



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

22nd June 2016

The Manor Hotel, Yeovil

Recruitment Fayre

South West Business, Industry &
Technology Recruitment Fayre

[Learn More](#)



5th July 2016

Lanes Restaurant, West Coker

Business to Business Dinner

Somerset Chamber and Yeovil
Chamber B2B Dinner

[Learn More](#)



7th July 2016

Yeovil Innovation Centre

Technology and Innovation in China

Emerging opportunities for British

12th July 2016

Yeovil Court Hotel, Yeovil

Ladies Event and Cream Tea

Networking and Women in
Business training

Learn More



13th July 2016
Yeovil Court Hotel, Yeovil

The HR Club

With guest speaker Emma Ramsey

Learn More



Learn More



21st July 2016
Yeovil Golf Club, Yeovil

Breakfast Event

Speed Networking for Businesses

Learn More



South Somerset News

New Work Hub coming to Chard Town Centre

South Somerset District Council's Area West Committee agreed on the 15th June 2016 to support and fund a



new Chard Business Hub at the Lace Mill in the town centre. The new space will create a flexible business incubation space in SSDC owned Holyrood Lace Mill:

- Attracting people and businesses into Chard town centre
- Building new enterprise and creating new jobs

- Supporting and digitally enabling local businesses
- Supporting and enabling community projects and groups
- Raising the profile of Chard locally, regionally & nationally
- Building confidence, demonstrating demand and attracting investment.

The hub will have a medium sized office for three or four people, a small office for two people, a number of pods with space for one person and a selection of flexible co-working desks including both conventional and high level. The space is ideal for those working from home that would like to move into an affordable, innovative space.

For more information, please call Dylan Martlew on 01935 462695 or email Dylan.martlew@southsomerset.gov.uk.

A new initiative for people wanting flexible office accommodation in Wincanton is also being launched this month by South Somerset District Council (SSDC).

Ideally suited to smaller home based businesses or those who have the occasional need for an office but do not wish to be bound by a lease, a hot desk space in the Lime Room at SSDC's Churchfield offices could be the answer.

If you work from home, the Lime Room provides two desk spaces to enable you to work without the distraction of home life. Bring your laptop, mobile phone and just get going. Printer and Wifi access connection (typical speeds: download 16.08mbps, Upload 11.16mbps) is included within our flexible hourly bookings.

For more information call 01963 435004

[LEARN MORE](#)

Funding for Rural Businesses: Your Local Action Groups



LEADER is a community-led European funding Programme that supports rural community development. The planning, decision making and implementation is done at a local level, carried out by a Local Action Group (LAG). The LAG is made up of private, public and community sector volunteers with a wide range of experience and knowledge of local rural issues.

This round of funds (2014 - 2020) is strongly focused on economic growth and jobs. The LAG decides which projects it will fund in its area, based on its Local Development Strategy, but all projects must support one or more of the 6 national LEADER priorities.

These are:

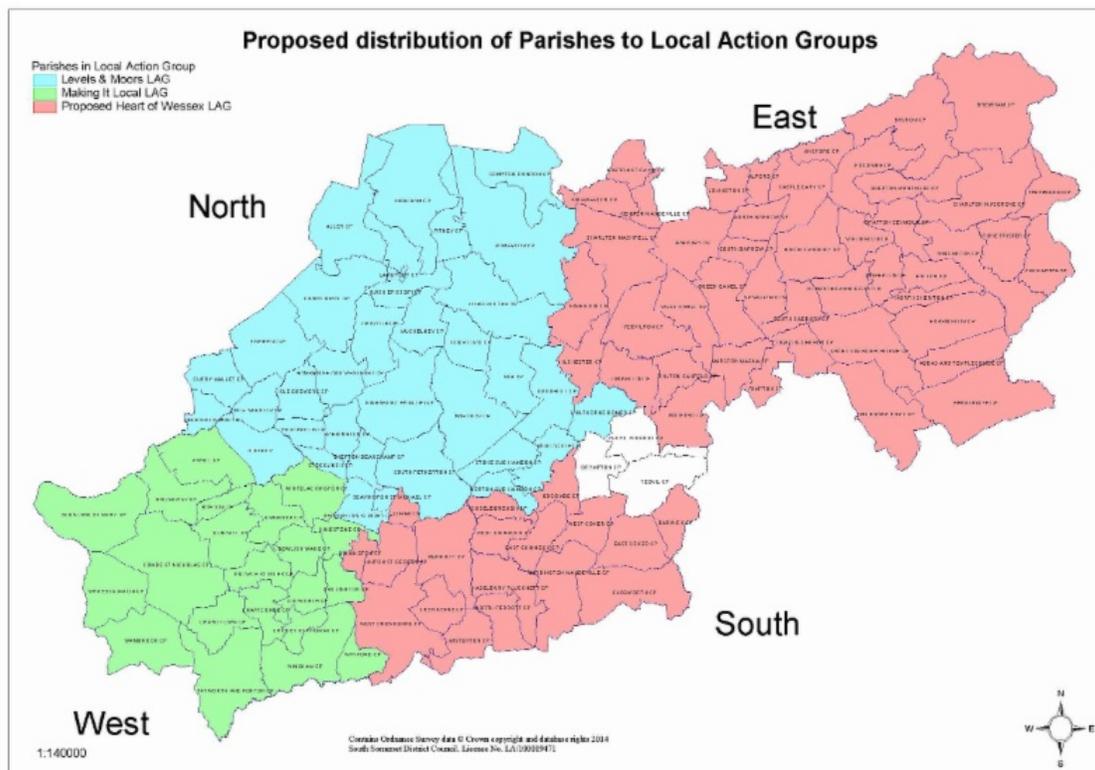
1. Support to increase farm productivity
2. Support for micro and small business and farm diversification
3. Support for rural tourism
4. Provision of rural services
5. Support for cultural and heritage activity
6. Support for increasing forestry productivity

