October 2013



LATEST NEWS... NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED



Earlier this month, we relaunched the Coast to Capital website with a fresh new look to reflect our evolving role. This is the first upgrade to our website since it was launched two years ago. It now includes information on the vision and aims of Coast to Capital, our current projects, latest news and useful reference documents.

Hayley Shepherd, project manager, says: "Our innovative new website will help Coast to Capital to build a broader knowledge base and communicate effectively with our partners and stakeholders." Visit the new site at www.coast2capital.org.uk

Partnership in Action

More than 80 business leaders and policy makers joined us to focus on strategies for growth at the latest Coast to Capital LEP Forum event on 19 September 2013. Held every six months, the Forum provides an opportunity for us to consult widely with public, private and third sector organisations and businesses from across our region. Our thanks go to our guest speaker Professor Paul Nightingale, Professor of Strategy, SPRU at the University of Sussex who helped stimulate the debate. View images from the event

here <u>http://www.flickr.com/photos/104882142@N02/</u>



Strategic Growth Plan

Our draft strategic growth plan will be published, providing an opportunity for more local consultation before the final document is submitted to Government in January 2014.

Designed to boost the local economy in line with the national growth strategy, the plan will be "ambitious and transformational" says Ron Crank, Chief Executive. He added: "It will strengthen the local economy and create new jobs, improving skills, boosting enterprise and increasing investment in infrastructure and green growth."

Join the conversation online on Twitter @Coast2Capital #C2Cgrowth or view the plan online at www.coast2capital.org.uk from mid November 2013.



Draft EU Funding Plan submitted to Government

Following several months of research and consultation, we are pleased to have submitted Coast to Capital's first draft EU Funding Plan to Government. It sets out how we will use €67.3m of European funding to aid economic growth in our area.

Over the summer, representatives from the public, private and voluntary sectors had their say at a series of consultation events hosted by Coast to Capital to ensure its European funding strategy reflects the needs of local business communities.

John Peel, Chairman, says: "We're working closely with partners to develop a coherent strategy. It makes sense that local champions take on the responsibility for decision making in their area and we welcome the opportunity to direct funding towards areas that need investment. The European Commission's new focus on growth and jobs is very much in line with our own priorities."

Find out more at www.coast2capital.org.uk or join the conversation online on Twitter @Coast2Capital #C2Ceurope.

Unlocking the potential of SMEs

Coast to Capital recently partnered with Santander, Dods and Brighton Business Improvement District to host a Fringe event during the recent Labour Party Conference in Brighton.

The event brought together business owners, politicians, business groups and the policy community to discuss the obstacles to growth for SMEs.

Lord Mitchell, Labour's Business Ambassador and Enterprise Adviser spoke at the event, which also considered support that the Government and private sector could give to help SMEs reach their full potential.



Business Growth Grants

Expressions of interest are invited from environmental technology companies based in West Sussex, Croydon, Epsom & Ewell and Reigate & Banstead that are looking to expand and create jobs. Grants of up to £100,000 are available for R&D, product/service development, breaking into new markets, skills development, plant and equipment, business premises and other capital items. Applications will open

in early November but to register your interest now please visit the Coast to Capital website or send an email to rgf@coast2capital.org.uk



SPOTLIGHT ON...



Julie Kapsalis

We are pleased to welcome Julie Kapsalis to the Coast to Capital Board. An enterprise specialist, Julie has worked in economic development and community engagement for the past 12 years with a particular focus on enterprise and social inclusion. She is currently director of business development and employer engagement at Guildford College Group.

She has also served as an advisor to the UK Government's task force on women's enterprise and has been a regular contributor to the National Business Incubation Association, including speaking at their international conferences on best practice to support business start-ups.

"Coast to Coast LEP has set itself a challenging agenda to drive job creation and sustainable economic growth across the region" says Julie. "I am excited by the opportunities identified and I am passionate about helping drive forward the transformation of our local economy."

Watch this space...

During the Autumn, we will be hosting a new round of consultation events with partners, business leaders, politicians and local authorities. Full details of these events will be posted online at our website.

