

Rural Business Support

Farmers and small businesses across rural Leicestershire are being urged to take advantage of a series of business development schemes that offer grant support.

Leicestershire County Council's rural business support programme offers a wide range of grants designed to support & stimulate enterprise and business development in the rural parts of the County, including:

Farmers' Business Development Grant: A grant scheme available to farmers to assist them to act upon ideas to diversify, add value or develop environmental schemes, as well as help with identification of training needs and skills development.

New Life for Redundant Buildings Initiative: Offers owners of redundant buildings in rural Leicestershire the opportunity to obtain advice and financial assistance towards the introduction of new economic uses for these buildings.

Rural Micro Business Development Grant: A grant scheme to support rural business development through improvements based on productivity, profitability, and the knowledge/skills base of employees.

Rural Visitor Grant Scheme: A grant scheme to support rural businesses in Leicestershire diversify and upgrade their services and facilities to provide high-quality accommodation and attractions for visitors.

To find out more, & to see if your business or business idea is eligible for funding support, contact Leicestershire County Council Regeneration and Community Development Team on 0116 265 7034 or at regeneration@leics.gov.uk

So far during 2007, the following businesses in Melton have benefited from support:

- WD Copley & Sons – farm providing locally produced food
- Bitworld – specialise in biting for horses
- Vipa Designs – design & manufacture jewellery
- Farm & Country Fencing – provide fencing in rural locations
- Gardens By Nature – Install domestic gardens



In the next edition:

- Workforce skills
- Melton Business Network
- How to grow your business?

For further information about any of the issues in this newsletter, please contact the Economic Regeneration Team at Melton Borough Council, Social & Economic Development Department, Council Offices, Nottingham Road, Melton Mowbray, LE13 0UL. Tel: 01664 502502. Email: mearnshaw@melton.gov.uk Web: www.melton.gov.uk

Business Matters In Melton

Melton Borough Council's Business Newsletter

Autumn 2007

- Welcome & Introduction
- The gateway to business support
- Train 2 Gain – Training for success
- Rate relief for small businesses
- Be Your Own Boss - Free Business Start-up Support !
- Making the most of the internet
- Rural Business Support

Welcome & Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of 'Business Matters in Melton', Melton Borough Council's new business newsletter.

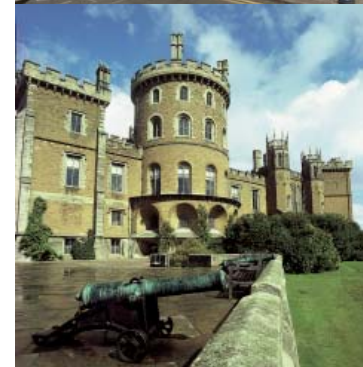
The newsletter is designed to provide a local source of information for all businesses, and those thinking of starting a business, within Melton Borough, highlighting details of locally available support services and initiatives, as well as informative articles on a wide range of business related issues. The newsletter will be produced on a quarterly basis throughout the year, ensuring that regular updates are provided to the business community.

The newsletter is produced by the council's newly enhanced Economic Regeneration team, who are working in partnership with a wide range of organisations, such as Business Link, the Learning & Skills Council and Brooksby-Melton College, to deliver proactive activity to improve the local economy. We are working to tackle issues such as workforce skills and training, enterprise development and business growth, to ensure that we maintain a diverse and competitive business base within the Borough - a key element of a sustainable and successful local economy.

To help ensure that the newsletter reaches the right people, it is vital that the council maintains an accurate and up-to-date business database. To help ensure that your business details are correct, please complete & return the database form enclosed within the newsletter. You can also highlight the preferred format in which you would prefer to receive the newsletter – either by post or by email.

I hope you find the newsletter a useful & relevant source of information. Articles for the newsletter are welcome, as are suggestions for future topics or issues you would like to see covered.

- simply contact the Economic Regeneration team on 01664 502502. Matt Earnshaw, Economic Regeneration Manager



The Gateway to Business Support

Are you looking for some business support or advice, but unsure of where to turn to for help? Well if so, why not contact Business Link – the 'gateway' to business support.

