

Welcome to West Lothian's monthly round up of local business news, upcoming events, new business support schemes, new developments and up to date economic facts and figures. To view all the stories in full, use the links below, which will take you to West Lothian's online resource

West Lothian Business Connections is 5 years old this month!

Since we launched in March 2005 we have:

- distributed 60 issues;
- promoted over 600 business events;
- published 1,300 news stories

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

www.westlothian.com/news



LAND SECURITIES is to purchase West Lothian House, the former council headquarters for £3M. The 1.038 hectare site is likely to be redeveloped for retail usage with Primark amongst the names being mentioned as a possible new occupier on the redeveloped site.

IMPROVEMENTS TO LINLITHGOW'S STREETScape totalling £858,000 will get underway on 17 March 2010. The works include upgrading of the wide footway at The Vennel and both footways between The Cross and Low Port using high quality materials to enhance Linlithgow's accessibility, heritage and environment.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

THE CARBON TRUST are running a final **FREE 'Carbon Coaching'** workshop on 17 March for industrial and manufacturing companies in the West Lothian area. The workshops aim to realize real business benefits and save money by helping companies complete their own energy action plans and learn practical energy auditing skills.



THE **EXPORTERS BOOT CAMP** in Glasgow on March 25 has been designed to put Scottish businesses in contact with some of the best sources of export knowledge, advice and networks that business and government in Scotland and the wider UK have to offer. www.exportersbootcamp.co.uk

ARE YOU interested in advertising on one of West Lothian's **roundabouts**? With over 70 roundabouts to choose from, businesses have the opportunity to advertise 365 days a year at very affordable rates. Call 01506 775238.

COULD YOUR BUSINESS create a job for a young person? Through the **Future Jobs Fund** the government will pay £6,500 per post created which is meant to cover all or most of the salary costs. All candidates will have been unemployed for at least 6 months. All jobs must demonstrate an element of community benefit and they must be in addition to what already exists.

For more information call Sandra Darling on 01506 777944 or email sandra.darling@westlothian.gov.uk

ALL MAJOR CONTRACTS (including OJEU tenders) currently advertised by West Lothian Council can be found on the **Public Contracts Scotland** website at www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk. The following recently published tenders have closing dates in March.

- Inspection of Playground Equipment
- Town Centre Deep Cleaning
- Trace & Collection Services
- Provision of Integrated Housing and Building Services IT System
- Primary school construction work



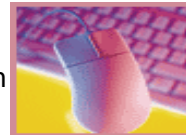
ECONOMIC FACTS & FIGURES

WEST LOTHIAN'S **population** is projected to increase by 22.9 per cent to 208,364 by 2033. That compares with a Scotland-wide population rise of around seven per cent to 5,544,410.

THE **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate in West Lothian for January '10 (latest data released February '10) is 4.9% (5,217 - an increase of 493 on the previous month). West Lothian's rate is slightly above the Scottish (4.5%) and Great Britain (4.3%) rates.

KEEP UP to date with 15 **Key Economic Indicators** on our website

http://www.westlothian.com/Home/wl_economy/facts_figures/



BUSINESS GATEWAY West Lothian is offering a number of FREE workshops in Livingston in March

- **Trading Online** on 9 March.
- **Get Real Results from your Website** on 16 March.
- **Improve your Search Engine Ranking** on 23 March.

Due to their popularity, all three workshops are now fully booked. You can register your interest for future dates by emailing bgateway@westlothian.gov.uk

Business Gateway's new Spring program of workshops continues in March with **Managing your New Employee** and **Creating a Consultancy**. Find out about all these workshops in our **Spring Workshops leaflet**. <http://www.westlothian.com/media/docs/pdf/2192898>



IN THE NEWS

www.westlothian.com/news

CYBERHAWK INNOVATIONS in Livingston has been nominated for a John Logie Baird Award for their unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV). The aerial recording equipment is usually used for inspections and surveys but have also been utilised for training analysis by the Scottish Rugby Team.

POLBETH FIRM Just Create have been named the Scottish Craft Retailer of the Year 2010.

WEST LOTHIAN based catering company Hyndberry was recently featured on BBC1 Reporting Scotland with cooking demonstrations and tastings at New Hopetoun Gardens.

WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE held a 'Speed Networking' event to launch their new Business Partnership Centre. The Centre at West Lothian College aims to help businesses grow, through professional development courses and work-based training.

OATRIDGE COLLEGE'S reputation as "a premier provider of specialised education and training for the land-based industries and the rural economy" has been acknowledged by the Peoples Republic of China.

CRANEWARE, the Livingston based healthcare software specialist, has increased interim pre-tax profits 28 per cent to £12.1 million.

LINLITHGOW COMPANY CLC Presentation Systems are celebrating a contract win to become the exclusive supplier of GBC UK Ltd hardware and supplies throughout Scotland.

WHAT'S ON

www.westlothian.com/events


WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is holding a business networking lunch in association Edinburgh on 11 March. The event at Quality Hotel, Edinburgh airport will include an update on developments at Edinburgh Airport from Gordon Robertson, Communication Manager BAA Edinburgh.

LOTHIAN BUSINESS CLUB will be holding a lunchtime networking event at Centrex House, Livingston on 15 March from 12 noon – 2pm. <http://www.lothianbusiness.biz/index.html>

WEST LOTHIAN WOMEN IN BUSINESS are holding a lunchtime meeting on 23 March. For more information or to book email laura.jull@westlothian.gov.uk.

THE WEST LOTHIAN COFFEE MORNING takes place at the Winter Garden at The Centre in Livingston every Friday from 8am. Why not try this free business networking event? No membership, no fees, no speakers, no agenda.

SIGN UP

If you would like to subscribe to receive this update by email please contact andrew.cotton@westlothian.gov.uk

TALK TO US

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