

2025

# ECONOMIC GROWTH

## AND BUSINESS SUPPORT GUIDE



Empowering  
businesses

Future  
proofing our  
communities



**Braintree**  
District Council



# Services to support your business

- **Commercial waste collection**  
Reduce, reuse and recycle your waste in a package tailored to your business
- **Pest control**  
Keep your business free of pests
- **Advertising opportunities**  
Roundabouts, vehicle billboards, printed publications, car park posters and internal screensavers
- **Building control**  
Local knowledge and advice, dangerous structure inspections and more
- **Grounds maintenance**  
Specialist services including grass/hedge cutting, painting and gritting



## Contact us

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Essex CM7 9HB

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**Our creative team have a wealth of experience and work with a variety of organisations, charities and local businesses.**

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# Welcome



As a business operating in today's dynamic environment, navigating opportunities, challenges and growth requires the right tools, connections and support.

Whether you're starting out, scaling up or exploring new ways to innovate, we are committed to equipping you with the resources you need to thrive. From mentoring and training opportunities to sustainability initiatives and digital tools, the support outlined in these pages highlight practical solutions aimed at supporting your needs.

Explore how fully funded programmes provide expert guidance, how green initiatives can help your business

adapt to the future and how events like job fairs and business expos foster growth, learning and connections. In addition, discover how the allocation of capital grants have been supporting businesses and future-proofing vital community assets as well as enhancing resilience in rural areas. This booklet showcases a whole host of opportunities aimed at helping businesses build a sustainable and successful future.

Looking ahead to the next financial year, our focus will be on supporting the creation of higher paid and higher skilled jobs. This will be achieved through our refreshed action plan which outlines clear steps aimed at fostering growth, resilience and innovation.

Partnerships will remain a cornerstone of our approach too. Our partnership with the North Essex Economic Board is leading the way in enhancing business

support and by pooling resources we are investing in skills and innovation, ensuring local businesses are equipped to meet emerging opportunities.

Plans are also underway to identify and deliver projects aimed at driving business growth thanks to the allocation of funds from central government. This work aligns closely with the rollout and delivery of the government's *modern industrial strategy* ensuring efforts are targeted, impactful and future-focused.

Needless to say, there are plenty of exciting projects and opportunities on the horizon. I hope we can work together to unlock your business's full potential and shape a prosperous future for the district.

**Cllr Frankie Ricci,**  
Cabinet Member for  
Economic Growth and  
Infrastructure

# EMPOWERING BUSINESSES

## WITH KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND INSIGHTS

We showcased sustainability, digital tools and career opportunities in a series of events aimed at fostering innovation and connecting talent.

### Connecting local talent with opportunities



The job fairs attracted over 500 job seekers and featured 30+ exhibitors, including Colchester Institute and ACL, Maycast Nokes, Stansted Airport and McDonalds.

Attendees explored career opportunities, training programmes, apprenticeships and graduate schemes and received valuable guidance for roles at all levels.

The fairs held in Witham and Halstead were a great success in connecting local talent with employers and training providers.

Sectors including health and social care, manufacturing, administration, education, hospitality, retail and the life sciences were well represented.

### Building stronger businesses



With our business networking events, we are supporting local businesses with valuable resources and opportunities for growth.

By bringing together experts from various sectors, we are helping businesses gain the knowledge, skills and connections they need to thrive.



### Empowering businesses with digital tools



The Digital Skills Showcase and Business Expo focused on equipping businesses with the tools needed to harness digital innovation.

From workshops to insightful talks led by industry experts, it was a day packed with learning and networking.

The main highlights included a keynote speech from The Bank of England, expert panels on AI and workshops covering topics such as funding, tax and IT cost-saving strategies.

All attendees said the showcase had improved their knowledge of AI and 40% said they would be adapting new technologies as a result.



### Connecting businesses to a greener future



At the Green Business Expo, we supported a vibrant mix of local businesses and organisations united by a commitment to sustainability.


Speakers spanning sectors such as farming, digital marketing, university research and construction shared insights and experiences on adopting green practices.

The event featured dynamic networking opportunities and inspiring talks, with 94% of attendees finding it useful for their business and 72% pledging to work differently as a result.



Both events, funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, underline our commitment to supporting local businesses with the resources they need to succeed.

If you'd like to exhibit or take part in future events, email:

 [ecodev@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:ecodev@braintree.gov.uk)





North Essex  
Economic  
Board

# Fully funded support for your business in Braintree

Supporting local businesses to grow plays a key role in creating a stronger North Essex for all - that's why the North Essex Economic Board has a number of free support programmes and initiatives to help your business succeed.

