

MOVING AND SHAPING A PROSPERING HAMPSHIRE

NEWS FROM HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SUMMER 2011

Economic Development joins Hampshire County Council's new Economy, Transport and Environment department

At the beginning of April the Economic Development Office transferred to the Economy, Transport and Environment Department (ETE) at Hampshire County Council under the Directorship of Stuart Jarvis.

In light of the current changes around Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) this timely establishment of the Economy, Transport and Environment Department will position Economic Development to deliver its part

in the County Council's Open for Business future.

This new structure for ETE is vital as the County Council develops and reshapes services and County Council members are currently being consulted on the department's new structure and priorities. Economic Development will play a key role in this drive to moving and shaping a prospering Hampshire, in the interim led by Deputy Director John Osborne.

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Helping Hampshire's Service Leavers find employment

The Economic Development Office helped organise a very successful event aimed at offering people leaving the Armed Forces advice on future careers in Farnborough earlier this year.

The Armed Services Employment Fair, part funded by the County Council, is an initiative of the Hampshire Military Economic Partnership, which was set up by HCC to assist in developing training, investment and employment opportunities for people leaving the Forces, veterans and reservists.

Approximately 22,000 serving personnel are stationed in Hampshire along with approximately 6,000 civilians directly employed by the Armed Forces in Hampshire (including Portsmouth). Following their period of service, a large number of people choose to settle in Hampshire and need to find local employment.

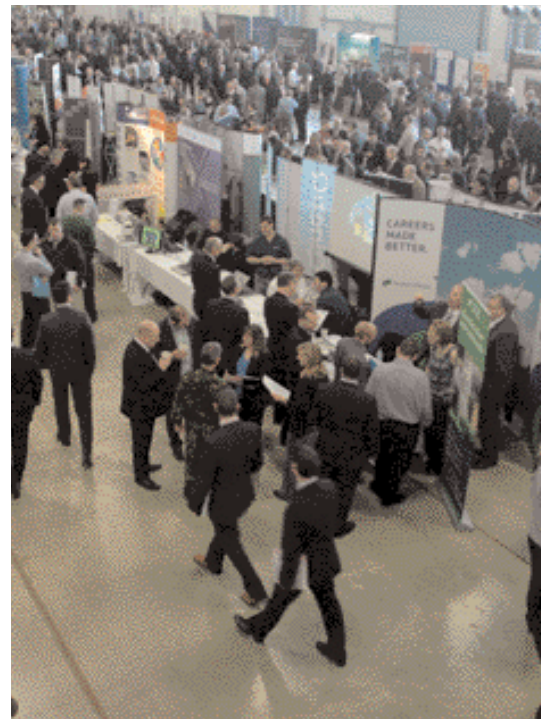
The Employment Fair was organised to help service leavers, veterans and reservists recognise how their skills could be transferred, identify

future career opportunities and provide useful contacts with prospective employers. Over 1,500 service leavers from all three services attended the Fair to take up the opportunity to meet over 100 major employers who had stands at the event.

Councillor Ken Thornber, Leader of Hampshire County Council, said:

"When coming out of the Armed Forces it can sometimes be difficult to see what your next step should be and how the skills you have can be applied elsewhere.

"The aim of Employment Fair was to offer practical assistance to service leavers and put them in touch with training providers and potential employers. The businesses that attended, including Virgin Media and Siemens, gave delegates good advice on how to improve employability and hopefully provided the inspiration the service leavers need to choose a new career path."



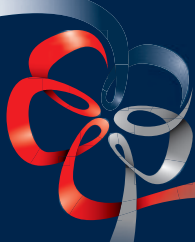
The Armed Services Employment Fair

Brigadier Neil Baverstock, Commander, Headquarters 145 (South) Brigade, said:

"The hard work and endeavours of the Hampshire Economic Military Partnership has resulted in a highly positive response to this event from employers seeking the unique skills and experiences that service leavers can bring to the workplace."

The support for the Recruitment Fair forms part of the County Council's wider support for the Armed Forces Community in Hampshire and fits with the County Council's role as one of the Armed Forces Welfare Pathway Pilots.

For further information about the Hampshire Economic Military Partnership contact **hannah.payne@hants.gov.uk**



National Award for local produce in Hampshire school meals

Hampshire Fare is welcoming a national award to Hampshire County Council Catering Services (HC3S) for its use of local produce in school meals.

