

## A BUSINESS UPDATE FROM WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL MAY/JUNE 2010

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](http://www.westlothian.com).

### NEW DEVELOPMENTS

[www.westlothian.com/news](http://www.westlothian.com/news)



WORK TO REOPEN the Airdrie-Bathgate Rail Link continues to advance westward this month as Network Rail replaces a bridge deck at Bedlormie Toll, between Caldercruix and Blackridge.

UP, UP AND AWAY! Go Ape tree top adventure has opened at Beecraigs Country Park, near Linlithgow. The award winning obstacle course consists of ladders, bridges, tunnels, walkways and wind-in-your-face zip wires; all set some 40ft high up in the treetops.

To celebrate their opening Go Ape are offering special deals for West Lothian businesses wanting to organise staff days out/teambuilding days. They can also organise catering and conference requirements. Contact [stewart.deards@goape.co.uk](mailto:stewart.deards@goape.co.uk) or call 07584 231 668 for more information.



### BUSINESS SUPPORT

SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENT GRANTS of up to £750 are available in Armadale, Bathgate, Broxburn & Uphall and Whitburn. For more information contact Suzanne McCardle on 01506 777926

ARE YOU AN EMPLOYER worried about making redundancies? PACE (Partnership Action for Continuing Employment) can help your business to identify alternatives to redundancy; maintain and improve industrial relations; access local support services; support employees with tailored programmes to help them access jobs and training.

The local PACE contact is Fiona Chisholm at West Lothian Council. Her role is to liaise with employers, even at the early stages of decision making, to agree and deliver what levels of support are appropriate, depending on timescales, numbers involved etc. The service is free of charge. Contact Fiona Chisholm on 01506 777912 or [fiona.chisholm@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.chisholm@westlothian.gov.uk)

ALL MAJOR CONTRACTS (including OJEU tenders) currently advertised by West Lothian Council and other public sector organisations can be found on the **Public Contracts Scotland** website at [www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk](http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk). The following recently published tender has its closing date in June.

- Engine Oils and Associated Lubricants

Business Gateway West Lothian is holding a workshop on the subject of **Procurement: Selling to the Public Sector** on 22 June.

FREE CLINICS to help you WIN BUSINESS TENDERS will be run on the first Thursday of every month, starting on 1 July. A procurement specialist will be available at the Enterprise Centre in Livingston from 2 – 4 pm to answer all your questions about tendering and procurement. Call 01506 777400 to book your time.

WEST LOTHIAN WOMEN in Business are running an event on 8th June on Best Practice and Compliance in Data Protection and Electronic Commerce Law. The presentation by Tim Musson of Computer Law Training Ltd will cover:

- Data Protection and Data Security
- Changes to Data Protection Act
- How to ensure you are complying legally

Book online at [www.eventelephant.com/wibjune](http://www.eventelephant.com/wibjune)

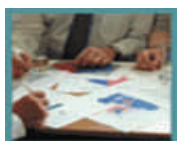
### ECONOMIC FACTS & FIGURES

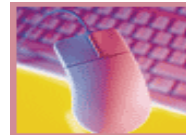
THE **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate in West Lothian for April 2010 (latest data released May 2010) is 4.7% (5,041 – a decrease of 145 on the previous month). West Lothian's rate is slightly above the Scottish (4.3%) and Great Britain (4.1%) rates.

KEEP UP to date with 15 Key Economic Indicators on our website [http://www.westlothian.com/Home/wl\\_economy/facts\\_figures/](http://www.westlothian.com/Home/wl_economy/facts_figures/)

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

<http://www.westlothian.com/media/docs/commpr/kei/keimay2010>





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

- **Negotiating Skills** on 8 June
- **Marketing and Market Research for Start Ups** on 14 June
- **Personal and Business Planning** on 21 June
- **Procurement: Selling to the Public Sector** on 22 June
- **Resource Planning and Management** on 28 June

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](http://www.westlothian.com/news)


A BIONIC HAND which can be programmed using wireless technology has been unveiled by West Lothian-based Touch Bionics. The i-Limb Pulse offers users an "unparalleled degree of flexibility".

WEIGHT ANGEL LIMITED has relocated from Edinburgh to a 5,000 sq ft manufacturing unit at Oakbank Industry Park in Livingston. Weight Angel is an award-winning system that warns of overloading in commercial vehicles.

HOME IMPROVEMENT FIRM 1st Choice Glazing has expanded into new, larger premises at Glasgow Road, Bathgate.

CARLIEN DUJARDIN first came to West Lothian for a day's visit. But with help from Business Gateway and local restaurateur Michael Bennett, she ended up opening business Patisserie Dujardin in Linlithgow Bridge.

VISIT WEST LOTHIAN has launched a new campaign and website to highlight West Lothian's hidden gems. The destination marketing company is aiming to raise West Lothian's profile and attract more people to explore its many beauty sites, places of historical significance and leisure attractions.

BLACKBURN BASED REMOVALS FIRM Matt Purdie & Sons have won the prestigious Domestic Mover of the Year Competition 2010 from the British Association of Removers.

LIVINGSTON FC'S Almondvale ground has been renamed the Braidwood Motor Company Stadium after the Second Division club struck a three-year naming rights deal with the Pumpherston based firm, which runs until the end of the 2012-13 season.

BOGHALL BUTCHER PAUL BOYLE, a two-time World Scotch Pie champion, has added British Pie Champion to his titles. He beat off the competition in the Fish and Vegetarian categories.

LIVINGSTON AUTOPARTS, one of the largest independent distributors of motor components in Scotland, has launched a new e-shop to support its expansion into retail parts & accessories sales.



## WHAT'S ON

[www.westlothian.com/events](http://www.westlothian.com/events)

thesmallbusinessclub West Lothian Elite is holding a business to business breakfast networking event at the Hilcroft Hotel in Whitburn on 1 June from 8am – 10am [www.thesmallbusinessclub.co.uk](http://www.thesmallbusinessclub.co.uk)

LOTHIAN BUSINESS CLUB will be holding a lunchtime networking event at Centrex House, Livingston on 7 June from 12 noon – 2pm. Anne Farr from the Rothera Group will be talking about *Sales documents that actually work*. <http://www.lothianbusiness.biz/index.html>

WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is holding two events in partnership with West Lothian Council's Education service:

- On the 11 June, Chamber members will have the opportunity to find out about the new Curriculum for Excellence, look around the newly built Deans Community High School, ask questions about what schools are doing and enjoy a buffet lunch.
- Following on from the event on 11 June, a business lunch on 18 June will provide the opportunity for business people to illustrate the issues involved in growing businesses and cover topics such as the readiness of school leavers for working in businesses.

BUSINESS BREAKFAST BRIEFING - Defibrillators in the Workplace – will take place at The Enterprise Centre in Livingston on 17 June from 8 - 9.30am. Organised by Business Gateway in association with Albacare Ltd.

## SIGN UP

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

## TALK TO US

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