Business Link is a government sponsored service which provides a wide range of free, impartial and practical advice and guidance for all types of businesses on a variety of issues, including:

- Finance & grants
- Taxes, returns & payroll
- Employing people
- Health, Safety & Premises
- Exploiting Ideas
- IT & e-commerce
- Sales & marketing
- International Trade
- Growing your business



Simply visit the Business Link website to find out how they can help your business start, grow or prosper, or alternatively, arrange a free meeting with a local Leicestershire based Business Link adviser to discuss more in depth support.

Web: www.businesslink.gov.uk/eastmidlands

Email: info@businesslinkem.co.uk

Phone: 0845 058 6644

Train to Gain - Training for Business Success



'If your business is to be successful, it needs to compete, and to compete you need to train your employees. By ensuring your employees have the right skills to do the best job, you can help boost your productivity and keep ahead of the competition.'

Train to Gain is a new service designed to help businesses get the training they need to succeed.

It provides a network of specialist Skills Brokers, trained by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who have a proven track record of providing effective services to business.

The Skills Brokers will work with employers to provide a free, independent and impartial assessment to identify what skills your business needs now and in the future. They can also help you arrange training and provide information about possible sources of funding.

The brokerage service offers:

- A comprehensive analysis and range of solutions to your training needs
- Easy access to relevant, high quality training
- Information and support to access a wide range of different training, including funded and non-funded training
- Information and advice on qualifications and training
- Follow-up and support to develop ongoing strategies to address future training needs

To find out more about Train to Gain and how you can engage with a Skills Broker, contact:

Phone: 0845 057 1817

Email: ttg-em-lscnleads@info-requests.co.uk

Web: www.traintogain.gov.uk/Region/EastMidlands

For further information on the Learning and Skills Council, visit www.lsc.gov.uk/regions/EastMidlands

BE YOUR OWN BOSS – FREE BUSINESS START-UP SUPPORT!

Are you considering being self employed & running your own business? If the answer is yes, then there will be many questions you need answers to....including 'what do I do before I start?'

Starting in business is probably one of the most life changing decisions you will make – you need to plan it fully before you start, and you will need professional guidance and advice to help you make that decision and move forward.

So, to make things easier, why not attend one of the FREE workshops held in the Borough this autumn!

The workshops cover a variety of topics ranging from Sales & Marketing to Recruitment & Selection and are designed to support you in your business idea and growth.

You can attend all the workshops or pick the ones you feel are relevant to your needs. As part of the programme, you will also have the opportunity to meet with your own Personal Business Adviser.

This programme is delivered on behalf of Business Link by the Welland Enterprise Agency – phone 01476 5310127 or email businesslink@wellent.co.uk for further information.

For further information on the Welland Enterprise Agency and the services they offer pre-start & new-start businesses visit www.wellent.co.uk



RATE RELIEF FOR SMALL BUSINESSES?

From 1 April 2005, a new rate relief scheme was introduced by the Government to help small businesses tackle the burden of business rates.

The scheme provides a sliding scale of relief for businesses who occupy only ONE property in the country which has a rateable value under £15,000. Ratepayers occupying more than one property may also qualify for relief, provided the additional properties have a rateable value of less than £2,200 and the total value of all properties remains less than £15,000.

Businesses can also apply for retrospective relief for the previous financial year (2006/07), provided an application is received by 30 September 2007.

To find out more, contact the Council's Customer Service Centre on 01664 502502 or at customerservices@melton.gov.uk

- FREE EVENT - Making the most of the internet

FREE website & online selling tools!

'win new customers.....better serve clients.....open up a whole new marketplace.....learn about the benefits of selling on-line.....trade on-line effectively and securely.....'

The Welland SSP & Business Link East Midlands, in conjunction with Melton Borough Council, are running two FREE hands-on workshops in Melton during October, where you can:

- Build a website for your business
- Add shopping cart technology to enable selling online
- Learn how to manage an existing website and optimise it to improve search engine rankings
- Take advantage of a FREE website and support until March 2009

The workshops are suitable for all businesses even if you have few IT skills and/or no access to a computer, and will be held at the Council Offices in Melton:

- Friday 5th October - Internet Beginners
- Friday 19th October - Selling On-line

To find out more and register for your place, ring 0845 4561901 or visit www.wellandbusiness.co.uk