HC3S has scooped the title of '2011 UK Education Caterer of the Year' at the recent Cost Sector Catering Awards held in London.

The Cost Sector Catering Awards is the only arena that offers the people who work in the foodservice and catering industry the chance to be judged by their peers and come through to win industry-wide recognition as the best.

Hampshire County Council Catering Services (HC3S) is the main provider of educational catering within Hampshire. HC3S provides school meals at 448 primary and special schools and 31 secondary schools throughout the county.

HC3S has worked closely with county food group Hampshire Fare and Hampshire producers over the past few years, together with its distributor 3663, to introduce locally sourced produce onto the school menu.

This includes the supply of 17 tonnes of Hampshire-reared beef and 450,000 buffalo burgers, 190,000 litres of Hampshire apple juice and 700,000 Hampshire free-range eggs per year.

Leader of Hampshire County Council, Councillor Ken Thornber said: "Hampshire County Council has made a real commitment to supporting local producers and this award gives Hampshire valuable national recognition. HC3S, together with Hampshire Fare and local food producers must be applauded for leading the way."

Please contact Sophie Boxall at Hampshire Fare on **01962 847098**, sophie.boxall@hants.gov.uk for further information.

The Hampshire Food Festival (July 1st-31st)

Loosen your belt in readiness for Hampshire's month-long celebration of local food and farming this July!

Farmers, producers, restaurants, pubs, cookery schools, attractions and town centres showcase the best of local food and drink during the Hampshire Food Festival which runs July 1st-31st.

Held at numerous venues across Hampshire on the south coast of England, the Hampshire Food Festival celebrates the food and drink produced, reared and grown in the county with over 90 different events: farm open days and walks; brewery, vineyard, orchard and lavender tours; celebratory lunches and dinners; butchery and fish filleting demos, cookery classes; jam, chocolate and cheese-making; milling and baking; cider pressing; trout and venison farming; foraging; beekeeping; cookery competitions; tastings and much more.



Anthony Worrall Thompson @ Festival Place

Basingstoke's Festival Place Food Festival is a key event during this year's Festival, and is a positive outcome of the ongoing corporate partnership between county food group Hampshire Fare and one of the south's leading shopping centres. This year celebrity chef Anthony Worrall Thompson will be at the free Festival Place Food Festival on both Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July, showing how easy it is to cook simple seasonal dishes using locally sourced ingredients.



The Hampshire Food Festival 2011 programme is packed full with over 90 different events taking place throughout July

The Festival's success has been recognised with a Gold award at The 2010 Beautiful South Awards organised by Tourism South East and it was the winner of the South of England Enterprise category in The 2010 Countryside Alliance Awards.

The Hampshire Food Festival, now in its 11th year, attracted over 215,700 people in 2010. Research indicates that last year's Festival economically benefitted Hampshire, bringing in an estimated £3.54million of visitor spending during the month long local food celebrations.

For full details of all Hampshire Food Festival events, visit www.hampshirefare.co.uk or pick up a free programme at numerous outlets across Hampshire.

Please contact Sophie Boxall at Hampshire Fare on **01962 847098**, sophie.boxall@hants.gov.uk if you have any queries about this year's Hampshire Food Festival.

Join in Hampshire Fare's 20th anniversary celebrations!



You can share in county food group Hampshire Fare's 20th anniversary celebrations in 2011. Sign up for Hampshire Fare's E-newsletter at www.hampshirefare.co.uk for your chance to win some fabulous foodie prizes each month - from luxury hotel breaks, personalised producer visits and cookery workshops to dining experiences and local food hampers - all generously donated by Hampshire Fare members!



Hampshire Farming Conference 2011



The Hampshire Farming Conference, organised by the Economic Development Office, is the largest event of its kind in the county, bringing together the farming community and those in related fields.

This year's event, which took place on Thursday 16 June, offered a unique opportunity for farmers

and stakeholders to listen to keynote speakers tackle the pertinent issues for farming.

Delegates were presented with the findings of the Regulatory Task Force report from Richard MacDonald, Chair and former Director General of the NFU and hear from Helen Bower, President of the Women's Food & Farming Union. The Conference also included a case study on farm-scale Anaerobic Digestion and a skills update on the Farming Workforce of the Future by Tim Jackson, Principal of Sparsholt College where the Conference was held.

