



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)



SKY'S NEW £2 MILLION TALENT HUB - a training and recruitment centre on Kirkton Campus in Livingston - was opened in December by Jim Mather, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism and Sky Sports presenter Ali Douglas.

THE JANE MOORE TRUST, an independent organisation that specialises in the provision of high quality child care and education services for young people, is to establish its national headquarters at Alba Business Pavilions, Livingston.

A NEW EXPRESS RAIL SERVICE from West Lothian started in December. The new hourly service slashes the current journey times from Livingston South and West Calder by 20 minutes to Glasgow Central and 10 minutes to Edinburgh Waverley.

LAND-DRILL GEOTECHNICS, the Livingston based ground investigation specialists, have been carrying out site investigations for a new eco-visitor centre at Beecraigs Country Park.

GREEN & PINK, an independent, locally owned gift store has opened at The Centre, Livingston and offers something 'a little different' including bespoke artwork and contemporary jewellery from independent designers across the UK.

BARRHEAD TRAVEL has opened a new branch in The Centre in Livingston, the first in West Lothian.



## BUSINESS SUPPORT

WANT TO SUPPLY to the Offshore Wind Industry? Scottish Enterprise and the Crown Estate are running an event in Glasgow on 4 February 2010 where you can find out more about the opportunities in this fast growing industry. For more information call 0845 667 8787.

LOCAL COMPANIES are being given help to "adopt" young apprentices who have been made redundant during the recession. Construction businesses can receive £2,000 to take on an apprentice from the Scottish Government's **Adopt an Apprentice** scheme to save young tradesmen from unemployment. For more information call 0808 100 1855.

BUSINESS APPETITE to trade with China is to be gauged by West Lothian Business Gateway in a survey in early 2010, building on the council's recent links with China.

RURAL BUSINESSES and social enterprises in West Lothian can benefit from the academic resources and expertise of Oatridge College through the new 2KT+ Knowledge Transfer project. Contact Russell Parker on 07789 912 436.

THE CARBON TRUST is offering West Lothian businesses free help in low-carbon, energy-saving practices. Running from January to March 2010, the Carbon Trust is funding work delivered by the Business Environment Partnership to coach West Lothian companies on the positive business benefits to be gained by cutting energy bills. Call Claire Parrott on 07971 617 006 or email [claire@thebep.org.uk](mailto:claire@thebep.org.uk)

WANT TO GET MORE detailed information on suppliers or clients? West Lothian's business information service can help. Using some of the UK's major business information suppliers, we can help you access company reports, accounts & profiles; industry trends & news reports; market research and industry profiles. Call Lenna Gray on 01506 777910 or email [enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:enterprise@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](http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk).



## ECONOMIC FACTS & FIGURES

THE **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate in West Lothian for November '09 (latest data released at December '09) is 4.4% (4,714 - a decrease of 22 on the previous month). West Lothian's rate is slightly above the Scottish (4.1%) and Great Britain (4.1%) rates.

KEEP UP to date with 15 Key Economic Indicators on our website at: [www.westlothian.com/facts](http://www.westlothian.com/facts)

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

- **Networking Skills** on 12 January.
- **Basic Bookkeeping** on 26 January
- **Developing an Exit Strategy for your Business** on 28 January.



START UP workshops also run in Livingston each month. For more information call 01506 777 400.

WEST LOTHIAN'S TOWNS are to benefit from a £3million cash windfall.

A recent announcement confirmed that the area will receive £2.345 million from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Regeneration Fund, with the council contributing a further £700,000.

TOUCH BIONICS, the Livingston based developer of advanced upper-limb bionic technologies, has announced the commercial launch of ProDigits, the world's first powered bionic finger solution for patients with missing fingers.

ALPHA PLUS GROUP, the Livingston-based ground maintenance, street cleansing and waste management equipment company, has won a grass cutting and landscape maintenance contract worth £500,000 from Transerv Scotland.

SEVEN of the country's most enterprising firms have been shortlisted for a top prize to help them make it big in West Lothian. The winner of the Alba Innovation Challenge's prize package of a £50,000 will be announced at an event on 24 February at Howden Park Centre in Livingston.

LIVINGSTON'S SHOPPING CENTRE has been highly commended in the British Council of Shopping Centres Gold Awards.

HIGHLANDER, the Livingston based distributor of outdoor equipment, clothing and accessories, is sponsoring the Northern Lights Expedition which aims to highlight climate change through the exploration of the Arctic.

WEST LOTHIAN bathroom specialist James Anderson is celebrating an increase in sales since the company opened a new showroom at Standhill Industrial Park, Bathgate.

THE WINTER 2009 EDITION of **West Lothian Business Connections** magazine will be issued in early January. Call 01506 777400 if you would like a copy.



thesmallbusinessclub West Lothian Elite is holding a business to business lunchtime networking opportunity at the Hilcroft Hotel in Whitburn on 11 January from 12 noon – 2pm

WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is holding:

**Networking Evening** on 13 January.

**Business Mentoring - Sales and Business development** on 18 January.

For more information or to book email [brenda.cumming@wlchamber.com](mailto:brenda.cumming@wlchamber.com) or call 01506 777938

SCOTTISH BUSINESS INSIDER'S Top 500 Business Breakfast will be celebrating Scotland's top companies on 22 January. Keynote speaker Keith Skeoch, CEO of Standard Life Investments, will give his take on the current economic problems and the likely outcome of the coming months. For more information call Siobhan Maclean on 0141 309 3532.

WEST LOTHIAN WOMEN IN BUSINESS and West Lothian Chamber Of Commerce are holding a joint networking lunch on 26 January. For more information or to book email [laura.jull@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:laura.jull@westlothian.gov.uk) or call 01506 777400.



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