

Open for Business

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LATEST NEWS...

Encouraging business innovation

More than 130 regional business leaders and policy makers attended our Partner Forum on 25 September at Worthing College to debate the importance of innovation in driving our regional economy in the years ahead.

Coast to Capital's new chairman Tim Wates and Chief Executive Ron Crank hosted the event, which featured absorbing presentations from renowned architect David Marks, joint founder of the London Eye company and i360 Tower Project in Brighton and Trevor Beattie, Chief Executive of the South Downs National Park Authority.

Addressing the audience, Tim said: "Creativity, ambition and international outlook are important to the future of our region. Together we need to encourage the companies in our region to invest in their future and create the jobs of tomorrow, to trade beyond boundaries and to capitalise on new technologies. Funds and programmes will be crucial and, in this respect, Coast to Capital will be there to support where we can."



Company's Renewable Technology Boost

A specialist design engineering company has secured a loan from Coast to Capital's Growing Places Fund to buy new equipment and create 30 new jobs.

CTEC Energy, based in Newhaven, East Sussex, specialises in thermodynamic engineering and manufactures heat recovery units for large industrial units which capture exhaust gas and converts it into super-heated steam that then generates electricity.



Ron Crank, Chief Executive of Coast to Capital, said this is the latest loan investment from our Growing Places Fund which will help CTEC increase its sale capacity. "We were attracted to CTEC Energy as it is a prime example of a company using innovative technologies," he said. "We are pleased this funding will be used to help CTEC Energy grow its business and create employment opportunities for local people within the Coast to Capital region."

The Coast to Capital Growing Places Loan Fund is available for projects that are ready to implement in the short term and will create or unlock job creation.

To discover more about the Growing Places Loan Fund and to see if your business is eligible for funding visit www.coast2capital.org.uk or contact Paul Castle on 01403 333845 or email paul.castle@coast2capital.org.uk

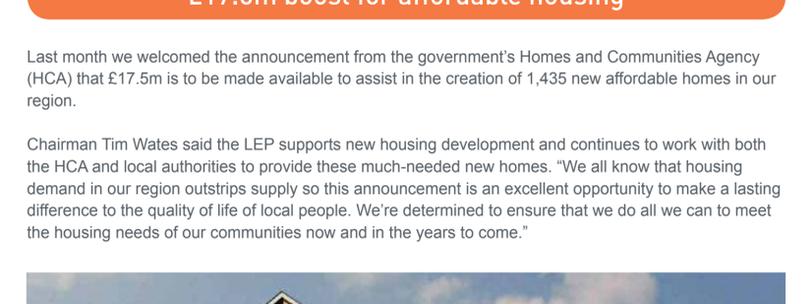
Business Tourism is serious business

Around 50 regional business leaders, policy makers and tourism experts met in Brighton this month to discuss the future of Business Tourism in the Coast to Capital region. The event was held at the AMEX Community Stadium and investigated the opportunities the region provides as well as any threats its Tourism sector might encounter looking forward.

This workshop considered interventions that the Local Area Partnership and its partners might need to consider in supporting the Business Tourism sector across the region. Setting the tone for discussions was Simon Gidman, Head of Business Visits from 'Visit England', who delivered a detailed overview of Business Tourism on a national scale. He was then followed by Nigel Smith, Marketing & Communications Director, Tourism South East who outlined the importance of a strong Business Tourism sector.

Following the speakers, there was an opportunity for guests to discuss the topic in table discussions. With a wide range of stakeholders at each table, discussions were in-depth and covered all areas of Business Tourism. This session required each table to report back to the group with their findings and key points were noted.

Ron Crank, Chief Executive of Coast to Capital LEP said: "It is crucially important that we listen to what has been said at this meeting. The opinions expressed will help us to make the right decisions for Business Tourism in the future. The discussions highlighted the opportunities within our region and we will continue to work with our partners and stakeholders to ensure we capitalise on them."



£17.5m boost for affordable housing

Last month we welcomed the announcement from the government's Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) that £17.5m is to be made available to assist in the creation of 1,435 new affordable homes in our region.

Chairman Tim Wates said the LEP supports new housing development and continues to work with both the HCA and local authorities to provide these much-needed new homes. "We all know that housing demand in our region outstrips supply so this announcement is an excellent opportunity to make a lasting difference to the quality of life of local people. We're determined to ensure that we do all we can to meet the housing needs of our communities now and in the years to come."



Affordable housing in Redhill

£10m Skills Capital fund launched

If you are involved in Further Education or are a registered skills provider in our region, you are invited to bid for a slice of £10m of Government funding for projects that provide inspiring education facilities via our new Skills Capital Fund.