Presentations from the Conference can be found at www.hants.gov.uk/hampshirefarmingconference

NatWest gives support to this year's Hampshire Farming Conference

This year's Conference was supported by NatWest. A leading UK bank for agricultural businesses, NatWest is committed to supporting the industry – helping farmers and farm-related businesses stay successful. NatWest works closely with business partners to give access to a comprehensive range of products and services to provide appropriate financial solutions at a local level. For further information about NatWest's agricultural services contact andy.grove@natwest.com

Grant aided shop is Hampshire Village Shop of the Year



Councillor Ray Ellis, Executive Member for Economic Development, Rural Affairs and Human Resources (centre) presents John and Gillian from Centre Stores, Eversley with the Hampshire Village Shop of the Year Award.

Local residents John Hartle and Gillian Lewis wanted to refurbish and transform a tired shop and post office into a modern and revitalised resource for Eversley's 1500 inhabitants and passing trade, whilst still retaining the traditional village shop atmosphere.

In order to help them do so, and with the support of their Parish Council, they applied for a maximum grant of £20,000 from the Hampshire County Council / SEEDA Village Community Grant Scheme, a process which John found 'easy and straightforward'. Gillian organised a mail shot around the village to make sure that everyone knew about the new extended opening hours and the refit, which took place in October 2010.

Today, with a new EPOS till system, the shop stocks freshly baked bread and ham, local cakes and produce, sweets, hot pasties and quality coffee as well as store cupboard essentials, meat and greeting cards. It acts as a dry cleaning / shoe repair drop-off and hub for village flyers and contact cards, also providing key cutting services and some deliveries. John has even developed a range of real ales to rival the supermarkets!

In the future, John and Gillian want to add more locally sourced goods, with assistance from Hampshire Fare, and develop a website and local delivery service.

In the words of one of the villagers - 'it's a dramatic change - everything a village shop should be and more'.

The Village Community Grant Scheme

has assisted 22 village shops throughout the county to develop their businesses so as to be better prepared for the future. Grants have paid for a wide variety of items, including a delivery van; new shelving to accommodate local produce; removal and re-siting of Post Office structures; new EPOS systems; coffee makers and delicatessen counters.

Grants are still available to both community shops and privately owned businesses for the foreseeable future and do not require match funding. For more information contact Anne Harrison at Hampshire County Council, anne.harrison@hants.gov.uk on **01962 846558**, and visit our website www.hants.gov.uk/business

Petersfield in the public eye



Walking the map at the launch of the South Downs National Park

Around 1,000 people gathered in the historic market town of Petersfield in celebration of the official opening of the South Downs National Park in The Square on 1st April.

The day was organised primarily by local business owners, with the assistance of East Hampshire district Council, Petersfield Tomorrow (the Town Partnership) the SDNPA, and members of the business association, not only to celebrate the new National Park but to showcase the many activities that promote understanding and enjoyment of it, with the additional aim of increasing footfall in the town.

Funding for the event was sourced from a number of organisations including Collabor8, East Hampshire District Council, the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce and Hampshire County Council.

Local MP Damian Hinds said: "This was a brilliant effort by many people in the Petersfield community, Petersfield is the largest town in the western part of the Park. We have not only put Petersfield on the map but put the map on Petersfield."

The Market Town Healthcheck carried out by Petersfield Tomorrow is now five years old, and on behalf of the South Downs National Park Authority and East Hampshire District Council, a public consultation event has been held recently to gather opinion and help shape the future of Petersfield as part of the 'Petersfield Plan'.

A sub-group of the Town Partnership has also started work on the Petersfield Town Access Plan in partnership with Hampshire County Council, and will consider the longer term recommendations made in the Town Design Statement.

Further information about the Hampshire Market Towns Project can be found on our website www.hants.gov.uk/business/market-towns or by contacting Anne Harrison, anne.harrison@hants.gov.uk, **01962 846558**

shopinhampshire.co.uk

shopinhampshire.co.uk has been developed by the Economic Development Office in partnership with Newsquest to encourage shoppers to buy locally at 9000 independent retailers listed on the site



How is business in Hampshire? We need your views!

Businesses from across Hampshire now have the chance to highlight the issues, opportunities and challenges that they face. The Hampshire Business Monitor is a web-based business survey designed to help inform local authorities and public/private sector partnerships as to the key issues facing the private sector.

