



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 for business - www.westlothian.com.

NEW DEVELOPMENTSwww.westlothian.com/news

PARAGON INKS are building a brand new, £3.5million manufacturing centre at Starlaw Park, near Bathgate. The specialist ink firm are expanding from their current Broxburn base to the new, larger, purpose built, facility.

WEST LOTHIAN'S premier arts venue, the stunning new Howden Park Centre has received the "Building of the Year" award from the Edinburgh Architectural Association (EAA).

WORK HAS STARTED on a brand new civic building for Bathgate that will bring council and community services together under one roof, replacing the former Lindsay House on South Bridge Street.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

PLANS FOR A NEW £50m loan facility to be delivered by the new Scottish Investment Bank (SIB) to help growth and exporting firms expand and so boost the economic recovery, were unveiled by First Minister Alex Salmond. For more information call 0845 607 8787



SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENT GRANTS of up to £750 are available in Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn & Uphall and Whitburn. Guidance and application forms can be found online.

<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/1523/1539/shop-front>

COULD A STUDENT from the STEP Programme help you kick-start and manage a new development project? The 8 week undergraduate placement programme runs over the summer and aims to help you achieve real results at an affordable price. <http://www.essential-hr.com>

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

THE GOVERNMENT HAS LAUNCHED a new free-access website, called www.data.gov.uk, which gathers together more than 2500 government-owned data-sets on areas, such as education, crime, the NHS and transport. The website uses an open licence, so businesses can develop applications allowing viewers to, for example, find their nearest NHS dentist or view house-price trends.

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 May.

- Supply of 3 Tractors
- Provision of Pre-School Education in private and voluntary sector nurseries
- Linlithgow Burgh Halls Catering Services
- Engine Oils and Associated Lubricants

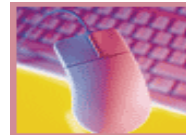
**ECONOMIC FACTS & FIGURES**

THE **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate in West Lothian for March 2010 (latest data released April 2010) is 4.8% (5,186 – a decrease of 125 on the previous month). West Lothian's rate is slightly above the Scottish (4.5%) and Great Britain (4.2%) rates.

KEEP UP to date with 15 Key Economic Indicators on our website, http://www.westlothian.com/Home/wl_economy/facts_figures/

or read our **April 2010 Economic Update** here.

<http://www.westlothian.com/media/docs/commpr/kei/keiapr2010>



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

- **Basic Bookkeeping** on 11 May.
- **Marketing your Business** on 25 May.
- **VAT for New Businesses** on 27 May.
- **Renewable & Sustainable Energy** - A free Breakfast Briefing on 27 May in association with energy conservation specialists TTS.

START UP workshops for people contemplating starting a new business also run in Livingston each month. For more information call 01506 777 400.

IN THE NEWS

www.westlothian.com/news


LIVINGSTON BASED TOUCH BIONICS has won the Queen's Award for Enterprise for its achievements in the development and commercial success of the i-LIMB Bionic Hand.

WFS TECHNOLOGIES has moved to a new HQ building at Houstoun Interchange in Livingston. The wireless communication firm established its new corporate headquarters close to its former Livingston base after a period of strong growth.

TWO WEST LOTHIAN FIRMS have been recognised at the National Estate Agent Awards. Bathgate agency Castlebrae Letting picked up the Silver award for Scotland, while Martin & Co Livingston and Falkirk picked up the Bronze award in Scotland as well as the Silver award for Best Large Chain.

LIVINGSTON BASED visual communications experts City IS are joining forces with Norway's Viju Group to create a leading global player within the visual communications and collaboration technology market.

MAXI GROUP LIMITED, which includes Livingston's Maxi Construction have increased pre-tax profit by almost 8% to £3,467,400. Group turnover was slightly down due to a planned reduction in the Construction Division's sales.

PALLETWAYS EDINBURGH, the Livingston based distribution company, has expanded its fleet of vehicles to accommodate its growing number of national and international customers.

PAUL BRADFORD, of Truly Scrumptious in Linlithgow, recently found himself being asked to whip up a cake for Prince Albert of Monaco.

WESTWOOD CARAVAN STORAGE in West Calder has been awarded a Gold Award, the highest possible level of security, from CASSOA, the Caravan Storage Site Owners' Association.

WHAT'S ON

www.westlothian.com/events


thesmallbusinessclub West Lothian Elite is holding a business to business breakfast networking event at the Hilcroft Hotel in Whitburn on 4 May from 8am – 10am
<http://www.thesmallbusinessclub.co.uk>

WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is holding an informal business networking evening with a wine experience challenge on 10 May. <http://www.wlchamber.com>

LOTHIAN BUSINESS CLUB will be holding a lunchtime networking event at Centrex House, Livingston on 10 May from 12 noon – 2pm. The theme is *Dispel myths in health and safety*.
<http://www.lothianbusiness.biz/index.html>

JOIN SUCCESS-ORIENTATED, like-minded others at West Lothian's newest networking forum mixing business with pleasure. Accelerate Your Success takes place on Tuesday, 11 May 2010 at 7pm in Deer Park Golf and Country Club, Livingston. <http://ays11may10.eventbrite.com/>

WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will be looking at Business and Banking with presentations from The Cooperative Bank and MBM Commercial on 12 May at Deer Park, Livingston.

SIGN UP

If you would like to subscribe to receive this update by email please contact andrew.cotton@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506 777911

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