



e-shropshire business e-bulletin



Issue TWO

News from Shropshire County Council's Economic Regeneration Team

Shropshire Annual Business Summit

Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, of Shropshire County Council will host the second Shropshire Business Summit on the 1st May at Shrewsbury Town Football Club. The theme for the event is **Shropshire Business - Global Markets** and the keynote speaker is **Geoffrey Davies OBE** of McConnel Ltd Ludlow which is one of the county's largest private employers. Geoffrey was voted National Entrepreneur of the Year in 2007 by the British Chambers of Commerce for his work in rescuing under-performing companies in a troubled manufacturing industry sector and transforming them into successful, world-class concerns.

The Business Summit is open to all Shropshire based businesses. For more information contact us by e-mail: businessvision@shropshire.gov.uk or phone 01743 252533.

Invest in Shropshire

A new web-site has been launched, www.investinshropshire.com, which will allow businesses to search a countywide database of commercial properties available for sale or rent. It also contains information on current and planned business developments around the county.

This website is aimed at businesses that are looking to start up, expand or relocate to Shropshire. It will soon include information about the broad range of support offered to businesses throughout the county.

The right place to grow food and drink businesses



Shropshire County Council and Advantage West Midlands are working together to develop a place where young food and drink businesses can thrive – The Shropshire Food Enterprise Centre.

The centre, due to be complete in September 2008, is located on a 20 acre site just north-east of Shrewsbury and will be the hub of a regional network of food and drink manufacturing business incubation units.

These incubators and the centres facilities will provide an environment which supports young businesses in the early stages of development and subsequent achievement of high growth in the future.

Companies will also benefit from close partnership working with experts and researchers and access to other specialists and institutions that can provide support.

For more information contact investinshropshire@shropshire.gov.uk phone 01743 252596



Plans approved for Tern Valley Phase II Market Drayton

Outline Planning Permission has been granted for the extension to Tern Valley Business Park, Market Drayton. The scheme, promoted by Shropshire County Council and North Shropshire District Council, will provide 5.5ha (13.5acres) of employment land and 4ha (9.8acres) of public open space. The development will also assist in meeting the current shortage of employment sites in North Shropshire, particularly for local companies wishing to expand.

A plot has been identified for the development of an Enterprise Centre for business start ups, to be developed by Advantage West Midlands and Evans Easyspace. The work on site infrastructure is planned to commence in the summer 2008 with completion by the end of December 2008.

Enquiries should be forwarded to Nigel Ford on 01743 253404

JobCentrePlus offers Local Employment Partnerships

Signing up to Local Employment Partnerships links you up with candidates that are job-ready, when you need them. As part of the Local Employment Partnership you'll get a specialist recruitment service to help you tap into a wider talent pool and find the right people for your business. Why not consider becoming an LEP employer and open up your opportunities, by offering one or all of the following: Interviews; Mentoring; Training; Work Trials. In return JobCentrePlus will help you get local candidates with the right attitude and pre-trained with the basic skills for your job.

For more information contact:

Jamie.jacobsen@jobcentreplus.gsi.gov.uk or phone 0783 703 4115.
Website: **www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/employers.**

Profit From IT

This **Business Link West Midlands** initiative will provide businesses with advice on the following:

IT Advice – To improve marketing and save costs

IT Information – To keep you up to date with changes in IT.

IT Solutions – Help sourcing the best IT suppliers

IT Skills – Identify training and development needs and identify training solutions.

For more information call 0845 113 1234 and quote IT08 or e-mail

myict@businesslinkwm.co.uk

London 2012 – Procurement Workshops

In partnership with Advantage West Midlands and other key organisations, **Business Link** has an exciting opportunity to promote procurement opportunities for the London 2012 Games and beyond.

The huge investment in the London Olympics is just one example of the kind of demands that the public sector has for goods and services. The London Games won't just benefit businesses in the Capital, opportunities will arise all around the country including the West Midlands.

Whatever the nature of your business or the size of your company, winning more custom and achieving success in a competitive market place requires a range of skills. The public sector has a huge range of opportunities for small and medium sized businesses to supply goods and services, but to do this they will have to complete what can be a challenging tendering process.

Business Link's free-to-use service will ensure that businesses throughout the region are supported and proactively assisted to be procurement-ready.

Businesses can use the online resource www.london2012.com/business which will provide an assessment of their business needs, information and guidance on checking their 'business-ready criteria'. This service enables businesses to understand procurement procedures through a programme of workshops.

Enquiries should be sent to the dedicated e-mail address,

procurement@businesslinkwm.co.uk and these will be followed up by Business Link with the necessary information and advice.

If you have any questions relating to this project please contact our local Partnership Manager, David Ledbury on 0121 506 0570 or email davidledbury@businesslinkwm.co.uk.

Advantage West Midlands will be running workshops around the region.

Dates include:

- **25 April 2008, Shrewsbury**
- **17 June 2008, Oswestry**
- **12 August 2008, Market Drayton**
- **21 October 2008, Ludlow**
- **02 December 2008, Whitchurch**

For more information, please contact Val Day at West Midlands Business Council on 0121 245 0140 or visit www.wmbusinesscouncil.org.uk

For more information on e-bulletin:

email economic.development@shropshire.gov.uk
or call (01743) 252533