The survey, which is being coordinated by Hampshire Economic Partnership on behalf of Hampshire County Council and the Hampshire Business Forum, aims to capture the views of as many business as possible to get an accurate understanding of how companies in Hampshire are faring.

In order to get the full picture, we need as many businesses as possible to take part. If you are able to give up 5 minutes of your time, you will help to guide economic policy and enable the voice of your business to be heard loud and clear. Your views are important in the current climate where businesses need the right help in order to drive economic growth and prosperity in Hampshire, and this survey is one important way for you to contribute to that.

The Hampshire Business Monitor (which will be followed up by a skills survey later in the year) can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/s/hantsbusinessbarometer. To find out more about the Hampshire Business Monitor (or the forthcoming Hampshire Skills Survey), contact genevieve.dady@hants.gov.uk

A fresh approach for Smarter Working Centres

The Economic Development Office unveiled a new look for Smarter Working Centres (SWCs) in March, incorporating a new identity and logo designed to attract a wider audience of Hampshire entrepreneurs.

The rebrand has been supported by a significant investment in above the line marketing and the new website (www.hampshireswc.org) will seek to increase the SWCs online presence and simplify the booking process.

Smarter Working Centres are a countywide network of eight flexible, convenient workhubs which offer comprehensive IT facilities for start-up companies. The SWCs are ideal for small companies which need a professional office environment without the commitment of a long-term lease. This low cost accommodation solution facilitates the opportunity to work and meet locally and avoid the stress and cost of the peak-time journey to work.

Accommodation and usage costs at Smarter Working Centres are kept low by offering users the option to 'pay as you go' or book discounted allocated prepaid office space. Depending on the membership package chosen, this can be from as little as £4 per hour, or £12 per day.

Centres are open in Aldershot, Basingstoke, Eastleigh, Fareham, Gosport, Havant, Lyndhurst and Portsmouth, ensuring a good geographical spread across the county.

Looking for low cost, low commitment office space in Hampshire?

- Flexible, convenient and professional working environments throughout the county
- High speed broadband equipped meeting and training rooms from £4 per hour or £12 per day*
- Office space as and when you need it
- You only pay for the space you use
- Work, meeting and training space

Either drop-in or book and pay securely online

HAMPSHIRE
SMARTER WORKING CENTRES

For further information and booking:
T. 01962 846381 E. info@hampshireswc.org
www.hampshireswc.org

Supported by Hampshire County Council, Business Link, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise First

Businesses interested in using the Smarter Working Centres can find out more at www.hampshireswc.org. The site provides an easy introduction for those new to the concept of SWCs, and offers real-time space availability checking, online booking, and secure online payment. Alternatively, email info@hampshireswc.org for further information.

HAMPSHIRE
SMARTER WORKING CENTRES

Home | Browse by SWC Location | Availability Enquiries | Privacy Policy | Site Map | Contact Us

Introduction | Your nearest SWC | Becoming a Member | Bookings | Membership Area | SWC Manager Area | News Office

Looking for flexible work space in Hampshire? The Smarter Working Centres network (SWCs) offers flexible, professional, convenient and cost-effective office, meeting and training space. Also on offer is easy access to other B2B services such as our new **Business Link**, **Hampshire Chamber**, **Job Centre Plus** and **Business Link** and other business services.

SWC flexible work space offers a professional, collaborative environment for start-ups, SMEs based and fledgling businesses as well as temporary, flexible meeting and training space. SWCs work hubs – a new flexible, affordable space for your company to work, meet and train.

On-line Availability Check

Select SWC: Please Select a SWC
Activity Type: Work Space
Duration Type: Day or Weekend
Additional Information/Comments:
Full Name:
E-mail:
Phone:

Find your nearest SWC

Search by postcode: [input]
[Go]

Becoming a Member

Whether you are an entrepreneur, startup, SME or established business, whether you require an SWC shared member or SWC membership, we are here to help. Contact us today!

Find out how much you could save with flexible working by the calculator tool
<http://www.hampshireswc.org>

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The new Smarter Working Centres website and branding



One click to the County Council's business services



The business pages of the Hampshire County Council website have recently been updated to give easier access to the County Council's services to business.