# What does your business need to grow?

Get in touch today



Digital Skills and  
learning



1:1 Advice with a  
Business Mentor



Dedicated Business  
Support



Finance & Debt  
support



Support with Carbon  
Reduction



Finding further  
support



Young Entrepreneurs  
Programme



Workshops and  
networking events



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

**To find out more about fully funded  
support programmes from NEEB,  
visit [www.NEEB.org.uk](http://www.NEEB.org.uk)**

# FUNDING, SUPPORT AND ADVICE

A round up of the free support and funding opportunities available to businesses



## NORTH ESSEX ECONOMIC BOARD

A range of fully funded services, including mentoring, skills training, tools and tips.

Whether you're starting a new business or looking to expand an existing one, the service can help you maximise your potential as well as provide you with the tools needed to help address challenges along the way.

[www.neeb.org.uk/help-for-your-business](http://www.neeb.org.uk/help-for-your-business)



## BEST GROWTH HUB

Free and impartial signposting to funding and finance opportunities, one-to-one business advice as well as training opportunities for scaleups, pre-startup and startup businesses.

[www.bestgrowthhub.org.uk](http://www.bestgrowthhub.org.uk)



## GREEN OPPORTUNITIES AND SKILLS

A one-stop shop for residents, learners, employers and partner organisations with an interest in sustainability skills, careers, jobs and resources.

[www.essexgreenskills.co.uk](http://www.essexgreenskills.co.uk)

## LEAN2GREEN

Free tailored, one-to-one expert advice to businesses on becoming sustainable without financial outlay, through efficiencies and streamlining. Businesses must have been operating for at least 18 months and have three or more employees.

[www.mkrslutionsltd.co.uk/net-zero](http://www.mkrslutionsltd.co.uk/net-zero)

## ENHANCING GREEN SKILLS

A range of funded Retrofit courses and qualifications up to and including the Level 5 Diploma in Retrofit Coordination and Risk Management.

Retrofit in its simplest terms is about upgrading homes to become more energy efficient.

[www.aclessex.com/funded-training/retrofit/](http://www.aclessex.com/funded-training/retrofit/)

## ESSEX OPPORTUNITIES

An employers' hub designed to promote vacancies and help businesses attract early talent.

The hub offers a range of services which support employers, such as the ability to share job vacancies on its portal as well as help with recruiting apprentices.

[www.essexopportunities.co.uk](http://www.essexopportunities.co.uk)



## CONTACT US

If you have questions or need support:

Email [ecodev@braintree.gov.uk](mailto:ecodev@braintree.gov.uk)

Call **01376 552525** and ask for Economic Development

## SIGN UP to our free business e-newsletter

Receive updates on local, regional and national funding opportunities, training courses, apprenticeship schemes and other business opportunities.  
[www.braintree.gov.uk/tellmemore](http://www.braintree.gov.uk/tellmemore)







Funded by  
UK Government

# Community assets transformed thanks to rural government grants

Our team has been busy awarding government grants to businesses and organisations within our communities in a bid to future-proof vital community assets, improve energy efficiency and enhance resilience in rural areas.



Cllr Gabrielle Spray, Cllr Peter Schwier, Cllr Jane Taylor and Cllr Diana Garrod

One of the recipients, White Colne Parish Council was awarded £43,000 from the UK Government's Rural England Prosperity Fund to boost the energy efficiency of its village hall.

The project has seen the installation of thirty solar panels, an air source heat pump, an EV charging point and a battery storage system to store captured energy.

A large energy display board showing how much energy is generated, stored and exported has been installed to showcase the building's net zero capabilities too. As part of the decarbonisation measures, the old gas boiler has also been replaced with a commercial electric stove.

The village hall, which dates back to the Victorian era, is a hub for the community and offers a venue for events, markets, regular classes and meetings. It also has hot desks for locals wanting an alternative to working from home.



In total, eighteen organisations have received **£589K** from the UK Government's Rural England Prosperity Fund for the execution of capital projects in rural areas.



Cllr Jane Taylor (Chair of White Colne Parish Council)



Cllr Peter Schwier, Lead Member for Rural Issues, said:



We're pleased to have played our part in bringing much-needed investment to our rural communities through the administration of this government fund. With this support, White Colne Village Hall is improving its energy efficiency, reducing costs and providing a more comfortable and sustainable space for the community. Through these individual investments, we're future-proofing vital community assets and enhancing the resilience of rural areas.



With these upgrades, the hall is now able to generate its own electricity, bringing cost savings as well as energy saving efficiencies. Excess energy will be traded on a peer-to-peer basis adding an additional source of income. Exchanging energy on a peer-to-peer basis with local businesses and residents (instead of the National Grid) means better export rates and cheaper tariffs for the end consumer.

# Flexible spaces

A range of bookable meeting rooms,  
conference and event spaces available  
for hire at competitive prices

Prices  
start at  
**£12.00**  
+ vat  
per hour



## I-Construct

46 Springwood Drive,  
Braintree  
CM7 2YN



## The Plaza

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



**SCAN THE QR CODE**  
for the website

**Venues**