

Open for Business

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



LATEST NEWS...

Coast to Capital Chairman steps down

After three years at the helm of Coast to Capital, our chairman John Peel OBE has announced his resignation which will take effect during May.

Having steered the organisation through the development of the Strategic Economic Plan (which sets the basis for negotiation with Government on future investment to drive local growth), John now believes it is the right time to step back from the helm.



"These past three years have been challenging and some of the most satisfying of my career and it has been an enormous privilege" he said. "Much has been achieved and I feel I can resign from the chair on a high note, with Coast to Capital having established a reputation as one of the leading LEPs in the country with a strong plan in place for the future."

Ron Crank, chief executive, said: "On behalf of the Board, our team and partners, I wish to thank John for his insightful leadership and support during his tenure. He was instrumental in the establishment of the LEP and he will be a very hard act to follow, although I hope he will continue as a board member."

The process is currently underway to recruit John's successor.

More companies to benefit from Business Growth Grants scheme

Businesses located anywhere in our region can now apply for grants of up to £100,000 thanks to an additional £930,000 of funding secured for the area by Coast to Capital and the Greater Brighton City Region.

SMEs may apply for a Business Growth Grant of £5,000 to £100,000 for expansion if they can fund the majority of the project themselves (up to 80%) and demonstrate that new jobs will be created.

In the last few weeks, three SMEs have been awarded grants totalling £69,000. Free support is available to help steer interested companies through the application process. Find out more at www.coast2capital.org.uk/regional-growth-fund or call Hayley Shepherd on 01403 333840.



Join a new scheme to help Sussex social enterprises

A pioneering scheme that provides support to social enterprises is re-launching this year and needs your help! The scheme is funded and delivered through a partnership between Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), Coast To Capital, Legal & General and Croydon Council, but there is a call-out to corporates to join the scheme and provide either a financial contribution or their expertise and time.

Named Social Enterprise Assist (SE-Assist), the scheme encourages local companies to assist social entrepreneurs who may be struggling to raise funds through either a lack of expertise or experience. The social entrepreneurs will be able to apply for support from SE-Assist, including an interest free loan of up to £10,000, mentoring and access to a network of investors.

John Low, chief executive of the Charities Aid Foundation, said: "Social enterprises can bring vibrancy and social innovation to every working community, but entrepreneurs are struggling to find early stage funding as grants drop away and commercial lenders take less risks. This is the perfect opportunity for big businesses to support their local communities and we hope to see many follow the lead of Legal & General. It would be great to see such partnerships between large companies and social start-ups become commonplace."

SE-Assist is now open for applications from social entrepreneurs based in West Sussex and Croydon. Discover more at <https://se-assist.co.uk>



PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION....

Institute of Directors

One evening last month, our offices in Horsham played host to members of the Surrey Branch of the Institute of Directors. More than forty directors attended to discover more about the role of Coast to Capital and how businesses might benefit from the economic development activities and enterprise funding power of the LEP. The evening proved a success and a useful local networking opportunity.



If your business organisation wishes to organise a similar event, please telephone Jack Akers on 01403 333840.



South London Export Club

Last month, representatives from more than 25 local businesses joined Coast to Capital for a meeting of the South London Export Club. The evening included a variety of sessions on topics related to international trade including tips on cultural differences, taxation and advice from both HMRC and UK Trade and Investment.

If you wish to discover more about the South London Export Club, please contact Malcolm Brabon on 01403 333840.



Sussex Community Rail Partnership

The Sussex Community Rail Partnership invited Coast to Capital to attend its monthly meeting to give a presentation on infrastructure, transport and rail, including problem areas and Coast to Capital's plans. Spiros Tarazis, Head of Infrastructure and Investment, outlined infrastructure priorities and schemes in the Strategic Economic Plan and a case study on the possibility of an enterprise zone in Newhaven. It was an opportunity for Coast to Capital to see the impact of the Sussex Community Rail Partnership on grass roots level and give views on broader infrastructure issues.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Board Member – Daryl Gayler



Daryl is a business representative on the board of Coast to Capital and is area champion for the Gatwick Diamond.

He is currently Managing Director, South-Corporate Coverage at The Royal Bank of Scotland. With responsibility for corporate banking for businesses with turnovers between £25m and £500m, Daryl has extensive business expertise. He has previously worked for Bank Austria, Creditanstalt-Bankverein and NatWest.

TOPICAL NEWS...

Vice Chairman Appointed UK Business Ambassador



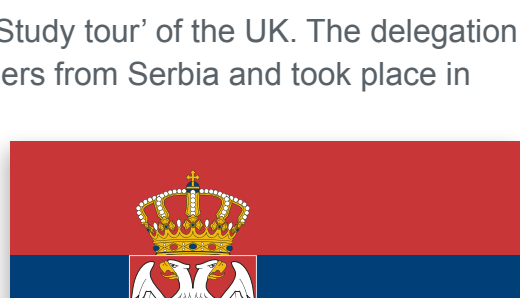
Coast to Capital vice chairman Tim Wates has recently been appointed a UK Business Ambassador by the Prime Minister. The Business Ambassadors Group was established in 2008.

As an infrastructure and construction specialist, Tim joins a select group of high profile business leaders to increase inward investment in the UK. "I have always been keen to share my business experience for the benefit of others" said Tim on his appointment. "The UK construction and infrastructure sector has much to offer and I hope, in my new role as Business Ambassador, to encourage our sector to both access new opportunities in international markets and encourage inward investment into the UK. This is complementary to the goals of Coast to Capital LEP."

Serbian Visit

Recently, we hosted a group of Serbian delegates on an 'Innovation Study tour' of the UK. The delegation comprised government officials, university leaders and business leaders from Serbia and took place in the context of Serbia's likely accession to the European Union.

The delegation was particularly interested in how economic growth may be fostered through innovation and collaborations between business and higher education establishments. Ron Crank and Malcolm Brabon, Business Growth Manager, shared Coast to Capital's key learnings with the visitors who are looking to build a network of organisations in Serbia similar to the UK's Local Enterprise Partnerships.



Coming Up...

Our next Partner Forum to be held at Epsom Racecourse on 27 March is now fully booked. We are looking forward to welcoming about 90 representatives, comprising business people, academics and policy-makers, to debate a range of topics with guest speakers.

Let's Connect...

Discover more about what we're doing in real time by following us on Twitter @Coast2Capital or connecting on LinkedIn.

CONTACT US

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