

# Open for Business

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## LATEST NEWS...

### Coast To Capital LEP urges developers and investors to access £23m fund to unlock growth

More than thirty agents and developers met with the Coast to Capital team in April to hear how to apply for loan finance from the LEP's £23 million Growing Places Fund. The fund, a catalyst for projects which are well developed conceptually but delayed through insufficient finance, has been created to stimulate growth in jobs, commercial space and homes across the region.

Tim Wates, Vice Chairman of the Coast to Capital LEP, summed up the position at the event: "We are extremely keen to encourage developers, investors and agents to apply for finance from our Growing Places Fund to unlock job creation and stimulate growth within the Coast to Capital area."



Find out more from:  
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## Seminar highlights importance of skills to regional growth

Coast to Capital wishes to thank those from across the region who recently attended a strategic skills seminar. Ron Crank, Chief Executive of Coast to Capital, says: "Education providers will play a key role in helping us achieve our goals of stimulating business growth, innovation, productivity and employment levels. This collaborative seminar gave us the opportunity to listen to those developing skills at the frontline and to better understand the different perspectives. This input will help us to create a robust skills strategy and action plan which will increase the links between education and business, so that economic growth is not hindered by a lack of appropriately skilled, employment-ready people."



## Government Publishes 'Growing Micro Businesses' Report

Helping thousands more new businesses get off the ground by expanding the Government's Start-Up loan scheme and opening up further the £230 billion worth of public sector contracts to the smallest businesses will help boost growth and transform the economy according to the Prime Minister's enterprise adviser, Lord Young. In his second report to the Prime Minister, ***Growing your Business: A Report on Growing Micro Businesses***, Lord Young highlights the increasing importance that micro businesses – those which have less than 10 employees – have on the success of the economy.

## Queen's Award for Enterprise accolade

Our congratulations go to the recipients of The Queen's Award for Enterprise 2013 - the UK's most prestigious business accolade. Within the Coast to Capital region, there were four businesses and one individual who scooped the high profile Awards. Juliette Green, board member for Enterprise, says: "We warmly congratulate those in our region who have been recognised for delivering excellence. As we all know, running a successful business in today's economic climate is particularly challenging and it is a huge accolade."



## Coast to Capital LEP urges Government to reduce tax burden on home-based businesses

Coast to Capital has been lobbying Ministers to reduce the regulatory and taxation burden on home-based businesses. The LEP is urging Government to recognise the potential growth dynamism for the UK economy, now that home-based working is a substantial part of the rural economy. For example, there are currently around 8,000 home-based businesses within the Horsham District alone.

The importance of this issue was reinforced by a research study of skills and enterprise in rural West Sussex which revealed that the creation of 6,500 jobs in the area over a five year period was largely due to an increase in home workers.

## EMBED project roll out

The EMBED project seeks to enhance the capacity of community based organisations to inspire entrepreneurship. Following a successful pilot project, Women's Wisdom is set to roll out the initiative across the region on behalf of Coast to Capital. It will equip volunteers in the community with the skills and confidence to raise the concept of enterprise with more of their customers. Partners in the project include Chichester College, Worthing Council for Voluntary Services, Northbrook College, the University of Chichester and the Coastal West Sussex Partnership.



Paula Graham,  
Project Manager,  
Women's Wisdom

## SPOTLIGHT ON...



### Ravi Shankar Board Member of Coast to Capital

Ravi Shankar is a business representative on the Coast to Capital Board and also champions the Croydon Development and Cultural Partnership. A finance expert, he is co-founder, MD and Chief Investment Officer of Epic Asset Management (EPAM).

Ravi previously worked at Norwich Union as Investment Director and was a member of the Investment Policy Committee. He was also Director of Fixed Income Strategy at Kemper (Zurich) Investment Management for about four years and, for a similar period was Head of Investments at the Ministry of Finance in the Sultanate of Oman. He began his career with Prudential Investments in NY, USA. Ravi holds an MBA in finance from Drexel University in Philadelphia and a Bachelor of Engineering degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian National Institute of Engineering.



## Partnership in action

Coast to Capital hosted representatives from more than 60 local businesses and public sector organisations at its latest Forum event in Fontwell. Held twice per annum, the Forum provides an opportunity for the LEP to consult widely with its partners from West Sussex, Brighton, Croydon and the Gatwick Diamond areas. The theme was the development of a new Growth Strategy, which will enable Coast to Capital LEP to access further funding from Government to invest in the region's transport, housing and skills.

At the Forum, John Peel, Chairman of the Coast to Capital LEP said: "We want to keep jobs growth as our unifying goal. However, our new Growth Plan has to cover all the issues which contribute to growth."

## Watch this space...

Coast to Capital and West Sussex County Council are jointly commissioning the development of a web based 'portal' that will provide businesses within the Coast to Capital area with an online directory of business support. Ron Crank, Chief Executive of Coast to Capital said the idea came with the ending of local Business Link advisory services and is in line with Lord Heseltine's recent recommendation to ensure the provision of greater local support for businesses.

If you offer business support services and would like to be featured on the site, please contact Astrid Flowers by email at [astrid.flowers@coast2capital.org.uk](mailto:astrid.flowers@coast2capital.org.uk)



## COMING UP...



### Eco Technology Show 2013

Coast to Capital LEP is delighted to support this year's show which takes place on 14-15 June in Brighton. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about the latest sustainable technologies and innovations by visiting more than 140 exhibitors in zones including Eco Build, Design, Renewable Energy, Transport, Office, Home, and Technology.



Find out more at <http://www.ecotechnologyshow.co.uk>

### Gatwick Diamond debates aviation growth

Representatives from the public and private sector in the Gatwick Diamond are to debate issues around aviation growth on 23 May to prepare an informed response to the Howard Davies Commission on future aviation capacity in the South East.



Find out more at [www.gdegf.com](http://www.gdegf.com)

### Successful Growth – Expert Advice Event

ICAEW and the Federation of Small Businesses are offering free expert advice to SMEs over breakfast on 26 June 2013 at Holiday Inn Gatwick Airport. Expert speaker sessions will cover employment issues, access to funding, cash flow management, business planning and branding. Book your place by contacting [katherine.meadows@icaew.com](mailto:katherine.meadows@icaew.com)

## CONTACT US



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