

4pm-8pm  
WEDNESDAY  
23 OCT 2024



Welcome to the  
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**HAVING**  
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*ShowCase*

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The Chamber would like to thank the following local organisations for supporting the 2023 Havering Showcase.

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## SHOWCASE TIMETABLE

**4pm Showcase Opens**

**4:15pm Cllr Gerry O'Sullivan, The Worshipful Mayor of Havering**  
Officially opens the Showcase

**5pm** Welcome from **Mark Dover** from Time 107.5

**5:10pm Graham Williamson**, Havering Council  
Cabinet Member for Development & Regeneration  
"The Future of Business in Havering"

**5:25pm Eleanor Alexander**, Managing Director, Digital Reef  
"What 'Europe's Largest' Data Centre means for Havering"

**5:40pm Jeremy West**, Chairman & Managing Director,  
West & Coe Funeral Directors  
"A Family Business For Over 100 Years"

**6pm Alison Taffs**, The Hop Inn, Hornchurch, winners of Best Hospitality  
Business in the 2024 Havering Small Business Awards  
"The Hop Inn Hornchurch: Tales of Hopportunity and Hopsptiality"

**6:15pm James Aimes**, Romford & Gidea Park RFC  
"A venue for every occasion"

**6:30pm** Buffet and drinks reception

**7:30pm** Raffle in aid of the **Worshipful Mayor of Havering's** official charities  
**'Havering MIND'** and **'Havering Association for People with Disabilities (H.A.D).'**

**8pm Showcase closes**



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As another year passes a huge welcome to the Havering Chamber's annual Business Showcase.

It's been a very busy year for the Executive Committee with a growth in membership as a result of the increased profile of Havering Chamber and new member offers and incentives.

As a team, the Executive Committee of the Chamber meet monthly to ensure that the organisation evolves and challenges itself. Vice Chair, Bob Clark of Greenhouse Marketing, continues to develop the website to provide members with up-to-date local business news and details of both member's events and our networking meetings.

My thanks to our generous members for hosting at their facilities and Committee member Ian Gorsuch, for taking the lead on arrangements. Where possible we try to hold our monthly networking meetings at member's premises and this year we have met at some interesting venues including the Romford Snooker Club, Upminster Windmill, West & Coe Funeral Directors, the Romford Job Centre and the ITS Bus in Romford market to name a few.

It was our pleasure to be a sponsor of the Havering Small Business Awards for the third year. The event develops each year and champions small independent businesses within the borough. It was fantastic to see businesses flourishing and receiving public recognition for their services and products. One of our speakers at this year's Showcase was the category winner for Best Hospitality Business.

Alison from the Hop Inn really engaged us during her presentation speech, so much so we asked her to address the audience at our Showcase event.

We were also delighted to award our Best Newcomer award to Jungle Hair and Beauty and look forward to welcoming them to the Chamber business community.

Having affiliated with the London Chamber, this opens a further host of events and contacts which are available to our members. Committee member Paul Mason-Hughes and I, meet monthly with the London Chamber, where we voice our member's issues and concerns and receive policy updates. Recent Local London borough meetings have addressed issues including skills shortages and local retail crime.

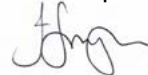
The London Chamber lobby on our behalf using the strength in numbers.

Local retail crime is clearly an area of concern, Executive member Kristian Croad, attended Julia Lopez MP's, local shopkeepers meeting on the subject, subsequently the findings were forwarded to the London Chamber. Executive member, Julie Frost, attends the quarterly Safer Neighbourhood meetings where the full statistics of local crime are made available and crime prevention strategies formed.

We work alongside Havering Council with Councillor Graham Williamson, the appointed Havering Council Executive Committee member. As the Cabinet member for regeneration, Councillor Williamson champions Havering businesses, in particular the use of local businesses and skills for public and private contracts. Councillor Williamson and Digital Reef will both be addressing the Showcase audience and giving some insight into the developments and opportunities for local businesses with the Data Centre planning application which could bring enormous benefits to Havering businesses and the whole community.

For the Showcase this year, we have increased our marketing and used a new member's venue, Romford and Gidea Park Rugby Club. The Club has been outstanding in its support of the Chamber and the local community. We've also added our Instagram photo wall opportunity! Do take advantage of this, particularly with our resident photographer, Joe Duffield.

Thank you for joining us and I hope you enjoy our exciting timetable of speakers, exhibitors and, of course, free hospitality!



Janet Smyth, Chair,  
Havering Chamber



Presenting to Jungle Hair & Beauty at the Havering Small Business Awards



Upminster Windmill



Romford Snooker Club



ITS Bus

## ABOUT THE CHAMBER

The Havering Chamber of Commerce was founded following the merger of the Romford Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Hornchurch Chamber of Commerce and Industry during the late 1980's. It is believed the Romford Chamber was founded pre-war whereas the Hornchurch Chamber was founded in 1946.

The borough has seen significant economic changes over the decades and the Havering Chamber has adapted to the evolving business landscape. Today, the Chamber remains an influential organisation, representing a diverse range of businesses across various sectors. It continues to provide invaluable support to its members through networking opportunities, business advice and advocacy.

As the borough of Havering continues to evolve and embrace new economic challenges, the Havering Chamber stands as a testament to the resilience and vitality of the local business community. Its mission remains to promote a positive, balanced, vital economy and preserve those unique qualities that are good for business and good for the community so making Havering a special place in which to live and work.

The Chamber is not funded to employ any full or part-time staff so is managed on a day-to-day basis by an executive Committee comprising volunteers from a range of Havering based businesses and organisations.

The Havering Chamber is affiliated to the London Chamber of Commerce & Industry many of their services are available to members of the Havering Chamber some without charge and others with discounts. The Chamber is also part of London's Local Chambers business network.



## NETWORKING WITH THE CHAMBER

Havering Chamber runs a monthly networking meeting on the last Wednesday of every month which we try to hold on the premises of a Chamber members allowing them to tell everyone a little about their business and show first hand where and how they work.

In 2024 we have enjoyed some unusual venues including the Upminster Windmill, Romford Job Centre and the Romford Snooker Club ("Probably the most famous snooker club in the world").

Our meetings are free to members and we welcome visitors for a nominal fee. They provide a great opportunity for Havering businesses to get together and network.

You can see a gallery of all this year's meetings and upcoming meetings on the Chamber website.





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If you own an existing business or are looking to start one, we can help.

### Contact the Inclusive Growth Team

London Borough of Havering

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