



South Somerset District Council

SSDC4Business Newsletter

Keep up to date with all the latest information about local business matters and economic development projects in the South Somerset area.

Upcoming Events

1st November 2016
Bishopsgate, London

3rd November 2016
Yeovil Golf Club, Yeovil

Global Business Network Live

British Chamber of Commerce
event for SMEs

Guide to LinkedIn

Strengthen professional
relationships and get connected

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15th November 2016
Fleet Air Arm Museum

16th November 2016
Abbey Manor Business Centre

South Somerset Careers Fair
Exhibitors welcome

Employment Law Seminar
Hosted by Rebecca Bevins HR
Consultancy

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17th November 2016
Yeovil Golf Club

Speed Networking for Businesses

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30th November 2016
Manor Hotel, Yeovil

The HR Club
Kevin from the REC as guest speaker

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News and Events

Business Rates Revaluation



Business rates are charged on most business properties such as shops, offices, pubs, warehouses and factories. However, the property doesn't have to be used for a business - if it is used for purposes which are not domestic it is likely to be rateable.

The Valuation Office Agency (VOA) sets the rateable value of business premises by using property details such as rental

information. SSDC use the rateable value and the business rates multiplier (set by central government) to calculate a business rates bill.

On 30 September 2016, the VOA published over 1.9m draft rateable values online. This will be business premises new rateable value from April 2017 which will be used to calculate business rates.

The Government have yet to announce what the business rate multiplier will be and what the transitional scheme will look like. They have announced changes to the small business relief scheme but not given any detail on this yet. Until we receive this information we are not able to forecast what a customer business rates will actually be but can only advise them what their rateable value is. The details of the other schemes should be announced in the Autumn statement in November/December 2016.

You can go online and check your rateable value for 2017 here www.gov.uk/voa/revaluation. As soon as details of the business multiplier and any transitional relief is available the VOA will be updating their online service so people will be able to quickly find their property and get an estimate of their 2017-18 bills - enabling them to start planning for next year.

If you believe you are eligible for small business rates relief then you can contact our business rates team on 01935 462121 or visit the website for more information.

Data Protection Legislation Changes



If your business handles personal data then you need to be aware that Data Protection laws are changing.

Currently the law on the protection of personal data is governed by the Data Protection Act 1998

(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/29/contents>) but as of the 25 May 2018 the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) will come into force. This Regulation provides a new set of rules to govern the processing of personal data and covers data protection law on a European Union wide basis.

Although it may be argued that this Regulation will no longer be relevant in light of 'Brexit', the GDPR requires that businesses outside of the EU who wish to process personal data about EU citizens will still have to show that they have adequate provisions in place to protect the personal data of EU citizens. Additionally, the Information Commissioner's Office (the UK's independent body set up to uphold information rights) has called for the Government to implement the GDPR even after our withdrawal from the EU. As a result the ICO is advising that businesses and organisations familiarise themselves with the GDPR's main principles and concepts and start making preparations.

The key changes that the GDPR brings in are:

- The strengthening of consent - When relying on consent as the justification for the processing of personal data, consent will need to meet very high standards and overcome certain conditions.
- The introduction of significantly reinforced rights - For example to time to respond to a Subject Access Request (SAR) is reduced to one month and the £10 fee which can be charged has been removed. The individual will also have 'the right to be forgotten'.
- Breach notification - Where there has been a data breach

which puts individuals at risk, organisations are obliged to inform the ICO within 72 hours of spotting an incident. Where there is a high risk to individuals, controllers and processors will need to notify the individuals as well.

- Privacy notices - The information to be provided where personal data is obtained from a data subject is more stringent and will include information such as retention periods, whether data is being transferred outside of the EEA and details about security.
- Privacy Impact Assessments (PIA) - Where projects involve the processing of personal data result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals, prior to such processing an assessment of the impact of the envisaged processing operations on the protection of personal data.
- The increase to fines - A breach of the GDPR can see organisations being fined up to €20 million or 4% of annual worldwide turnover, whichever is greater.
- Data Protection Officer - Under the GDPR, you must appoint a data protection officer (DPO) if you:
 1. carry out large scale systematic monitoring of individuals (for example, online behaviour tracking); or
 2. carry out large scale processing of special categories of data or data relating to criminal convictions and offences.

However, regardless of whether the GDPR obliges you to appoint a DPO, you must ensure that your organisation has sufficient staff and skills to discharge your obligations under the GDPR.

For more information about the GDPR and what your business could be doing to prepare for its implementation see the ICO's website - <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/>.

We will provide further updates through this newsletter if and when they are appropriate. If you would be interested in possible help

and support provided by SSDC please email dataprotection@southsomerset.gov.uk indicating your interest so that we have an indication of the amount of interest in South Somerset.

Heart of the South West Growth Hub Services

The Heart of the South West Growth Hub Service is the first point of contact for both new and established businesses seeking business support. It is offered completely free at point of access for all businesses.

- Their advisers are on hand to talk to you about your business goals.
- They can provide you with access to local and national business support services.
- They can support both new and established businesses; and
- They have access to a wealth of information and factsheets on key business topics.

Eligible businesses can also now access a fully funded one to one advice session with a Business Adviser through the new Growth Support Service. The service is aimed at both new and established businesses with Growth ambition.

Following your 1 to 1 session you will be provided with a support plan detailing practical steps to move your plans forward. Support is currently available for businesses in the Heart of the South West

LEP area; Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay (excluding North Somerset and BANES) in the following sectors:

Agriculture and fisheries

Farm diversification

Food processing

Tourism

Retail

Care sector and services such as childcare and nursing homes

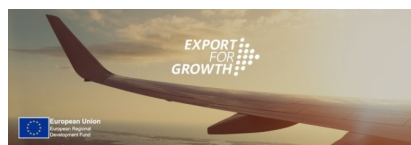
Social Enterprises

Sectors where other funded business support services are currently available such as manufacturing and export are ineligible for this service.

If you are unsure whether you fit the criteria for the service or to speak directly to one of the team you can call them on 03456 047047

[Complete an online enquiry form](#)

How to Make Exporting Work for your Business...



For some the thought of exporting can be daunting, but it doesn't have to be. Whether you're new to export and looking for direction, an experienced exporter with ambition to break into new markets, or simply considering international trade for the first time then there is support available to get you on your way.

Join the Export for Growth programme and an experienced team of business advisers will guide you on your export journey, focussing on everything from export strategy and planning, to market research and funding options. And most importantly, Export for Growth and all of its specialist support schemes are available to your business for free!

See the Business West website for further details on the Export for Growth programme and how to sign up:

<http://www.businesswest.co.uk/export-solutions/export-for-growth>

Want to Trade with China?



Interested in exporting your goods and services to China? The China-British Business Council has 60 years of experience, experts in 11 UK offices and 15 Chinese locations, and a diverse 1,000-strong membership, we operate alongside the British Chamber of Commerce in China to support companies of all sizes and sectors. If you are interested in finding out more about the advice and support available visit the CBBC website (www.cbbc.org).

Complete the 2 minute Export Diagnostic Tool to assess your China-readiness and be in with a chance of winning up to £5,000 of China research and support by clicking [here](#).

SSDC4Business Twitter

Keep up to date with the latest business news and the activities of the Economic Development team here at South Somerset District Council.



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