities used by the Olympic Team GB and the London 2012 mountain biking course at nearby Hadleigh Country Park.
- Water sport activities including Paddle board, kayaking and kite surfing on the coast.
- A wide range of restaurants and culinary options with over 300 eateries across the city.
- Famous nightlife with vibrant bars, nightclubs, and casinos. Southend has retained its Purple Flag for nighttime safety for the twelve-year running!

Culture

Southend has a vibrant and rich cultural offer and is a place that blends cultural heritage and historic architecture with contemporary art and innovative architectural design. Southend-on-Sea has two theatres attracting internationally acclaimed productions, musicians and comedians, the Cliffs Pavilion, and the Palace theatre. Creative industries are flourishing and our live music scene that has produced a number of internationally recognised artists and bands continues to thrive. The town also has strong sporting heritage with a fantastic mix of amateur and professional sports teams including Southend United Football Club.

- A number of cultural festivals throughout the year including the Leigh Folk Festival, Southend City Jam, the Halloween Parade, Southend Film festival and the Leigh Regatta.
- Internationally significant heritage collections. The Prittlewell Princely Burial at Southend Central Museum is the earliest archaeological evidence of a Christian burial from the Anglo-Saxon period.
- Art galleries such as the Beecroft Gallery with its fine art collection and works from artists including Constable and Reynolds, to Focal Point Gallery with its contemporary arts focus and 'Radical Essex' project.
- Performing and visual arts with world famous comedians and musicians frequently performing in Southend.
- Several delightful historic buildings including the 12th century Prittlewell Priory and the 14th century Southchurch Hall

Two theatres attracting internationally acclaimed productions



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