

your guide to

Economic growth

and business support

2023 - 2024



**Supporting and growing
our local economy – find out
more details on page 5**

Welcome

Against a challenging economic backdrop, it's been a great year for local businesses - since January 2022, we've seen 980 new businesses start up across the district.

We would like to thank the 400 businesses who responded to our latest business survey which has helped us understand the issues facing our local business community and how we might help to address them. As part of the survey, I was delighted to read that 91.9% of businesses said they felt proud to trade in the Braintree District.

In this year's booklet we've set out some of the updated business advice and support which is available from the Council and our partners which we hope you will find useful.

We've got some new fantastic facilities you are able to make use of to help your business start up, innovate and grow – head to page 4 for more details. Our Economic Development officers are designing an exciting programme of business support events and training to take place to support you, which will be focussed on resilient business support, inclusive people and skills, sustainable green economy and infrastructure and connectivity.

The role you and your business play in supporting a prosperous economy is an important one, you provide the jobs and services our residents rely on and keep our local economy healthy.

Our team are here to support and help you access the right services you need. Please contact them at anytime.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and wish you a successful year.



Councillor Tom Cunningham
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Growth at Braintree District Council



www.locatebraintreedistrict.co.uk



Funding support and advice

Here is a list of the latest funding, training and support opportunities available to you.

Our Economic Development team

are here to help and provide support at any time. Join our closed Facebook Group.

www.facebook.com/groups/braintreedistrictbusinesses

@ecodev@braintree.gov.uk

01376 552525

Essex County Council

Business support service in partnership with Let's Do Business Group, growth and funding opportunities, training and apprenticeships and more.

www.essex.gov.uk/support-for-businesses/

BEST Growth Hub

Free business support on planning, funding, networking, scaleup, pre-start-ups & start-ups, problem solving and more.

www.southeastbusiness.org.uk/essex-southend-thurrock/

0300 303 4864

Visit Essex

Help and support for tourism, leisure and hospitality businesses.

www.visitessex.com

Fully funded business support packages

are available through our North Essex Economic Board partnership.

- Start-up support
- Introduction to finance
- Import and export support
- Digital skills and cyber security
- Transitioning to low carbon

colbea.co.uk/

@enquiries@colbea.co.uk

01206 548833

FREE training opportunities

Sustainable Business Training

colbea.co.uk/learn/low-carbon

Learn how to get started on measuring and reducing your carbon impact. Turn pledges into actions and experts will help your support business in the quest to become net zero.

FREE workshop for all businesses

We are offering a FREE workshop on how to recruit staff and upskill employees from business growth experts.

The Plaza, Great Notley, Essex, CM77 7AU
Wednesday 22 March from 10am-12noon

This workshop, funded through the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund, covers how to recruit people with the right skills, maintain top talent and manage the processes around people and their development.

SCAN THE QR CODE to reserve a spot.



Get the latest business information and advice



Receive updates on local and national funding opportunities, celebrating local business achievements and more. Sign up to our free business e-newsletter online at www.braintree.gov.uk/tellmemore



Workspaces, offices and event spaces available

TO LET OR HIRE

- 42 private offices
- A co-working space with dedicated desks and hot desks
- Meeting rooms
- Seminar room with access to roof terrace
- Conference and event spaces
- Café Plaza

Benefits

- Access to business support programmes and networking opportunities
- Flexible terms
- Set in an attractive environment, adjacent to the Great Notley Country Park

BOOK A TOUR:
www.theplazacentre.co.uk



Our strategy for economic growth

We recently unveiled a strategy which we believe will support and grow the local economy over the next five years.

Our vision is to create a sustainable economy resilient to the challenges of climate change and a competitive one which supports the growth of businesses and high-quality jobs.



The key priorities set out in the strategy include:

- Making improvements to public transport and the infrastructure and connectivity needed to attract new businesses
- Offering support programmes to all businesses with additional focus for those within key sectors
- Supporting residents with training and qualifications in an effort to improve skills to mitigate the cost-of-living crisis
- Supporting low and zero carbon initiatives to reduce the district's carbon footprint



The final strategy will be available to view on our website once approved in March 2023.

www.braintree.gov.uk/economicstrategy

GO GREEN as a team

Consider where you are currently

Gather your team together to think about your current carbon footprint impact and have a brainstorm of hot spots for improvement.

You could think about themes and business processes to include transport; energy usage, procurement, biodiversity and nature opportunities and adapting to the effects of climate change.



24% of the UK's total emissions
in 2020 is produced
by transport

Many local businesses will be considering their policies towards carbon reduction. We have some tips and advice on how you can tackle climate change and play your part, which will also help you save money.

Every action makes a difference as we aim to move towards a Net Zero society. Make 2023 a year of staff engagement for and creating a culture of Climate Change Action.



Think about travel and transport

Every business is different and operates in a completely unique way but do consider if there are ways to either reduce car journeys of staff to and from work or reduce the actual travel within business operations.

Creating a Green Travel Plan for staff is a great start but also consider sharing business trip journeys within work hours or hold meetings online. Support staff by installing secure cycle shelters and shower, locker facilities. Install electric vehicle charging points for both staff and work vehicles.



Make staff pledges

Ask every member of your team to make one climate change pledge which they shall commit to for the business year ahead. Support your team to make their pledge measurable, achievable, and personally rewarding and celebrate them too!



