West Lothian Business
CONNECTIONS ONLINE
A BUSINESS UPDATE FROM WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2009

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 DEVELOPMENTS

www.westlothian.com/news

HALDANES, a new mid-sized supermarket chain, is opening a new store and regional headquarters in Broxburn. The new company has opened four stores across central Scotland and has plans to open dozens of additional stores throughout the UK over the next few years.

GO-APE will soon be swinging into Linlithgow - the tree-top adventure course has confirmed an opening date of Easter 2010 for their new Beecraigs based attraction.

THE BENEFITS of the Airdrie-Bathgate rail line opening were outlined to members of West Lothian Chamber of Commerce by Ron McAulay, Network Rail Director, Scotland at an event on the 4 November.

DANWOOD SCOTLAND'S new headquarters operation in Livingston's Shairps Business Park has been opened by Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond.

VEHICLE REPAIR FIRM AGR & Sons has agreed to double its occupancy level at Axwell Yards in Broxburn.

WEST LOTHIAN'S new civic centre was officially opened by Scotland's First Minister, Alex Salmond on 25 November.

BUSINESS SUPPORT

SCOTTISH DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL (SDI), working in partnership with UKTI, is urging Scottish companies to take full advantage of the support available regarding doing business in Asia, in the run up to the first ever Asia Task Force meeting to be held in Scotland.

LOTHIAN AND BORDERS POLICE have launched a state of the art Forensic Property Marking System, to help prevent thefts and break-ins to households and businesses. Businesses are being encouraged to take part in the initiative by purchasing the Flashlight Crime Prevention Toolkit package which contains a special forensic property marking solution. Call Stuart Neilson on 01506 445671 or email Stuart.Neilson@lbp.pnn.police.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

ARE YOU PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS effectively in West Lothian's **FREE online business directory?** Check your listing at www.westlothian.com/businesssearch and email any updates to 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. The site provides free access to all public sector procurement in Scotland and also includes contracts and OJEU tenders advertised by Procurement Scotland, Scotland Excel, APUC and other local authorities and public sector organizations. All 185 public sector contracting bodies in Scotland are now advertising their contracts on the website.

ECONOMIC FACTS & FIGURES

THE **UNEMPLOYMENT** rate in West Lothian for October '09 (latest data released at November '09) is 4.4% (4,736 - an increase of 85 on the previous month). West Lothian's rate is slightly above the Scottish (4.0%) and Great Britain (4.1%) rates.

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

BUSINESS LEARNING

www.westlothian.com/events

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

- **Time Management** on 8 December
- **Resource Planning and Management** on December 14

OTHER **FREE** workshops are available in Edinburgh, Dalkeith or Haddington. For more information follow this link:www.bgateway.com/

IN THE NEWS

www.westlothian.com/news

ATOS ORIGIN has been named West Lothian's Best Business 2009 at West Lothian Chamber of Commerce's recent prestigious *Business Excellence Awards*. Other award winners include Fasteq, Platinum Recruitment Services, Seafield Primary School and Kim Walker of The Advance Consultancy.

LIVINGSTON FISH PROCESSOR Macrae's parent firm has been named Company of the Year at the national Food Manufacture Excellence Awards.

SCOTTISH SAFETY company, Limpet Technology, hopes to report sales of £5million within the next two years. Limpet Technology, which is understood to be moving its base from Granton to West Lothian, has just launched its pioneering system which protects workers operating at heights from falling.

HILLINGTON BASED print firm CCB has acquired Broxburn based Adwill Media as part of their expansion plans. The new company will trade as Adwill CCB.

LIVINGSTON SEMICONDUCTOR company Elonics is on the road to raising close to £4 million. The technology group, which has started shipping its first products to customers for commercial production, has already signed up a lead investor to back its cash call.

HOME IMPROVEMENT company 1st Choice Glazing have trebled their workforce in just 12 months. The company started up at Easter Inch, Bathgate in September 2008 and have rapidly expanded from their original three staff to employing 10 people today.

WEST LOTHIAN visitor attraction Hopetoun House has been crowned the area's first five star tourist attraction by VisitScotland. The historic house has been recognised as one of the best in Scotland.

WEST LOTHIAN COLLEGE'S talented photography students have taken flight in a Cessna 172 to capture a host of stunning shots of Edinburgh and the Lothians' famous landmarks.

WHAT'S ON

www.westlothian.com/events

ENJOY SOME festive pre Christmas networking at the **West Lothian Xmas Pie** on 11 December! The Digital Pie and The West Lothian Coffee Morning (in conjunction with the Business Gateway, e-Business West Lothian, Women in Business, The West Lothian Chamber of Commerce, The Centre and O'Brien's) are teaming up to invite you to the Christmas business networking event of the year! At the Winter Garden at The Centre in Livingston, 8—11am.

THE WEST LOTHIAN COFFEE MORNING takes place at the Winter Garden at The Centre in Livingston every Friday from 8am. Why not try this Business Networking event?

SIGN UP

If you would like to subscribe to receive this update by email please contact andrew.cotton@westlothian.gov.uk

TALK TO US

If you would like to send us your comments, a FEEDBACK link is provided at the bottom of every web page on www.westlothian.com You can also email us at enterprise@westlothian.gov.uk

business gateway west lothian

West Lothian Council