09:18:33  From  4 Lee Freeman : the key to the recovery as mentioned by Neil is training and ensuring competitive advantage can be maintained.  What is the panels view on how this is best achieved?

09:18:58  From  4 - Simon Medcalf : It would be great to hear how positive people are about the current position of the county?

09:22:12  From  4 Laura Hicks : Really encouraging to hear about the entrepreneurial mindset in our region! This is the key..

09:22:18  From  4 guy longhurst : on subject of training, apprenticeship levy seems like an additional tax and increased flexibility to allow its use to reskill/upskill the workforce would seem like an easy win

09:22:32  From  4 Alison Shadrack - IoD Essex Chair : The confidence tracker: https://www.iod.com/Portals/0/PDFs/Campaigns%20and%20Reports/Economy/IoD%20Confidence%20Tracker%20Winter%202020.pdf?ver=2020-12-05-165121-740

09:23:51  From  4 John Stenhouse : We are running an investment readiness programme since the first lockdown, all are innovative businesses but every sector has applied demonstrating the wide range of sectors in Essex.

09:24:30  From  4 Top Rana : If you have any question or comments for our panellists, Please do let us know. thank you

09:25:57  From  4 Will Docherty : I am biased, but I think construction will be a key industry, as this involves so many other industries with manufacture and post-completion usage. One area that construction can assist is with the employment of younger generations and the apprenticeship scheme is well suited to develop new talent.

09:26:07  From  4 John Stenhouse : Our University Enterprise Zone's 'Space to Grow' programme has delivered training to nearly 600 business people and one-to-one investment readiness sessions to over 100 business founders.

09:26:53  From  4 Marc Jerrard : Agree that skills will be key to rebuilding the workforce of the future post Covid. The ACA along with apprenticeship framework, has skills at it's core. If anyone who isn't currently using the apprenticeship levy, you can find out more about ICAEW apprenticeships here...https://www.icaew.com/learning-and-development/apprenticeships

09:33:15  From  4 Will Docherty : Better mobile coverage would be beneficial. I live in a village and have tried all the networks and none are great, which makes life hard to operate my business from home.

09:33:39  From  4 John Stenhouse : Transport links to Harwich have always been a restriction.

09:35:05  From  4 David Malthouse : Town/City centres need investment - further closures in retail over the next few months are going to leave a lot of empty space on our high streets. These spaces need to be regenerated for other uses - Education - health - office spaces.....

09:35:06  From  4 Lee Freeman : connectivity is key.  Having spent 3 weeks in Japan last year for the rugby world cup it showed me how behind we actually are as even in most of the rural areas I was in, coverage was fantastic

09:35:18  From  4 Laura Hicks : AND …. the customer service behind broadband! I've wasted days of my life speaking to them to resolve issues and now moving to my 3rd provider... anyway moan over....grhhh!

09:35:30  From  4 Derek Smith : I am MD of CharterGroup, an alliance of accountancy firms. The present trend amongst our members is that 30% of their teams will WFH in the future. Clearly internet speeds etc are a keyfactor

09:36:32  From  4 Richard Harvey : Given the Government's 'levelling up' agenda isn't it likely that Essex will be low  on the priority for funding.

09:36:33  From  4 John Stenhouse : Extend the Future Fund?

09:37:36  From  4.  Trevor Ling : We asked this at our recent Essex Limited event and the winning response was a stable tax environment.

09:38:48  From  4 Lee Freeman : funding for training and upskilling the workforce is key imo and this needs to be fed down to sme's as well

09:40:24  From  4 Laura Hicks : Upskilling leaders! The money and support is fine if its used in the right way. More dynamic leaders are required, with growth mindsets....

09:41:32  From  4.Paul.Sullivan : Agreed Laura, many SMEs have borrowed money that have never done so before and need support in the rigours of financial management

09:42:42  From  4 Colin Corrigan : I worry that the support local government will be able to offer will become very restricted as they inevitably come under severe financial pressure themselves.

09:43:35  From  4.  Trevor Ling : Q1 next year will be hugely challenging - the unwind of soft debt (VAT), gov support schemes and Brexit will be a very difficult combination for managing working capital .  So any support to offes

09:43:50  From  4 Marc Jerrard : Upskilling leaders....ICAEW have a wide range of programmes to support the development of finance leaders through it's Academy...https://www.icaew.com/Learning-and-development/academy

09:43:51  From  4.  Trevor Ling : \*to offset these would be essential

09:45:22  From  4 Ben Backhouse : Raising finance is going to be a challenge for many businesses over the coming months.  I am already hearing from bank managers that the raising of HMRC to a preferential creditor is forcing the banks to review their lending to larger businesses and substantially cutting it in several cases.  The BBBL and CBILS schemes combined with remote working clogged up the small business lending process so badly that I hear that several high street banks won't even look at a lending proposal for 3 months, let alone get the paperwork moving.

09:46:04  From  4 David Malthouse : Connecting two of the points above - there are high level apprenticeship programs for developing leaders/managers.

09:46:17  From  4 guy longhurst : agree with neil about businesses working more closely with universities and hopefully that could happen with schools as well.  Many have clearly struggled to provide on line learning and the inequality in education has increased and may have a significant socio economic impact upon the 15-18 years olds studying for exams

09:46:38  From  4 Alison Shadrack - IoD Essex Chair : https://www.iod.com/training

09:47:34  From  4 David Malthouse : I agree Guy, we are concerned about trainees coming into the profession this year and facing ICAEW exams - when their last meaningful exams may have been GCSE's over 2 years ago!

09:47:36  From  4.  Trevor Ling : We run an MBA through the levy in association with Cranfield

09:48:27  From  4 Laura Hicks : It's amazing to see the training available, the problem I see is that the people who really need it would never accept they need help! I believe skills need to be embedded at a young age which is starting to happen in schools :)

09:49:30  From  4 John Stenhouse : Essex CC are funding an Essex Accelerator programme to help businesses look to tehn

09:49:43  From  4 Marc Jerrard : Unfortunately I will need to disappear in a few moments. The joys of endless Zoom meetings! If anyone wishes to speak with me further to discuss ICAEW apprenticeships, the ACA, recruitment, or other training programmes for your business, please do get in touch with me at marc.jerrard@icaew.com

09:49:54  From  4 John Stenhouse : the future and be innovative in their attitude.

09:51:02  From  4 Ben Backhouse : It will be great to get back to face to face networking next week - I think we are all completely Zoomed out!

09:51:25  From  4. Serena Starr : You can join the South Essex Linkedin group here - https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4584824/ we regularly post about events in the region

09:51:27  From  4 Laura Hicks : Zoom is so 2020!!

09:53:56  From  4 Laura Hicks : Thanks to all the speakers, great chat!

09:54:10  From  4 Colin Corrigan : I have been particularly focusing on contacting clients who are in business by themselves.  Many of them have found the last few months very stressful and particularly lonely as they have struggled with difficult decisions.  Just checking in and running through their thoughts with them and letting them know they are not alone has been, I think, useful.

09:54:19  From  4 Will Docherty : Thanks all

09:54:26  From  4 Lee Freeman : thanks all

09:54:42  From  4. Serena Starr : Thank you everyone, really great discussion

09:54:53  From  Roman Pathak : Thanks all

09:54:53  From  4.  Trevor Ling : Thanks all

09:54:55  From  4 John Stenhouse : Good meeting, thanks