

We are pleased to bring you the January/ February 2009 issue of **West Lothian Business Connections Online!** Our monthly update brings you West Lothian's recent 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 DEVELOPMENTS www.westlothian.com/news

A £2.8 MILLION business centre in Easter Inch, Bathgate has been opened by **Evans Easyspace** and could create up to 150 jobs. The centre was officially opened on 23 January by local MSP, Mary Mulligan. It is already almost 50% let with 15 businesses operating from the centre, many of which are locally based.

WEST Lothian COUNCIL has now formally adopted the new West Lothian Local Plan. It forms a key part of the statutory development framework for the area. The new local plan sets out a long-term development strategy, which includes proposals for around 25,000 new homes, including much-needed affordable housing.

TEN NEW JOBS are to be created after supermarket giant **Tesco** got planning permission to build a new woodchip-burning heat and power plant for its massive distribution centre in West Lothian.

A **NEW VISION** for the public areas of Bathgate has been unveiled. The Bathgate Public Realm Design Guide and Design Framework sets out best practice in promoting good quality urban design and outlines priorities for public area improvements.

IN THE NEWS www.westlothian.com/news

LIVINGSTON-BASED software firm **Craneware** is increasing promotional spending in the US to take advantage of a strong dollar, after the medical software company reported a boost in revenue and contracts. Craneware reported that revenue had risen by 20 per cent in the six months to 31 December.

WEST Lothian'S LEADERS have officially launched **Homecoming Scotland 2009** and issued a special invitation to visit the area this year. During the Homecoming year Scotland will be celebrating with a spectacular year-long calendar of events to highlight Scotland's great contributions to the world: golf, whisky, great minds, innovations and Scotland's rich ancestry and culture.

FINSBURY FOOD GROUP, the owner of United Central Bakeries in Bathgate has seen revenues rise by 12 per cent in the first half of its year.

MCDONALD CONSTRUCTION has moved to new premises in Broxburn providing it with the extra space needed to cope with continued growth of the business.

AN ENVIRONMENT GROUP in Linlithgow has been awarded almost £94,000 to tackle climate change. Chairman of **Linlithgow Climate Challenge**, Peter Roberts said: "My feeling is that this award is a strong vote of confidence in what has been achieved so far in raising the awareness of energy use and climate change factors."

WHAT'S ON www.westlothian.com/events

Lothian BUSINESS CLUB, an affiliate of **thesmallbusinessclub** network, is hosting a lunchtime networking event looking at marketing at Centrex House, Kirkton Campus, Livingston on 16 February at 12 noon - 2.00pm. Email booking@lothianbusiness.biz to book or go to www.lothianbusiness.biz for more information.

WEST Lothian CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is holding a Business Networking Lunch in association with 02 on 18 February at the **Vu Restaurant**, Ballencrieff.

CONFIDENT BUSINESS WRITING is the subject of the February meeting of the West Lothian **Women in Business** group. Led by Anne Farr of the **Rothera Group Ltd** the meeting starts at noon on 24th February at the Deer Park Country Club in Livingston. To book email wib@westlothian.gov.uk or call Laura Maltman on 01506 777925.

BUSINESS NETWORK INTERNATIONAL is about to launch its second successful business referral group in West Lothian. The group, who meet weekly at the **Cairn Hotel** in Bathgate, will be holding a visitors open day on February 25th at the Cairn Hotel. For more information email Murray Wilkinson on murray@bniscotland.co.uk or call 0845 680 0911 or 07855 440911.



BUSINESS GATEWAY has launched a series of workshops aimed at helping businesses through the current economic downturn. A business strategy workshop *Managing your Business through an Economic Downturn* will take place in Livingston on a choice of two dates: Monday 16th Feb at 2 pm or Monday 9th March at 9am. A free business breakfast workshop to help managers and business owners to Motivate Staff has also been organized on February 26. For more information follow this link or email e-mail bgateway@westlothian.gov.uk or telephone 01506 777928.



WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE in Livingston is now accredited to deliver the CMI Level 5 Certificate in Management and the Level 5 Diploma in Management from the Chartered Management Institute. For more information contact Peter Fitzpatrick on 07949 902893 pfitzpatrick@west-lothian.ac.uk

ONLINE LEARNING programmes specifically aimed at small businesses have been made available by Learn Direct Scotland in conjunction with West Lothian College. Clusters of online courses include topics such as business development and legislation. For more information contact Peter Fitzpatrick on 07949 902893 of pfitzpatrick@west-lothian.ac.uk

ENTERPRISE MINISTER Jim Mather has outlined ways for businesses in Scotland to explore all possible means of boosting their cashflow by tapping into UK Government support schemes that guarantee credit to business. Business Gateway West Lothian should be your first stop to discuss your business situation. Call 01506-777000.

ARE YOU **LINKEDIN** West Lothian? asks West Lothian Business Gateway's e-business adviser, Andy Gilpin. In the current climate business networking is becoming all the more important, so why not start building your own online network of businesses in West Lothian using LinkedIn. You can find out more about LinkedIn and how to get started here. Watch this space for news of a future local e-business event on this topic. <http://www.linkedin.com/>

THE **BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT PARTNERSHIP** is looking for businesses who could benefit from the resources and expertise available through their student placement programmes that can reduce carbon emissions or take forward environmental projects. Call Barbara Schweitzer-Thompson on 0131 561 6262 or email barbara@thebep.org.uk

COPIES of a new **Edinburgh & Lothian business directory** are still available to be collected from West Lothian Council's Enterprise Centre, Almondvale Boulevard, Livingston or contact the publishers, the Capital Group on 01506 508001.

UPDATE YOUR **FREE ADVERT** in West Lothian's online business directory. Search for your business name and email any updates to enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk www.westlothian.com/businesssearch

A **NEW WEBSITE** offers businesses the opportunity to bid for hundreds of public sector contracts. The Public Contracts Scotland website provides free access to all public sector procurement in Scotland. All contracts (including OJEU tenders) currently advertised by West Lothian Council, Procurement Scotland, Scotland Excel and APUC are now available in one place at www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk. Other local authorities and public sector organisations are being added every week and by Dec 2009 all 185 public sector contracting bodies in Scotland will be advertising all their contracts on the website.

OTHER PUBLIC SECTOR tenders from across the UK and Europe can be found at OGC <http://www.ogc.gov.uk/procurement.asp>

BUSINESS LEARNING



www.westlothian.com/events

BUSINESS GATEWAY is running the following **FREE** workshop in West Lothian for growing businesses:

- Credit Control in Livingston on Tuesday 24 February.
- Resource Planning and Management in Livingston on Tuesday 02 March.
- Trading Online in Livingston on Wednesday 03 March.



OTHER FREE workshops including; *Time Management; Cash Flow; Networking Skills* and *Women Into Business: E-Business* are available in Edinburgh, Dalkeith or Haddington.

BUSINESS GATEWAY start-up workshops are also run on a regular basis. For more information call 01506 777 400.

FREE EMAIL UPDATE

Would you like to receive this **FREE Business Update** by email? Contact andrew.cotton@westlothian.gov.uk - or call 01506-777911 - and we'll add you to our mailing list.

TALK TO US

If you would like to send us your feedback or comments, a **FEEDBACK** link is provided at the bottom of every web page on our website at www.westlothian.com or you can email us at enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk or Text BIZ to 60777

