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| Business news, resources and advice |

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| [View this email in your browser](https://mailchi.mp/blaby/business-boost-september-2022-1807276?e=b35e37413a) |

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| Business Newsletter. Your latest update for the district. |

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| **In this edition...*** Economic Engagement Event
* Business Fair
* Apprenticeships
* Green and Sustainability
* Business Support
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| **Work and Skills forum - Shape the Future!** |

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| **Join us and help create a thriving Blaby District**The Blaby District Work and Skills Forum is your opportunity to support the priorities identified in the [Economic Development Framework](https://www.blaby.gov.uk/media/usdj4c01/economic-development-framework.pdf). We believe collaboration is key, and that's why we're inviting you to our **Engagement Event**on**Wednesday 10 April from 9am to 1pm**in the **Council Chamber**.**Are you a Blaby District business owner?**This event is for you.* Help define employment, skills, and training opportunities for residents.
* Shape the future needs of your business.
* Network with organisations offering support and advice on local and national initiatives.

**To participate please contact:**enterprisingblaby@blaby.gov.uk |

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| **Leicestershire Business Advice Service** |

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| **Join the next workshop delivered by the Leicestershire Business Advice Service (LBAS) and shine a light on Recruitment and Retention, a Staffing Success** The LBAS team bring the next instalment of their #Improve service workshops, taking place:Date: Wednesday 10 April, 2024Time:  9.30am – 12.30pm (9:15am – 9:30am arrival for networking)  Location: Harborough Innovation Centre. Join a critical workshop to learn skills for showcasing your business to pull in the best talent. Learn from the Leicestershire Business Advice Service experts, Chris Gueffier and Gau Naik, and harness professional knowledge from special guest speaker, Caroline Hunt, Director of Emerald Starfish. The workshop boasts an insightful agenda, covering topics such as:* Employer branding
* How to write job specifications
* Candidate attraction methods
* Retaining your staff

And much more.  [Claim your tickets](https://bit.ly/3vjXcXf) to the free workshop today. |

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| **District Business Fair - We need you!** |

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| **Calling all Blaby District businesses**Exciting news! We're currently brainstorming ideas for a brand new **Blaby District Business Fair** designed to empower and connect local businesses like yours. **Your voice matters**To ensure this event delivers the most value, we're seeking your feedback. We've created a short survey to understand your specific needs and preferences.Click the link below to complete the survey.  |

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| **Complete the survey** |

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| **Our vision:****Our goal is to create a dynamic event that offers:*** **Valuable resources**: Gain insights from industry experts and explore support services from key organisations.
* **Networking opportunities:** Connect with fellow entrepreneurs, build partnerships, and foster collaboration.
* **Actionable strategies:** Learn new business development skills, marketing tactics, and access tools to accelerate your growth

**This event is for you if:*** You're a Blaby District business owner seeking a competitive edge.
* You're eager to learn from industry leaders and stay ahead of trends.
* You're passionate about connecting with other local entrepreneurs.

**Stay Tuned!**We're still in the planning stages, and your feedback is crucial. Take the surveyand be part of shaping this exciting event!  |

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| **Major reform package** |

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| **Major reform package to boost Apprenticeships and to support thousands of small Businesses from April 2024!**The reform package will include £60 million new investment to enable up to 20,000 more apprenticeships, including for young people and small businesses. The Government will **fully fund**apprenticeships in small businesses from 1 April by paying the full cost of training for anyone up to the age of 21 - helping reduce the costs and burdens for businesses and delivering more opportunities for young people to kick start their careers. If you would like to find out more information on how your business can set up an Apprenticeship then please email: lewis.austin@blaby.gov.uk   |

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| **Grow your Business** |

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| **Grow your Business with Free Grants and Digitalisation Support**As part of our dedication to local development, we want to help you:* Create new jobs or safeguard existing positions.
* Expand your operations and reach new markets.
* Boost your efficiency and competitiveness.
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| **Does your business belong to one of these thriving sectors?*** Manufacturing (e.g. transport equipment, food and drink)
* Life Sciences
* Construction
* Logistics
* Engineering
* Technology
* Creative industries
* Low Carbon

If so we can help you unlock your growth potential, why not get in touch with us at: **enterprisingblaby@blaby.gov.uk** |

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| **Sustainable Business** |

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| **University support**See the link below on support universities can give to businesses, with a good section on carbon reduction: <https://universitiespartnership.org/responsible-business/>**LLEP led hydrogen skills event at Leicestershire Innovation Festival (LIF)**As part of **LIF2024**the**LLEP** held a webinar to convey the East Midlands strength in hydrogen development, business use of hydrogen, and area opportunities to develop hydrogen skills, with partners Intelligent Energy, MIRA Technology Park, HYDEX Forterra, NWSLC, East Midlands Hydrogen, MIRA MTI, and the East Midlands - [Fuelling Futures Innovation Festival hydrogen webinar](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zu3WpQxecJk) |

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| **Free Resources and Training** |

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| **Retrofit skills support for Leicester and Leicestershire business!**Three area training companies can offer part or fully funded retrofit skills training, as part of the Home Decarbonisation Skills Training Competition (HDSTC). Apply now! Ends April 2024.The companies are:Energy Trust: <https://energy-trust.co.uk/>(retrofit assessor, coordinator and insulation coursesElmhurst: [Energy Assessment Training & Accreditation](https://www.elmhurstenergy.co.uk/) - Elmhurst EnergyUnyte: [Enhance your skills with Retrofit Training Courses](https://unyteacademy.co.uk/retrofit-training/) - Unyte Academy (retrofit and insulation)**Launch of Midlands Engine Investment Fund II provides £400m boost for small businesses.**The British Business Bank is launching its £400 million Midlands Engine Investment Fund II today, unlocking additional funding to help smaller businesses in the Midlands prosper and thrive.[Launch of Midlands Engine Investment Fund II provides £400m boost for small businesses - Business Gateway Growth Hub (bizgateway.org.uk)](https://bizgateway.org.uk/launch-of-midlands-engine-investment-fund-ii-provides-400m-boost-for-small-businesses/) |

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| **Your Business Hub** |

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| Our Business Hub is on hand to offer dedicated help and support.Our friendly team is only a call or email away: if we don’t know the answer we promise to find out.There are so many resources available, many included in this newsletter, and we want to encourage you to access them. You can get in touch by completing the form at the link below. |

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| [**Request support**](https://www.blaby.gov.uk/business-licensing-and-investment/business-support/support-and-advice-for-businesses/) |

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| **Received this newsletter from a friend?**[Subscribe](https://mailchi.mp/blaby/signup-form) to future editions of the Blaby Business Newsletter to get the news straight to your inbox.There is an unsubscribe link at the bottom of every email. |

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| **For more regular updates please join us on social media.** |

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| Twitter | [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/blabydc) |

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| Facebook | [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/blabydc) |

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| Instagram | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/blabydc/) |

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| Website | [Website](http://www.blaby.gov.uk/) |

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| You can also visit us online to view the range of business support available. Visit our webpage [Support and Advice for Businesses.](https://www.blaby.gov.uk/business-licensing-and-investment/business-support/support-and-advice-for-businesses/) |

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| A Great place to Live, Work and Visit |

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