Visit www.hants.gov.uk/business

to find out more about the County Council's business support projects, a full Hampshire business events listing and much more

Hampshire assessed

The Hampshire Economic Assessment has now been finalised and published. The Assessment, which is a result of in-depth research plus consultation across a wide range of stakeholders, provides a comprehensive picture of local economic conditions and outlines some of the future challenges for the county's economy. Alongside the main Assessment document, we have produced an Executive Summary which provides a brief overview plus two supplementary documents: an Extended Evidence paper which is a more detailed analysis of the data and a Worklessness Assessment which examines the issues for Hampshire's labour market.

The Assessment will be regularly updated as data availability dictates and we will be working to expand the evidence base of the work. Next year, we will be augmenting the current data with qualitative data from the business community and a significant refresh is planned for 2013 when census data becomes available.

The Hampshire Economic Assessment is available at www.hants.gov.uk/economicassessment.

For further information, please contact genevieve.dady@hants.gov.uk

Hampshire projects to 'Enspire' European Entrepreneurs



Two Hampshire initiatives aimed at supporting entrepreneurship have been showcased to a European audience as part of the ENSPIRE EU project looking to encourage more people to become entrepreneurs.

Hampshire County Council is one of 12 partners in ENSPIRE EU which aims to inspire people to take that first step and set up in business. In these challenging times, taking this step can be more daunting than ever.

The project is a £2m Interreg Ivc funded initiative that sets out to establish why less Europeans want to become self-employed compared to Americans, and what can be done to change this. The main focus of the project is to support young people, those who are long term unemployed, and people who are disabled to give them the courage to think about self-employment as an option.

The two projects in Hampshire that have been held up as leading examples are:

- Community Action Hampshire and The Hampshire School for Social Entrepreneurs (hsse.org.uk) which offers its students a comprehensive 35 week programme with expert sessions, action learning sets and visits to social enterprise projects.
- Enham's Business Ability scheme (enham.org.uk) that provides a free service to help people with disabilities throughout Hampshire, start their own businesses.

As part of the Enspire EU project these and a variety of other Hampshire schemes are being promoted to project partners to share best practice throughout Europe. Case studies from people who have become self employed with the help of these programmes will be used on the enspire.eu website to encourage others to follow in their footsteps.

Councillor Ray Ellis, Executive Member for Economic Development and Rural Affairs, said: "Hampshire County Council is keen on encouraging an entrepreneurial spirit across Hampshire. Through research ENSPIRE EU has highlighted the wealth of programmes operating in Hampshire to stimulate entrepreneurship. Through this project, the success stories we have here in the county can inspire others not just in the UK but across Europe.

"We also have the opportunity to learn best practice from our European partners and explore how their experiences might be transferable back to the county. For example Denmark is now incorporating entrepreneurship into their schools' curriculum to develop these skills from a young age."

For further information please visit www.enspire.eu or contact chris.shephard@hants.gov.uk



Supporting talented filmmakers of the future

The Winchester Film Festival 2011 launched in style in May at Serles House, Winchester with Film Hampshire proudly sponsoring the opening night.

The idea of the Winchester Film Festival is to screen great films in appropriate (and often unusual) locations in and around Winchester, providing the audience with an immersive and unique viewing experience through which they can rediscover these classic films, or perhaps even catch them for the first time.

This year's Winchester Film Festival offered Hampshire residents the opportunity to experience Carol Reed's film noir classic 'The Third Man' screened in the atmospheric Chesil Tunnel, Hitchcock's taught thriller 'I Confess' in Winchester Cathedral and Peter Weir's tense drama 'Witness' in a barn in Yavingdon - as well as many other great films 'on location'.

The Future of Film Award was also presented at the Festival launch ceremony. The competition

was open to 14-19 year olds in the Hampshire area. The winner of this competition was Lauren Maher, from Barton Peveril College, Eastleigh. Lauren commented:

"I am so pleased that I entered the competition and I hope it will encourage other people to do the same because it has given me just what I need to continue with my film studies. I am absolutely delighted with the invitation to undertake work experience at Form Films, and I would urge anybody else who is interested in film to get out there and do something about it!"

Film Hampshire is a completely free location finding service with over 350 film locations across Hampshire to choose from, including over 40 historic country houses and 25 parks and forests.

To find out more, or to register a property in the Film Hampshire Locations Library visit www.filmhampshire.org.uk or contact michelle.mcclean@hants.gov.uk



L-R: Professor Anthony Dean, (Dean of Faculty of Arts, University of Winchester), Michele Price, (Project Manager, Winchester Churches Nightshelter), Laura Hubner (Programme Leader - Film Studies, University of Winchester), Councillor Raymond Ellis (Hampshire County Council), Lauren Maher (Barton Peveril), and Lawrence Walford (Form Films).

