

Surrey Business Support Service

20 May 2024



Business Surrey – a new Surrey County Council service offering free and accessible support to businesses across the county – has officially been launched by Chancellor of the Exchequer, Jeremy Hunt.

From start-ups to longstanding SMEs, Surrey companies of all sizes, sectors and stages of their business journey can access expert support for no cost via a new website www.businesssurrey.co.uk.

The Council developed the offer to coincide with the transfer of strategic powers to grow the economy previously held by the county's two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

It means for the first time there is a single, co-ordinated business support offer for the whole of Surrey – something which is welcomed by local leaders.

Matt Furniss, Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Economic Growth, said: *"Surrey has a fantastic economic story to tell – with more than 100,000 businesses, a highly-skilled workforce and world-leading sectors helping generate more than £50 billion a year to the UK economy."*

"But we know there's more that we can do – which is why I am delighted we have developed Business Surrey, providing a simple and easy way for companies of all sizes to access the support they need to grow."

"By being in a position to support businesses from day one of being handed these functions from LEPs, we are ahead of the national curve – something which can only be positive for our 1.2 million residents and 110,000 businesses."

Business Surrey provides free and accessible support for all businesses in Surrey – such as targeted bespoke support for high growth companies, highlighting networking events, promoting the county's innovative sectors, and hosting a live directory of more than 100 national and local initiatives.

The new website also brings together of the business-facing aspects of the Council's work, including trading standards, Greener Futures and Surrey Fire & Rescue.

Business Surrey went live in April and was officially launched at Huskins in Godalming by the Chancellor Jeremy Hunt last week (Friday May 17).

Also speaking was Tim Oliver, Leader of Surrey County Council; Shahid Azeem, the High Sheriff of Surrey; and local tech entrepreneur Terence Naidu.

Representatives from Surrey County Council, business groups, universities and the county's 11 district and borough authorities were among those attending.

Jeremy Hunt, Chancellor of the Exchequer and MP for South West Surrey, said: *"Surrey is a fantastic place to do business. The innovation and ideas of its residents, combined with sector strengths in creative industries, and tech and life sciences, make it a pivotal region in driving growth for the whole of the UK."*

"That's why it's great to see Surrey County Council using the newly transferred powers formally held by LEPs to develop a clear offer to support businesses."

"I would urge businesses at all stages of their journey to contact the Business Surrey team to access expert help and support."

Tim Oliver, Leader of Surrey County Council, said: *"Growing the economy in a sustainable way is a priority for the Council, which can only be achieved by working and engaging with our fantastic business community."*

"Growth is not only good for business; it also generates opportunities for local people, supports investment in our communities, and improves the lives and wellbeing of our 1.2 million residents."

"We're looking forward to continuing to work closely with our universities, businesses, and local authority partners to capitalise on our enhanced strategic economic role, as it is only through shared expertise that we stand the best chance of growing our economies."

As part of the launch, Surrey County Council has teamed up with Surrey Chambers of Commerce to hold a series of Business Surrey Roadshow events next month.

The sessions will include practical ways for business owners to access support to grow their enterprises, as well as opportunities to connect with like-minded professionals.

The events take place on:

- June 4 in Camberley - Login Lounge from 8am
- June 6 in Egham - Royal Holloway, University of London from 6pm
- June 13 in Horley - Langshott Manor Hotel from 8am
- June 21 in Leatherhead - Fetcham Park House from 8am

Pre-booking for the events is essential. Secure your space via the Business Surrey website - www.businesssurrey.co.uk/events.

Image: Cllr Matt Furniss, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP and Cllr Tim Oliver at the launch of Business Surrey