

Open for Business

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

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

LATEST NEWS...

BUSINESS GROWTH GRANTS LAUNCHED

As previewed in our last e-news, we are now delighted to announce the launch of the new £3 million Coast to Capital Business Growth Grant, secured from the Government's Regional Growth Fund, to boost the economy and stimulate job creation.

West Sussex County Council, Brighton and Hove City Council, London Borough of Croydon, the Universities of Brighton, Sussex and Chichester, Wired Sussex and The Brighton Argus are joining forces with us to encourage businesses to bid for a share of this finance and go for growth.

Grants of between £5,000 and £100,000 are available to eligible firms for a wide range of purposes including R&D projects, skills development, business premises and other capital items. We will also consider grants of a higher value where a greater impact on employment growth can be shown. To discover more, please [click here](#) and download an expression of interest form or email rgf@coast2capital.org.uk. (Eligibility criteria applies.)

Regional Growth Fund

Gatwick railway station to receive £50m for redevelopment

Coast to Capital welcomes the news that a further £50 million will be provided for a full redevelopment of the railway station at Gatwick Airport. The announcement was part of a new national infrastructure plan containing information on over £375 billion of planned public and private sector infrastructure investment.

Ron Crank, chief executive commented: "We are delighted to see that Government has recognised the need to invest further in the Coast to Capital area. Modern, efficient and progressive transport infrastructure is of central importance to our growth plans and is significant for all parts of the community including residents, local businesses and visitors.

The reputation of Coast to Capital will depend in large part on our ability to tackle transport issues and we warmly welcome this news."

Strategic Growth Plan Latest

Our draft strategic growth plan will be published later this month, providing an opportunity for more local consultation before the final document is submitted to Government in January 2014. As part of the consultation, we are currently hosting meetings and events across the region with our partners, businesses, trade organisations and intermediaries. Join the conversation online on Twitter @Coast2Capital #C2Cgrowth or view the plan online at www.coast2capital.org.uk from mid December 2013.



Skills Plan Latest

Work continues apace on the development of the Coast to Capital Skills strategy, including a productive workshop earlier this month with Principals and Board Chairs from the HE and FE colleges across our region. Central to our work is putting employers at the heart of our approach to skills, employment and the workforce. Our main areas of focus in relation to our emerging skills strategy are therefore likely to be:

- **Skills for productivity:** Management and leadership, intermediate and higher level skills, technical and specialist skills for our priority sectors, key industries and supply chains to ensure sustainable growth.
- **Skills for employment and progression:** For those who are currently outside the labour market or who are in low skill and low pay jobs.



Partnership in Action

Earlier this month, we were pleased to host a delegation from the Presidential Committee on Regional Development, South Korea. They chose Coast to Capital as one of two LEPs to visit whilst in the UK, with the aim of learning more about the region and our organisation's work to drive economic growth and job creation. The delegation met with the team and heard a presentation from Ron Crank, chief executive.

South Korea is the world's 12th largest economy and its economy grew by 3.6 per cent in 2011 - the fastest in the OECD. UK exports to South Korea reached a new peak last year and the UK is now its 2nd largest trading partner among EU countries.

Following the visit, Ron said: "South Korea will be the 10th largest contributor to world growth over the next five years and we are keen to share ideas and find ways to make it easier for British and South Korean companies to do business together."



Business Support Network

Juliette Green, Chairman of Coast to Capital's Enterprise Committee joined Malcolm Brabon, growth development manager, to host an event for representatives of business support providers from across the region.

Whilst Coast to Capital does not directly deliver business support services, we do work to encourage and develop the conditions necessary for enterprise and high growth entrepreneurship to flourish. This event was organised following the recent launch of the [Business Navigator](#) and designed to debate issues around the delivery of business support.

"It was truly encouraging to listen to contributions from those who supply a high level of business support within our region", said Malcolm following the event. "There was a strong desire for us to keep this network active and for us all to work together to further the provision of business support in order to help businesses grow". To discover more about the network, email hannah.gosling@coast2capital.org.uk.