Hampshire companies shine in business awards across the county

Business excellence is celebrated throughout Hampshire in the county's business awards. These events give well deserved recognition to the county's exceptional businesses and the Economic Development Office is committed to its support of the events and judges a variety of categories.

So far this year the County Council has supported the Innovation of the Year Award in the Portsmouth News Business Awards, the Small Business of the Year Awards at the Test Valley Business Awards, Village Shop of the Year in the County Magazine Awards and the Rural Business of the Year at the Winchester Business Excellence Awards. Businesses in North Hampshire can enter the Inspire Business Awards now and the New Forest Brilliance in Business Awards will also take place later in the year.

For further details about business awards taking place in Hampshire visit www.hants.gov.uk/business

New look tourism website helps showcase Hampshire



www.visit-hampshire.co.uk

Hampshire Tourism, which is now part of the Economic Development Office, has launched its new look, state of the art website www.visit-hampshire.co.uk, with easy to use accommodation booking, inspiring image galleries and a news section with RSS feed.

Visit Hampshire is the official Hampshire County Council tourism website for the county and offers a user-friendly one-stop-shop for both visitors and residents looking for ideas for days out and short breaks for all ages and budgets in the county. The site covers the New Forest, Winchester, Portsmouth as well as the county's beautiful countryside, attractive coastline, historic houses and family attractions.

The new site has been designed to be more customer-friendly with the integration of social media and the ability to create personalised itineraries to plan a customised day out or stay. The site will continue to develop over the coming months with the addition of London 2012 content, including information about accommodation and transport when visiting the Games and details of the major 2012 inspired events taking place in the county.

Visitors to the site are also encouraged to join the 'Love Hampshire' Facebook page www.facebook.com/lovehampshire, follow news on Twitter www.twitter.com/visithampshire and upload their photos on Flickr www.flickr.com/groups/lovehampshire.

Executive Member for Economic Development and Rural Affairs, Councillor Ray Ellis, said:

"Tourism is worth over £2.7billion to the Hampshire economy, so it's vital that the County Council invests in changing technology to increase visitor numbers. With such a wide range of thematic attractions to offer the new website should really help to increase Hampshire's visitor income."

For further details see www.visit-hampshire.co.uk or email tourism@hants.gov.uk



Hampshire Ambassadors visit some uplifting companies

The Hampshire Ambassadors have had a busy start to 2011 with inspiring visits to some of the county's leading-edge companies.

The aim of each visit is to gain an insight in to the host company's success, catching a snapshot of behind the scenes. The tours can encourage other Hampshire firms to strive for excellence, develop their own best practice procedures and thereby improve competitiveness.

During the Daily Echo tour Ambassadors were enthralled by the state-of-the-art presses, witnessing the following day's paper being written before their very eyes, and viewing newspapers which dated back to 1888, covering the infamous Whitechapel murders.



The Hampshire Ambassadors visit Stannah in Andover

In March Ambassadors visited Stannah in Andover which employs over 600 people in the area. Only two weeks before the Ambassadors tour, Stannah welcomed Prince Charles to the family-owned and run business. The Prince of Wales pushed the button to start production of the 500,000 stairlift, and our very own Ambassadors were treated to a regal tour of the factory.

The scheme is now in its sixteenth year and there are 1,100 Hampshire Ambassadors within the network, with the number growing each month. All of the Ambassadors are dedicated to promoting Hampshire as a superb place for business, tourism and conference.

To find out more about our visit programme, or to register for FREE as a Hampshire Ambassador visit

www.hants.gov.uk/business or contact michelle.mcclean@hants.gov.uk

Discovering the county with Conference Hampshire



Delegates of Discovery 2011 visit Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

Over 100 delegates from around the world, including senior buyers from the UAE and China, attended Discovery 2011 in February. Discovery 2011 is a biannual meeting which showcases the UK's conference industry, and Conference Hampshire was there to promote all that the county has to offer.

Delegates were treated to an exclusive tour of the Olympic Park in London, a train ride through the English countryside on the Orient Express British Pullman train, and then seven of the group were invited to the county with Conference Hampshire for a unique look at what is on offer for conferencing and corporate events.