The deadline for the first round of applications is Friday 28 November. Successful first stage applicants will be asked to provide further detailed information before final decisions are made on the approved projects at the end of June 2015. Find out more about the eligibility criteria and process by emailing Heather Binning on skillscapitalfund@coast2capital.org.uk



Business Growth Grants boost

120 new jobs are to be created in the latest round of grants awarded from our Business Growth Grant scheme with nine companies receiving a slice of almost £500,000.

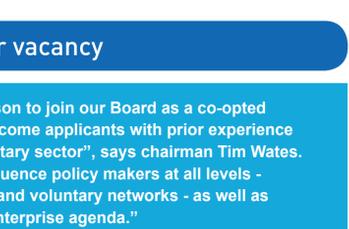
The Business Growth Grants programme helps local small and medium-sized enterprises expand their businesses by supporting projects such as skills improvement, research and development and investing in equipment or premises.

Following a high number of applications, the current round of funding is now closed for new proposals unless expressions of interest have already been made. It is hoped a new round of funding will become available early in 2015. To discover more visit www.coast2capital.org.uk/helping-business-growth/regional-growth-fund.

Skaters benefit from Business Growth Grant

It's not just pure commercial projects which can benefit from our grants. A new community skate park opened in Bognor Regis earlier this month, having received a Coast to Capital Business Growth Grant of more than £36,000.

'The Base' will be a focal point for indoor BMX riding, skateboarding and scooting, creating a safe environment for local young people to enjoy urban sports. "We believe that people need to be able to turn their localities into places that are not only economically dynamic but also socially engaged," said Ron Crank, Chief Executive, Coast to Capital.



The Base Skatepark in Bognor Regis.

Board update

A champion for social services and housing has joined our Board. Croydon councillor Toni Letts, who was awarded an OBE in 2011 for her services to housing and the community, chaired the Croydon Health Authority for eight years, the NHS Primary Healthcare Trust for six years and also the London NHS Specialist Commissioning Board.

On her appointment, Toni said: "I join the board during a very exciting time for Croydon's regeneration and I want Coast to Capital to be there every step of the way."

Board member vacancy

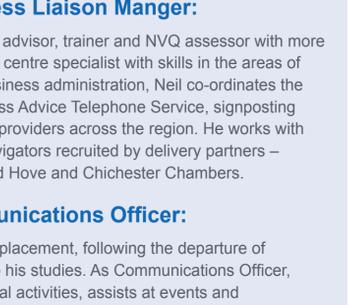
We are seeking a two year experienced business person to join our Board as a co-opted member of working with social entrepreneurs and the voluntary sector", says chairman Tim Wates. "Our ideal candidate is someone who is able to influence policy makers at all levels - particularly in respect of social policy, community and voluntary networks - as well as contribute to our broader international trade and enterprise agenda."

If you are interested, please email Ron Crank, Chief Executive at ron.crank@coast2capital.org.uk Closing date: 31 October 2014.

New Jobs result from strong foreign investment

Hundreds of jobs were created in the Coast to Capital region through investment by foreign-owned companies during the last financial year. According to a new report by UK Trade and Investment, 28 projects by overseas companies were started in the region during 2013/14, which created 387 new jobs and safeguarded a further 1,040 positions.

The investments came from across the globe and were spread across a range of sectors including Software and Computer Services, Biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals plus Mechanical Electrical and Process Engineering.



Spotlight on...

In recent months, we've had some new people join our team. Introducing...

Neil Secombe Business Liaison Manger:
Neil is an experienced business adviser, NVQ assessor with 25 years experience. A call centre specialist with skills in the areas of sales, customer service and business administration, Neil co-ordinates the new Business Navigator Business Advice Telephone Service, signposting companies to business support providers across the region. He works with a team of Business Support Navigators recruited by delivery partners – Worthing and Adur, Brighton and Hove and Chichester Chambers.

Michael Harms Communications Officer:
Michael has joined the team on placement, following the departure of Jack Akers, who has returned to his studies. As Communications Officer, Michael co-ordinates our digital activities, assists at events and co-ordinates our growing image library.

Growth Deal Project Manager vacancy

We are seeking a strong project manager to oversee and co-ordinate the Coast to Capital delivery partners on all the projects contained in the Growth Deal 2014, ensuring key project deadlines and targets are developed, supported monitored and met.

The closing date is 24 October 2014. Find out more at http://www.coast2capital.org.uk/images/Project_Manager_Growth_Deal_2014.pdf.