Scatter some joy

Do you have any outside space at your business premises where you could scatter some wildflower seeds or even plant a few trees? Wildflowers flourish in poor quality soil and take little to no maintenance but can look beautiful as well as encourage wider biodiversity. If you have planters, then consider using drought-resistant plants this year such as lavender or rosemary to reduce the need for watering. If you have a space for some tree planting, then also install a water butt for rain water collection.



Turn down the heat

With rising energy bills over the past year, turning down the heating within business premises has been on most business owners' minds. Consider localising the heating within your premises and using individual thermostats to turn the heating down in areas that are not used regularly.



Go paper-light

Saving documents to a cloud-based storage system can benefit colleagues working from home and also save carbon from reduced printing. Encourage your team to consider what they are printing and whether it is essential. Maybe ask your stakeholders whether they would prefer a paper-free transaction too!



GET TIPS AND IDEAS

to help your business with climate change and sustainability and keeping your impact on the environment low.

Access the Essex Climate Action Commission pack at www.essexclimate.org.uk/essex-business-advice-pack



Businesses leading the way to tackle climate change



Feering Parish Council

accessed several different grant funding streams, including £20,000 from the Essex County Council Climate Action Challenge Fund. They have successfully installed 39 solar panels to the roof of their Community Centre, swapped the centre's lighting to LED, replaced aluminium windows with double glazed UPVC and replaced a 1987 gas boiler with a far more energy efficient model.



The Parish and the local community are continuing to work hard to reduce their energy usage and also looking at various means of harvesting rainwater.



Oliver's Plants

Oliver Wass, the owner of Oliver's Plants in Earls Colne, has introduced some fantastic sustainable measures and is determined to protect the planet for generations to come.



Putting climate change at the forefront of his business plan, Oliver is constantly looking to reduce, reuse and recycle - from rainwater harvesting, to using LED computer-controlled coloured lighting to bring on seedlings, using technology to calculate the perfect spectrum of light needed based on the height and type of plant to reduce wasted energy.

www.braintree.gov.uk/climatechange

Get in touch with us

Our team are here to support you towards being more environmentally friendly. We would love to hear what you are already up to as well as how we can work best to support you moving forward. Email us at climatechange@braintree.gov.uk

FREE guidance, advice and tools to tackle climate change

Every fortnight we can support your business with useful tools, tips and links to inspire your business to be environmentally conscious as well as working towards tackling climate change through our free business newsletter.

SIGN UP TODAY:
www.braintree.gov.uk/tellmemore



Helping your business thrive

The North Essex Economic Board is **providing free business support** to help local firms survive and thrive.

To find out what is on offer
visit www.NEEB.org.uk



**North Essex
Economic
Board**

NEEB is a partnership of Braintree, Tendring, Uttlesford & Maldon District Councils, Chelmsford City Council, Colchester City Council and Essex County Council

We can help your business...

- **Commercial waste collection**
helping you to reduce, reuse and recycle your waste in a package tailored to your business needs
- **Pest control**
helping to keep your business premises free of pests
- **Unique advertising opportunities**
roundabouts, vehicle billboards, printed publications, car park posters, internal screensavers
- **Building control**
local knowledge and advice, dangerous structure inspections and more
- **Grounds maintenance**
specialist services including grass/hedge cutting, planting and gritting



Contact us

Braintree District Council
Causeway House Braintree,
Essex CM7 9HB

 www.braintree.gov.uk/sponsorship

 sales@braintree.gov.uk

 01376 552525



 @BraintreeDC

 braintreedistrictcouncil

Design and print

- Brochures and leaflets
- Banners and point-of-sale
- Business cards and calendars
- Logos and newsletters and much more



 01376 557747
 bdcdesignandprint@braintree.gov.uk

design
print

digi
go on demand

For information
on our operational
area, visit
www.digigo.uk



Let DigiGo get your business to its next destination

 Book, Track, Ride
via the TravelEssex app

DigiGo is an electric, shared public transport service. It's not a taxi or a traditional bus. DigiGo can help businesses and employees get to where they need to go 7 days a week, 7am until 10pm (excluding bank holidays).

Example journeys include commuting to Skyline 120, Springwood Industrial Estate or travelling to bus or train stations. If you'd like to discuss how DigiGo can support your business, email DigiGo@essex.gov.uk to arrange a visit.

How do I book DigiGo?



Scan here to download the TravelEssex app and book a DigiGo journey

Unable to use the app?
You can also book the service by calling
03330 137 138, Monday-Friday, between
10am and 12pm (excluding bank holidays).

Interested?

Email
DigiGo@essex.gov.uk
or call
03330 137 138

Braintree District Venues

We have a wide range of flexible spaces at 3 locations across the district designed for your perfect meeting or event.

All venues easily accessible with hybrid meeting equipment and available to hire.

Braintree Town Hall



Braintree Town Hall,
Market Place,
Braintree,
Essex
CM7 3YG

I-Construct, Braintree



I-Construct,
Braintree
Enterprise Centre,
46 Springwood Drive,
Braintree,
Essex
CM7 2YN

The Plaza



The Plaza,
Enterprise &
Innovation Centre
Rutherford Park
Great Notley
Braintree, Essex
CM77 7AU

Call 01376 557776

www.braintree.gov.uk/braintreedistrictvenues



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