The business support portal of www.c2cbusiness.org.uk

Funding • Support • Advice and Guidance • Information • Mentoring

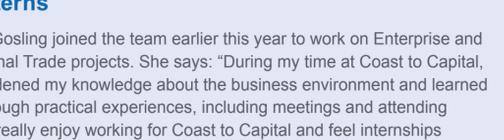
Growing Places Fund invests in GlassEco

We are pleased to announce our latest loan investment, drawn from the Growing Places Fund, to GlassEco International Ltd. GlassEco is an award winning business based in Crawley, manufacturing work surfaces, counter tops and castings from waste glass products which would otherwise be used for landfill. The company uses 90% recycled materials to create a sustainable product.

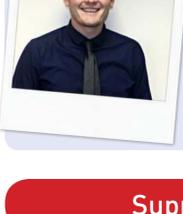
The Coast to Capital loan finance will help GlassEco expand its Crawley base. The investment will be spent on new machinery to accelerate production and enable GlassEco to increase sales capacity and create up to 30 new jobs.

Commenting on the deal, Peter Grisman, company secretary at GlassEco said: "From the initial enquiry to the completion of the formalities, Coast to Capital has demonstrated an understanding of our business and the need of an innovative new company in a rapid growth phase, providing us with the vital additional funding to support the next phase of our investment programme."

GlassEco



SPOTLIGHT ON... Our Interns



Hannah Gosling joined the team earlier this year to work on Enterprise and International Trade projects. She says: "During my time at Coast to Capital, I have widened my knowledge about the business environment and learned much through practical experiences, including meetings and attending events. I really enjoy working for Coast to Capital and feel internships are excellent in providing graduates with practical work experience and confidence".

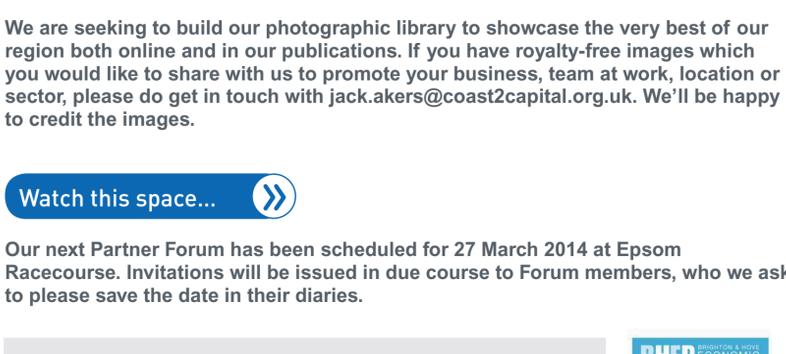


Jack Akers also joined the team four months ago as communications officer. His year-long placement forms part of his University Degree Course. Jack says: "I have taken on exciting roles and responsibilities that have given me a real insight into the business world over the past few months. Coast to Capital has been very supportive, particularly through training and mentoring. If anybody is in two minds about the career path they should take, I would highly recommend an apprenticeship or internship."

Supporting Global Entrepreneurship Week

The Coast to Capital board knows how tough it can be to start and run a business. Members of the board have built businesses, seen them flourish, faced tough trading conditions and tackled challenges arising from international trade.

We were therefore keen to support Global Entrepreneurship Week, which is held annually in November, and took the opportunity to showcase our activities to support enterprise in a special supplement published in the Brighton Argus newspaper. The four-page special feature focused upon our aim of increasing employment by creating favourable conditions for entrepreneurship to flourish.



Can You Help? Watch this space...

Our next Partner Forum has been scheduled for 27 March 2014 at Epsom Racecourse. Invitations will be issued in due course to Forum members, who we ask to please save the date in their diaries.

CONTACT US

To find out more on any of these news items or about our major themes email:

- malcolm.brabon@coast2capital.org.uk about Enterprise and International
- lindsey.simpson@coast2capital.org.uk about Research and Skills
- spiros.tarazis@coast2capital.org.uk about Growing Places Funding

Visit www.coast2capital.org.uk for the whole picture or email: Ron Crank, Chief Executive ron.crank@coast2capital.org.uk