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LATEST NEWS...

Government Tasks Coast to Capital LEP to Prepare Growth Strategy by September

Coast to Capital is collaborating with local partners to develop a plan to boost economic growth in the region which includes Brighton and Hove, Croydon, Gatwick Diamond, East Surrey, Lewes and West Sussex.

The LEP has been tasked by Government to develop a long-term growth plan that will improve the local economy in line with the National Growth Strategy. This will enable Coast to Capital to bid for funds from Whitehall from 2015.

Ron Crank, Chief Executive, believes the strategy must be locally led. "This money will allow us to focus our approach", he says. "We are working closely with our local authorities and stakeholders to produce a longer term growth strategy for Coast to Capital that will ensure our economy continues to grow."



Recognising that businesses are instrumental in driving economic growth, the LEP is meeting employers across the region in a series of round-table events. Further discussions are also planned to gather the views of business organisations, trade associations and other stakeholders.

The initial Growth Statement will be published in the autumn.

LEP seeks new Board Member - Applications Welcomed

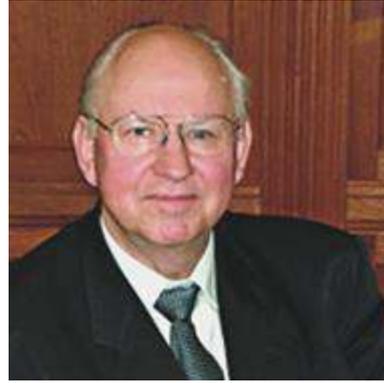
Would you like to play a key part in securing sustainable business growth in your area?

Coast to Capital is seeking an experienced senior business executive to join its Board, as a co-opted Member, for a two year period. This new role has arisen due to early progress and because Whitehall has devolved more responsibilities to the LEP, creating a need for additional expertise and experience in the delivery of its vision.

The Coast to Capital Board is comprised of nine business leaders plus the Vice Chancellor of the University of Chichester and five local authority leaders.

LEP chairman John Peel OBE, says: "We particularly welcome applicants with prior experience of corporate environments (eg. strategic HR or senior management roles), financial services or major infrastructure projects."

The time commitment required for these roles is estimated at two days per month.



John Peel, Chairman

To discover more - email: Ron Crank Chief Executive - ron.crank@coast2capital.org.uk

Applications from under-represented groups are particularly welcome.

People, Place and Purpose

Coast to Capital LEP is one of 39 partnerships established across the UK by Government to determine regional economic priorities, whilst making investments and delivering activities to drive growth and job creation.

As a significant partnership between regional, political and business leadership, the role is to help rebalance the economy and to promote private sector growth. The LEP takes a strategic lead in ensuring that the infrastructure and conditions for economic growth are in place across the diverse region, which includes both urban and rural areas. This includes the facilitation of the Government's Growing Places Fund and the European Structural and Investment Fund.

Success relies on ensuring that knowledge, ideas and skills are developed through successful collaborations and networks. As ever more connections are made, and with partnerships and strategic alliances at a local and national level formed, it is essential that the LEP effectively communicates its role.



A new profile brochure will shortly be available for download from the Coast to Capital LEP website.

MPs Briefing at Westminster

MPs from across the Coast to Capital region have been urged to promote the area and support the work being undertaken by the LEP and its partners at a recent lunch hosted by Coast to Capital LEP in Westminster.



Board Members met and briefed local MPs about the issues and challenges currently facing the region.

As well as the impact of aviation growth on the local economy, discussions were held recognising that investment in infrastructure, housing and transport are all critical. Network Rail also made a presentation at the event.

Ron Crank said: "Everyone has an important role to play to ensure our region's future success and it is important that our Members of Parliament are well informed and able to represent us effectively - especially when we are competitively bidding for funding against other parts of the UK".

Head of Infrastructure and Investment appointed

Coast to Capital LEP has strengthened its management team with the appointment of Spiros Tarazis as Head of Infrastructure and Investment. Spiros will be responsible for the delivery of the Growing Places Fund and the progress of all transport, place and broadband projects undertaken by the LEP.



Spiros Tarazis

Working closely with Chief Executive Ron Crank, Spiros will maintain and develop links with government departments, area partnerships and other LEPs to ensure Coast to Capital adopts best practice in relation to the management and development of investment, infrastructure, transport funding and broadband opportunities.

During the past 25 years, Spiros has been involved in economic development, project finance and investments. He says: "I look forward to utilising my prior experience of delivering innovative finance and investment solutions across the public and private sectors for the benefit of the Coast to Capital region."



SPOTLIGHT ON...



Steve Allen, Board Member, Coast to Capital

Steve Allen brings significant commercial expertise to the Coast to Capital Board. Brighton-based, he has lived and worked for extended periods in the USA, Europe, Scandinavia, Africa, India, South East Asia and the Middle East for a wide range of international trade clients and governments.

A former Police Officer, Steve studied Criminal Justice at Exeter University

and holds a post-graduate Diploma in Risk Management from Loughborough University.

In 1990, he became a Director of a subsidiary of Hambros Bank in the City of London, where he spent a decade leading multi-national teams to resolve sensitive boardroom and operational situations worldwide. This included reviewing and restructuring the Customs Agencies of several Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat Member States.

Closer to home, in 2001, Steve founded Prime Care Community Services Ltd where he built a 500-strong team that delivers award-winning health and social care services throughout the South of England through partnerships with local authorities and healthcare trusts. The company became the first in its sector nationally to achieve Investors in People Gold accreditation.

After 12 years, Steve has recently exited his investment in Prime Care, but continues to represent the company as Vice Chair of the Board of the United Kingdom Home Care Association where he also chairs the Audit and Remuneration Committees.

Steve currently spends several days a week on LEP business and in his spare time he is an Ambassador to the Sussex Community Foundation.

Partnership in action

Congratulations to the team from Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, who together with support from Coast to Capital and Surrey County Council, has secured £2.8m from the Department for Transport's Pinchpoint fund.

The Redhill Town Centre Balanced Network scheme will unlock the regeneration potential of the town centre by tackling congestion. The scheme includes road junction improvements to reduce congestion and improve accessibility for motorists, bus users, cyclists and pedestrians alike.

A key aim is to unlock development sites, resulting in economic regeneration and greater employment in the town centre. The total scheme value is £4.102M funded from local sources.

Watch this space...

Enterprise Handbook for Schools and Colleges Available Soon....

Coast to Capital is putting the finishing touches to a new handbook designed to encourage an enterprise culture in schools and colleges across the region. One of Coast to Capital's strategic aims is to ensure all young people emerging from education are equipped with entrepreneurial skills.

The handbook is receiving political support. Recently, Astrid Flowers (Coast to Capital) and Dr Lyn Batchelor (University of Chichester) were invited to Westminster to meet Paul Uppal MP (PPS to David Willetts, Minister of State for Universities and Science). Paul has a personal interest in encouraging an enterprising mindset among young people and is keen to support Coast to Capital's work in this area.

The free Handbook will be sent to schools and colleges across the region in the next few weeks.

CONTACT US



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

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