

# Open for Business

WEST SUSSEX | CROYDON | BRIGHTON & HOVE | LEWES | GATWICK DIAMOND



## LATEST NEWS...

### Coast to Capital LEP Welcomes Autumn Statement

Coast to Capital has welcomed the Chancellor's 2014 Autumn Statement. Reacting to the announcements, Tim Wates, Chairman said: "I am pleased that the Chancellor is driving forward the momentum of economic growth that we have experienced in the past year. He is clearly encouraging innovation and backing business."

Ron Crank, Chief Executive of Coast to Capital added: "I am pleased that funding for local transport schemes including Gatwick Airport Railway Station and the A27 has been confirmed. Coast to Capital has worked hard to present a strong business case to Government that LEP monies should be used in support of these important projects."

### Digital Catapult Centre Success

Last month, we were delighted to learn that our bid to host one of three 'Digital Catapult Centres' was successful following stiff competition. The centre will open in March 2015 and will provide a place where start-ups and small businesses in the creative and technology sectors can develop and showcase their digital ideas and products.

Projects undertaken at the Centre will be led by Coast to Capital in collaboration with core delivery partners including the University of Brighton and Wired Sussex. Other project partners include American Express, Brighton & Hove City Council and Gatwick Airport.

Phil Jones, Digital Champion at Coast to Capital said "Digital Catapult Brighton will operate around three principles: innovation, collaboration and openness. The projects it houses will provide opportunities for start-ups and small digital businesses to work with each other and with universities and large corporates to turn ideas into activities with real value."



### Free public Wi-Fi to more than 50 Brighton buildings

More than 50 public buildings in Brighton and Hove are set to be transformed into free Wi-Fi hotspots as part of a £150m investment to transform the digital capability of UK cities. Residents and visitors in Brighton and Hove will be able to connect online at locations including the Royal Pavilion museum, the Hove Museum and Art Gallery and the Brighton Centre.

Tim Wates, Chairman of Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership said: "Brighton has a wealth of historic, cultural and public buildings which add much to the vibrancy of the city. This is another example of how Brighton is embracing the digital age and cutting-edge solutions for smart cities."



## TOPICAL NEWS...

### Airport Expansion Consultation

Now is the time to have your say and participate in the Airports Commission public consultation which is currently taking place. This consultation is an opportunity to influence decisions which will decide aviation capacity until 2050 and enables you to comment on the proposals for additional runway capacity at Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

The consultation presents the commission's analysis of the expansion proposals shortlisted by the commission last year (2 for Heathrow Airport and 1 for Gatwick Airport). It invites public comment on the commission's detailed consideration of each proposal including: the cost; impact on communities in relation to noise, property loss and construction; and the economic benefits and environmental impacts.

We are supportive of Gatwick's proposals as the international connectivity provided by the airport is important in relation to international trade and local jobs. However, the Board believes any option to expand Gatwick must be delivered in association with a realistic plan for managing the impacts on housing, public services, surface transport and the environment.

The consultation will close on 3 February 2015.

### Breakfast at No 10 Downing Street for Phil

It's been a busy few weeks for Board Member Phil Jones. As well as his involvement in the Digital Catapult Centre, he attended a breakfast meeting mid-November at No 10 Downing Street to discuss how Government might further support the technology sector.



## PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION....

### Out and about in the region

Keeping abreast of the issues facing businesses is a key part of Coast to Capital's role and last month, Chief Executive Ron Crank and Vice Chairman Steve Allen took the opportunity to visit a number of successful companies in the Coast to Capital region.

During Export Week, Ron visited the successful Ridgeview wine estate in Ditchling and Delinquent Interactive Limited, a mobile gamer developer based in Brighton - both recipients of Coast to Capital's Business Growth Grants.

Ridgeview Winery manufactures fine sparkling wine in West Sussex and has benefited from a Coast to Capital Business Growth Grant that has improved its bottling power. The winery has increased production from 30,000 to 250,000 bottles and exports now account for 20% of its turnover. Delinquent Interactive is creating a mobile game that can be played across the world and has also received a Business Growth Grant to enable it to expand its operations.

Meanwhile, during Global Entrepreneurship Week, Steve visited BCMY Ltd, a recycling organisation based in West Sussex and The Base Skate Park in Bognor Regis.

Following his visits, Ron Crank said: "It was a great opportunity to meet two very different but exciting exporters in our region. It is encouraging to see first-hand that the Business Growth Grants are making a real difference in helping small British companies compete in international markets."



Ron Crank visiting Ridgeview Winery in Ditchling.



Ron Crank visiting Delinquent Interactive in Brighton.

## Events Snapshot

Our team has also been meeting representatives of business groups and organisations from across the region. Here are the highlights...

- More than 40 representatives from the professional services industry were hosted at a breakfast briefing in Crawley to discover more about the impact our business support and funding schemes are having on the region's businesses. Whilst the current round of funding grants and loans have been allocated, there are expectations that more monies will become available early in 2015.



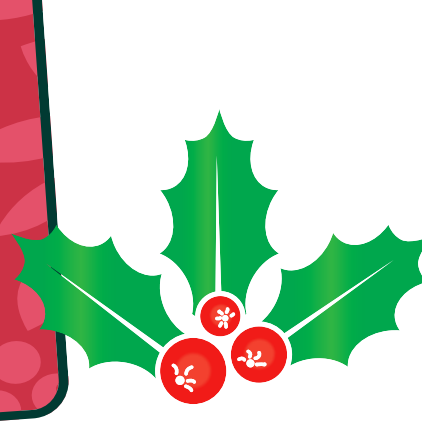
- Members from the Sussex Institute of Directors met at our Horsham offices recently for an evening briefing with updates from Ron, Malcolm Brabon and Neil Secombe. The evening ended with networking and further discussions over a glass of wine.



- Executives from trade associations and business membership organisations were hosted by Coast to Capital for a breakfast meeting in Crawley to bring them up to date with the latest news on our support for companies across the region. We are keen for these groups to ensure their members are aware of the help available across the region through our initiatives including Business Navigator.



Finally, we wish all our colleagues, friends and partners a Happy Christmas. We'd like to thank you for all your support during the past year and look forward to working with you in 2015.



### CONTACT US



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