

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

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

www.westlothian.com/news



THE PROPOSED £22 million Avon Gorge link between the M8 and M9 is a step closer to reality after politicians agreed to lobby Scottish ministers for the cash to get the project off the ground.

THE LIVINGSTON PARKWAY retail development in Almondvale has changed owners and is about to be home to three new tenants including Direct Flooring, Sayegh Orthodontics and Marini's Fish & Chips.

BT HAS ANNOUNCED that the Livingston Station exchange, covering west Livingston, will be upgraded this year to allow super fast 50Mbps fibre optic broadband to be rolled out in Summer 2010.

MORRISON CONSTRUCTION has started work on a brand new £3.5million learning disability resource centre for West Lothian at Craigshill East Road in Livingston.

ORACLE IS GEARING UP to relocate its Scottish headquarters from Edinburgh to Linlithgow, following the European Commission's approval of its £4.5 billion acquisition of Sun Microsystems.

The Civic Square in Livingston is to be given a new, green look. The total funding of £230,777 has been secured as part of the Town Centre Regeneration funding recently secured for town centre improvements across West Lothian.



BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Carbon Trust are funding 2 **FREE 'Carbon Coaching'** workshops in February and March for industrial and manufacturing companies in the West Lothian area. Organised by the Business Environmental Partnership, the workshops aim to realize real business benefits and save money by helping companies complete their own energy action plans and learn practical energy auditing skills. Contact Claire Parrott on 0845 129 4830 or email claire@thebep.org.uk

A £7.5 million project will provide new support for Scottish companies seeking to trade globally. A series of roadshows, specialist training, online tools and a national helpline will be launched as part of the three-year Intelligent Exporter - a joint initiative between Edinburgh Business Development and Scottish Chambers International in conjunction with Scottish Development International.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2009/12/30111928>

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 February or March:

- Bituminous Road Surface Materials
- Inspection of Playground Equipment
- Furnishing of Temporary Tenancies
- Supply of DVDs to Public Libraries
- Appointment of Technical Advisors for Waste Management Project
- Financial Advisers for Waste Management Project Team
- Design and construction of new council houses
- Abandoned Vehicle Recovery Service



ECONOMIC FACTS & FIGURES

THE **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate in West Lothian for December '09 (latest data released at January '10) is 4.4% (4,724 - an increase of 20 on the previous month). West Lothian's rate is slightly above the Scottish (4.1%) and Great Britain (4.1%) rates.

WEST LOTHIAN is leading the way in new home construction with a 34% increase from 369 in 2009 to 496 in 2008. This compares well to the Scotland-wide figures for the same period that show a small fall of 12% from 8,092 in 2008 to 7,115 in 2009.

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



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

- **Resource Planning & Management** on 8 February.
- **Marketing your Business** on 9 February.
- **VAT for new businesses** on 16 February.
- **Winning new business – High Impact Bids and Proposals** on 25 February

Business Gateway's new spring program of workshops continues in March with **Managing your New Employee** and **Creating a Consultancy**. Find out about all these workshops in our **Spring Workshops leaflet**. <http://www.westlothian.com/media/docs/pdf/2192898>

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

WEST LOTHIAN'S top companies have performed strongly according to the Scottish Business Insider Top 500. The report reveals that thirty of Scotland's top 500 companies (6%) are headquartered in West Lothian.

LIVINGSTON BASED software developer Craneware has signed a five year contract to supply billing software to Salt Lake City based Intermountain Healthcare's 23 hospitals.

BLOXX, the Livingston based anti-virus specialist is launching a security appliance allowing teachers to use sites like YouTube while blocking out comments and offensive content.

LIVINGSTON BASED Radio Telecom Services Ltd (RTS) will perform all maintenance and upgrades required on terminals and infrastructure for the Mountain Rescue Council of Scotland (MRCofS) for the next five years.

LIVINGSTON based jewellery retailer Bobijou has received an "Outstanding Achievement" award for retail from the Interactive Media Awards.

The rate of new business formation in West Lothian has not been slowed down by the recession, according to the latest figures issued by Business Gateway West Lothian.

The first 'Business Watch' of its kind in West Lothian has been launched at Whitehill Industrial Estate, Blackburn as part of Operation Focus. 'Business Watch' is a partnership supported by 50 firms on Whitehill Industrial Estate, Lothian & Borders Police Safer Communities and West Lothian Council.

WHAT'S ON

www.westlothian.com/events


WEST LOTHIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is holding a:

- **Developing your business workshop** on 22 February.
- Call 01506 777938 to book.

ALBA INNOVATION CENTRE is holding a **Tech Sector Speed Networking** event on 10 February from 17.30 – 20.30.

WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE is holding a Speed Networking event to coincide with the launch of their Business Partnership Centre on 10 February, from 5pm – 7pm. Call 01506 427699 to book for this free event.

ALBA INNOVATION CENTRE is holding an Innovative Technology update event on 18 February to help firms implement new technologies and network with other technology firms.
To book email audrey.meikle@gcal.ac.uk

WEST LOTHIAN WOMEN IN BUSINESS are holding a lunchtime meeting on 23 February. For more information or to book email wib@westlothian.gov.uk or call 01506 777400.

SIGN UP

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