The Hampshire leg of the trip began with an overnight stay at Lainston House Hotel, and guests were treated to a private dining experience at the hands of Executive Chef Andy Mackenzie. After a hearty English breakfast the group were then escorted to The Great Hall by Lucketts Travel for a tour of the venue with a realistic Henry VIII on compere duties.

Lunch and a tour of the De Vere's New Place Hotel allowed guests to ramble in the 32 acres of pristine parkland, and the afternoon came to a close with a fascinating tour of Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. The Discovery 2011 group went aboard the historical HMS Victory and the evening ended with a champagne reception at sunset.

The event was a huge success and the international guests who attended were keen to know where they would be going on the next Conference Hampshire trip!

Contact Conference Hampshire for free and impartial support and advice on all aspects of holding an event in the county. For more information visit

www.conferencehampshire.com or email info@conferencehampshire.com

Hampshire connected and open for investment

Invest in Hampshire, Hampshire County Council's new inward investment initiative is now open for business and attracting interest from businesses locally, nationally and internationally.

The aim of the new Invest in Hampshire service is to position the county as a world class area for business by offering local knowledge, contacts, and assistance to businesses whether they are starting up, expanding or looking to relocate in Hampshire. The project is a platform from where Hampshire County Council will take a more proactive approach to attracting inward investment.

The Council took the opportunity to promote Invest in Hampshire at Business South earlier this year, which is the biggest business to business show in the county welcoming around 2000 visitors from across the south over two days at the Rose Bowl near Southampton.

The event helped build upon support for the initiative by the Hampshire business community. Business support organisations, universities and major employers from across the county attended,

many of which are represented and showcased on the website www.investinhampshire.co.uk.

Councillor Ray Ellis Executive Member for Economic Development said:

"The Invest in Hampshire project is one of the Council's key economic initiatives and is part of the continuing support that Hampshire County Council is giving to the economy of Hampshire. It is essential that we not only support businesses here in the county but also promote Hampshire widely to ensure that new business and investment is attracted to the county. Hampshire is well-positioned for future growth and investment, from the strength of our business sectors to the skills base emanating from our exceptional colleges and universities. Add to this our excellent transport and communications links, easy access to London and a quality of life rivalling anywhere in the UK and have the ideal location for any business."

For further information please contact chris.shephard@hants.gov.uk



Calling all low carbon suppliers...



The Sustainable Business Partnership (SBP) is launching a new membership service for suppliers and producers working within Hampshire's rapidly growing low carbon economy. The new scheme will see the SBP working on behalf of all of its members to raise their profile, stimulate demand for their products and services amongst the business community, and provide its own support services so that Hampshire suppliers are best placed to capitalise on the exciting opportunities this sector - one of the few predicted to see significant growth in coming years - presents.

At the heart of the service, members will enjoy a presence on the new Sustainable Business Directory, which will form the hub for marketing and promotional activity. Businesses seeking sustainability-related products and services (such as environmental consultancy, recycled goods, green construction companies, waste and recycling services or low-impact transport solutions to name but a few) will be directed to this new resource as a first port of call. As the only one of its kind, the Directory is intended to provide a definitive and comprehensive overview of local sustainable business solutions.

In an exciting innovation, the SBP is teaming up with Trading Standards' Buy With Confidence (BWC) Scheme to further enhance the credentials of its members. Although not obligatory, Directory members will have the opportunity to pursue BWC certification through an independent Trading Standards assessment. This certification - with permissions to display the BWC logo in their own marketing - will help suppliers to stand out from the crowd when customers are making their purchasing decisions.

Membership will bring a whole host of other benefits such as access to tailored support, training and events, exhibition opportunities at trade fairs, consortium bid, cluster development and networking support and more. The SBP believes that Hampshire is extremely well placed to become a real powerhouse within the UK's low carbon economy, and that the businesses opportunities presented by this dynamic sector hold enormous potential.

To find out more about becoming a member of the Sustainable Business Partnership, visit www.the-sbp.co.uk.

A fond farewell to Frances Stokes

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This Summer the Economic Development Office bids a fond farewell to Business Development Manager Frances Stokes. Having been part of the department for over 15 years Frances' contributions to the Office and Economic Development have been invaluable. She will be missed by the team and by the Hampshire business community but she will still be a familiar face in the future with her plans to continue project work with Hampshire Fare, the Sustainable Business Partnership and the South East Rural Towns Partnership.



Frances Stokes,
Business Development Manager

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