South Somerset is covered by three different Local Action Groups - Heart of Wessex LAG, Levels and Moors LAG and Making it Local LAG. The map below shows the distribution of Parishes to Local Action Groups in the District. (Please note that Yeovil is not covered by a Local Action Group).

There are two stages to the application process - stage one is the outline application which is assessed by a LAG forum and stage two is the full application stage which is approved by a LAG Executive Committee. Potential applicants should read the Applicant Handbook available on each LAG's website. The Programme Management Team of each LAG will carry out an initial project eligibility check with you to ensure that what you are proposing is deliverable and

meets but the national LEADER priorities and the Local Development Strategy.

Businesses are able to apply for a minimum of £2500 per project and grants will typically be limited to a maximum of 40% of the project's total eligible costs. Grant payments are paid in arrears and therefore applicants need to demonstrate that they have sufficient funds to pay for the project costs until grant payments are received. It is expected that a maximum of 3 claims will be paid per project.



For more information please contact your Local Action Group to find out if your business is eligible for LEADER funding:

Heart of Wessex Local Action Group: Sarah Dyke-Bracher - 07826 907361 or email sarah@heartofwessex.co.uk

Making it Local Local Action Group: Linda Wilson/Dominie Dunbrook - 01392 383000 or email makingitlocal@devon.gov.uk

Levels and Moors Local Action Group: Anne Marie Spalding - 01823

Accessing the Purple Pound: Is your business missing out on £80 billion a year?



Did you know that disabled people contribute over £80 billion a year to the UK economy? Or that disabled people may account for up to 20 per cent of the customer base for an average UK business?

Despite these compelling figures, the needs of disabled people are poorly addressed by most UK businesses. By ensuring disabled people have the same opportunities to use your business or service as everybody else.

The law requires companies to anticipate the needs of disabled customers and any barriers they might encounter in doing business with them. Companies must make changes, called reasonable adjustments. The law also requires companies to treat people differently according to their needs by making reasonable adjustments for them.

There are always ways to provide a service to disabled customers so they are not turned away or forced to go elsewhere. Many adjustments are common sense and can be put in place by making simple and cost-effective changes to the way something is done. Other adjustments might need more consideration but could, for example, be put in place as part of a general refurbishment or redecoration programme. Attracting and keeping disabled customers is not just about catering for wheelchair users, who in fact make up less than 8% of the UK's disabled population.

Top tips for businesses:

- Always ask disabled people about their requirements in advance. For example, use 'Please let me know if you require any particular assistance' as a standard line in letters and as part of your customer care procedures.
- Providing information in a variety of formats will help remove a common and frustrating barrier for disabled people. Always consider how best to make your written information accessible - small changes and alternative formats can make a big difference to your disabled customers.
- Make sure you include an access statement on your website. An access statement is a clear, accurate and, above all, honest description of your company's current facilities and the services you offer. Customers and other visitors to your business will then know exactly what you have done to prepare for them. This allows potential customers to make informed decisions about whether your business meets their particular access needs.

For more information on how you can make sure your business is accessible to all call the Employers' Forum on Disability (020) 7402 3020 or visit www.efd.org.uk.

If you are interested in attending a workshop on how to make your business more accessible please call the Economic Development Team on 01935 462173.

Apprentice of the Month: Dan at Kontrolit.net, Yeovil

Web development is an industry that moves fast, an industry where innovative minds constantly pioneer ground-breaking new ideas. So when Yeovil-based company



Kontrolit.net decided to expand their web design and development team, it made sense to tap into the potential that a young apprentice could bring.

Working closely with Yeovil College to move this idea forward, in August 2015 Kontrolit invited 18-year-old Dan, who had just finished his A Levels, to join them under the apprenticeship scheme.

The company felt the weight of responsibility that comes with taking on an apprentice, and knew it was their role to fully support and train him in his chosen career, but it was obvious after a very short time that Dan brought as much value to the company as he was gaining from his apprenticeship.

He learnt fast and was soon making valuable contributions to new projects. Less than a year after he joined Kontrolit.net, Dan has already been the principle developer for two new customer websites, following them all the way through to a successful launch.

Dan says of his time with the company, "I have really enjoyed my experience with Kontrolit so far. As an apprentice I'm surprised at just how quickly I've picked things up and am continuing to do so. Overall the company has been really good and helpful with my progress and I feel like I've contributed towards Kontrolit's goals too."

Managing Director Tim Howes also commented on how an apprentice has improved the business, saying, "Employing Dan has been a great success for Kontrolit.net. It has allowed us to respond to our customers support requests more quickly and it also allowed us to increase our work capacity."

If you'd like to see some samples of the work that Kontrolit.net does, contact Richard on 01935 434734 or email support@kontrolit.net.



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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