

# Open for Business

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



## LATEST NEWS...

### New Chairman announced

At a recent board meeting, Tim Wates, Director of Wates Group, succeeded John Peel OBE, as Chairman of Coast to Capital LEP. As chairman, Tim will be responsible for driving the LEP's strategic objectives to transform the region's business and economic performance through business infrastructure investment, international trade and entrepreneurship programmes.

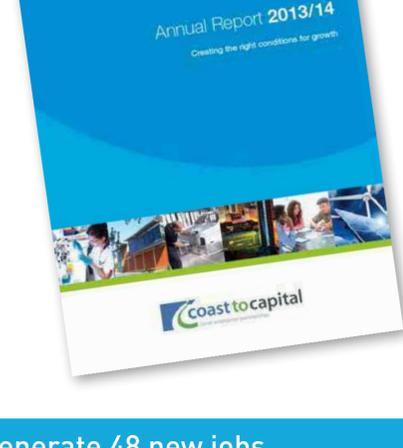


Tim says: "I am proud to accept the role as Chairman of the Coast to Capital LEP as we continue critical negotiations with Government on future investment in our region's transport, flood defences, housing, workforce, skills and communities. The UK relies on the region to be one of the largest contributors to the national economy outside of central London and investment in the region is vital to the country's successful performance going forward. With the crucial support of Government, we will be in a winning position to achieve our objectives as set out in our growth plan."

The Board would like to pay tribute to outgoing Chairman John Peel OBE. His leadership, knowledge and experience have been important assets to the LEP and we are pleased to have his continued involvement as a Director of the Board.

## 2013 Annual Report Published

We've recently published our latest Annual Report for the period April 2013 to March 2014. The review looked back over a busy year when we set about the complex task to develop a Strategic Economic Plan, a new EU Funding Strategy and a Skills Strategy for the Coast to Capital region.



We wish to thank the Coast to Capital Board, our committee members, partners and importantly our team for making 2013 a rewarding and successful year.

Please download a copy of the report [here](#).

Or if you require a printed copy please contact [jack.akers@coast2capital.org.uk](mailto:jack.akers@coast2capital.org.uk)

## Business Grants generate 48 new jobs

The first Business Growth Grants have been awarded to seven companies across the region, resulting in the creation of 48 new jobs for local people. More than 100 applications have been received over the past few months and to date, £224,000 has been allocated.

The grants programme is a £4.79 million fund run by Coast to Capital in conjunction with Brighton & Hove City Council to provide grants to selected small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) with expansion plans.

Grants are available for a wide range of items, including research and development, innovation and product/service development, breaking into new markets, skills development, plant and equipment, business premises and other capital items.



Hayley Shepherd, Regional Growth Fund Programme Manager said: "We are delighted to award the first tranche of business growth grants to companies in our region. Each of these businesses has demonstrated innovative new plans for growth and these have included research and development, capital projects and expansion into further markets. SMEs are the backbone of our economy and I am encouraging more companies to take advantage of these grants to help them achieve their full potential."

Business Growth Grants are available to any business in the Coast to Capital region seeking to grow and create new jobs, but need additional finance. Grants are available from £5,000 to £250,000 and it is expected that the grant will form no more than 25% of the total costs of the growth plans.

Further details of how to apply can be found at [www.coast2capital.org.uk/helping-business-growth/regional-growth-fund](http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/helping-business-growth/regional-growth-fund) or, alternatively contact Hayley Shepherd, Regional Growth Fund Programme Manager on 01403 333840 or [rgf@coast2capital.org.uk](mailto:rgf@coast2capital.org.uk)

## Firefly Solar - making jobs from sunshine

Lewes based business Firefly Solar Generators has recently won a £60,000 Business Growth Grant to help break into new markets whilst creating 10 new jobs within the Coast to Capital region.

The company is a market leader in the development of portable hybrid power and solar generators and its range of products are designed to reduce or replace the consumption of fossil fuels and in particular the burning of diesel in a combustion engine.

