



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

DETAILS OF THE £860,000 town centre improvements planned by Enterprising Bathgate and West Lothian Council have been announced including a new civic and event space at St David's Square, a transport interchange at the new railway station, a new town centre cycle network and a town centre Wi-Fi zone.

RAIL HAS BEEN LAID in Bathgate to mark the start of Scotland's biggest new railway project in half a century. The new 15-mile Airdrie and Bathgate link should be operating by December 2010.

MULTINATIONAL PIZZA CHAIN Domino's are planning to open a new store in Linlithgow. Plans have been submitted for the site at Falkirk Road, Linlithgow adjacent to the Aldi store.

LINLITHGOW SHERIFF COURT has been sold by the Scottish Court Service. The grade B listed building was put on the market in February last year.

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL is inviting bids for a 25 year waste treatment works contract, worth up to £240 million

**BUSINESS SUPPORT**

THE SMALL BUSINESS BONUS SCHEME is being extended from April 2010 so that small chains become eligible for a discount. A business with two or more properties with a cumulative rateable value of £25,000 or less will qualify for relief of 25 per cent on individual properties with rateable values of up to £18,000.

A STUDENT from the Environmental Placement Programme (EPP) could help your business cut carbon emissions and save money. The scheme provides businesses with focused, low cost practical environmental support, whilst providing students with paid work experience in a commercial environment.

Contact Barbara Schweitzer-Thomson at barbara@thebep.org.uk or tel 0131 561 6276

COULD YOUR ORGANISATION 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

ARE YOU INTERESTED in renting out business premises in West Lothian? To list your vacant office space, shop or other business premises FREE of charge on www.westlothian.com/propertysearch simply fill in the form at www.scottishproperty.co.uk/property/

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 April.

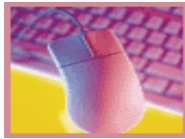
- Legionella Testing Services
- The Provision of a Give as You Earn scheme
- Architectural, engineering and surveying service
- Linlithgow Burgh Halls Catering Services
- Waste Treatment Project

ECONOMIC FACTS & FIGURES

THE **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate in West Lothian for February '10 (latest data released March '10) is 4.9% (5,311 - an increase of 94 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 April:

- **Resource Planning & Management** on 6 April.
- **Customer Care** on 6 April.
- **Get Real Results from your Website** on 8 April.
- **Trading Online** on 20 April.
- **Get Real Results from your Website** on 26 April.

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



HI-TECH LASER-ETCHING FIRM Optoscribe have won the Alba Innovation Challenge, worth up to £50,000 of business support. The national business competition was launched last year to attract innovative new businesses to West Lothian.

UNITED CENTRAL BAKERIES (UCB), the Bathgate based producer of breads and morning goods, is celebrating the rollout of the Genius Gluten Free bread brand to Starbucks.

LIVINGSTON BASED MANUFACTURER Mitsubishi Electric has become the first UK manufacturer of heat pumps to be awarded the European Eco-label in recognition of the superior environmental performance of its Ecodan range of residential heating units.

LIVINGSTON FOOTBALL CLUB has signed a new sponsorship deal with local company Alpha Plus. The two have a long-standing relationship and the new deal will run until the end of the next season.

MARK BEAUMONT, director of Linlithgow based Unique Care Solutions, was a finalist at the recent Institute of Directors 2009 awards.

RADIO TELECOM SERVICES LTD, the Livingston based communications firm have launched a new Rescue Communications Helmet designed to help the emergency services in difficult water based rescue situations.

POLBETH BASED property letting and estate agency, Mavor & Co, is expanding and now covers Perthshire, as well as the Lothians, Lanarkshire and Fife.

LIVINGSTON BASED Fairtrade Vending Scotland has announced a new relationship with Trees4Scotland, the Carbon Collective project.

A NEW INITIATIVE is helping local young people take a key role in improving their environment and getting new skills for work. The Future Jobs Fund is funding new employment opportunities for young people aged from 16 to 25.



thesmallbusinessclub West Lothian Elite is holding a business to business breakfast networking opportunity at the Hilcroft Hotel in Whitburn on 6 April from 8am – 10am www.thesmallbusinessclub.co.uk

WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is holding a business networking lunch in association with Borders, Midlothian and East Lothian Chambers on 21 April at Barony Castle, Eddleston www.wlchamber.com

LOTHIAN BUSINESS CLUB will be holding a lunchtime networking event at Centrex House, Livingston on 12 April from 12 noon – 2pm. www.lothianbusiness.biz

SCOTTISH CHAMBERS INTERNATIONAL is hosting an event looking at Doing Business in Dubai, in Glasgow on 15 April. www.scottishchambersinternational.co.uk

WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is leading a company visit to view Sibbald Training's recently opened £1.2 million, purpose built training facility at Blackridge. www.wlchamber.com

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

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