

Essex Innovation Programme

Sarah Bell
Innovation & Sector Development Manager



Essex Innovation Programme

- Overview of services
- Business case studies



Essex County Council Vision 2013-17

- We want Essex to be a county where **innovation** brings **prosperity**
- ... our most important roles will be **to establish the conditions for innovation and prosperity** in our economy ... **to champion entrepreneurship** and unlock the infrastructure that supports economic growth



Essex Innovation Programme

A no fee business support service:

- Essex based SMEs (including Southend and Thurrock)
- Developing innovative products and/or services
- Looking to grow the business

‘Helping businesses, both early stage and established, to develop and exploit their creative and innovative commercial development ideas’



Expertise

- Team of experienced private sector business professionals
- R&D, grant funding, academic & industrial partnerships, strategic marketing, commercial strategy, licencing
- 1-1 bespoke business solutions



Start-ups and established companies

- Proof of concept / market
- Protecting your Intellectual Property
- Funding / finance options
- Business planning
- Product & process innovation
- Access to academic knowledge, research
- Signposting to further support



Business Benefits

- Confidential specialist business mentoring
- Start up a business
- Strategies to grow the business
- Increase sales, profitability, turnover
- Access funding to grow the business



Vortex Exhaust Technology

- Specialist vehicle exhaust systems to reduce emissions and improve performance and fuel efficiency
- Obtained a £200,000 TIGER loan to invest in manufacturing, recruitment and product research and development

“Research and development is an important part of our business, and the loan has helped us to set up a new laboratory.”

Barry Mead, Managing Director



Ash Fire Management

- Naturvent is an evolutionary form of fire security for residential premises
- Secured a £77k grant through Anglia Ruskin University's Med Tech programme for product commercialisation
- Levered further private investment of c. £235k



How to access support

- Initial conversation to check eligibility
- Application form to capture business ideas & needs
- Meeting to match needs with expertise

sarah.bell@essex.gov.uk

www.investessex.co.uk