Andy Mead CEO of Firefly said: "Our market research shows that despite significant success in powering outdoor events we need to prove our products are reliable in a construction industry setting. The Business Growth Grant will allow us to undertake a series of product trials with construction firms that will enable us to show our product can deliver the solutions these companies need. The grant will fund the cost of building eight generators, which can then be used in trials."



Residential Development at Brighton Station.

## Coast to Capital in the News

We have taken the opportunity to showcase a range of our activities in the Croydon Advertiser newspaper. The four-page special feature provides an insight into the work we have been doing predominantly within the Croydon area. The content highlights the practical ways in which we can encourage the ambitious to accept our support to help start and grow a business and create new jobs within the Coast to Capital region.



## PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION...

### On tour at Manor Royal

Manor Royal Business District welcomed the support of Coast to Capital following a recent visit by Ron Crank, Chief Executive and John Peel OBE. They were met by Trevor Williams, Chairman of the Manor Royal Business Improvement District (BID) and the BID's Executive Director Steve Sawyer, who provided an update on the progress of the Manor Royal BID scheme.

The group visited Elekta, which employs 900 people at its UK HQ at Manor Royal and is a world leading company pioneering clinical solutions for treating cancer and brain disorders. They also toured the production line of Welland Medical, another innovative company which specialises in the design, development and manufacture of stoma care pouches and accessories for sale worldwide.

It was then a case of 'high tech' to 'handmade', when the LEP visited Heyland & Whittell in one of the original buildings at Manor Royal. The family-run firm produces handmade quality soaps and fragrances using natural ingredients and traditional methods, supplying numerous clients including John Lewis.

Manor Royal in Crawley is home to some 500 businesses employing 30,000 people and there are plans to create more than 14,000 square metres of new employment floor space in the next six years. Discover more at [www.manorroyal.org/](http://www.manorroyal.org/)



Production line of Welland Medical.

## The Eco Technology Show 2014

The Eco Technology Show returns to Brighton again this summer highlighting how innovation in technology and low carbon solutions can save money and deliver genuine benefits to businesses, cities and communities.

In addition to Coast to Capital, there will be more than 140 exhibitors in areas such as energy management, construction, transport, technology and resource efficiency.

Greg Barker, Minister of State at the Department of Energy & Climate Change will open the show and there will be an important debate led by Caroline Lucas, Brighton Pavilion MP, on energy future including the implications of fracking, nuclear and renewable energy.



The Eco Technology Show will be open from 9.30am - 5.00pm on Thursday 26 June and 9.30am - 4.30pm on Friday 27 June. Register at [www.ecotechnologyshow.co.uk](http://www.ecotechnologyshow.co.uk) for your free ticket and follow all the news on twitter @EcoTechShow.

## INTRODUCING...

### Paul Castle – Funding and Investment Executive



We welcome Paul Castle as our new Funding and Investment Executive. Paul will be responsible for the Growing Places Fund and the progress of all transport, place and broadband projects undertaken by the LEP.

Paul began his professional career working for Barclays Wealth Management in Glasgow, (part of the relationship management team responsible for a portfolio of high net worth clients) before moving to London to join Bank of New York Mellon where he gained experience with the structuring of various hedge funds maintained by the Bank.

Most recently, Paul has worked for investment houses where he continued to develop his financial knowledge of debt products, deal structuring and senior client management.

## Coming Up...

### Business Growth Grants 'Croydon Clinic'

Business Growth Grants are available to any business in the Coast to Capital region who want to increase turnover and profits, but need additional finance. If your business needs a helping hand, we will be in the Croydon area holding a clinic session to inform businesses about our Business Growth Grants and offer assistance to firms with their applications.

Date: Friday 4 July

Time: Between 10.00am - 3.00pm

Venue: Croydon Park Hotel 7 Altyre Road Croydon CR9 5AA

To book a slot or find out more information about the scheme please contact the Business Growth Grant Programme Manager, Hayley Shepherd on 01403 333840 or [rgf@coast2capital.org.uk](mailto:rgf@coast2capital.org.uk)



## CONTACT US



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