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## **BIP NEWSLETTER**

### **New Project Launch- Rural Enterprise Development**

It has been some time since the last West Devon BIP newsletter; there are a number of reasons for this, not least, the lack of funded support for businesses over the age of 12 months. Many of you would have come into contact with WDBIP when you were thinking of starting your business or in your early years, would have received support, advice and guidance from us. Over the last couple of years, the availability of funding to support businesses over the age of 12 months has been severely restricted; although some of you might have taken advantage of our Business Buddies project, which closed in December of last year.

However, good news, we are pleased to announce that following a successful bid, in partnership with North Devon Enterprise Agency, to Government Office South West and Devon Renaissance, we have secured funding to allow businesses in West Devon, Torridge and North Devon to receive support from their Local Enterprise Agency, regardless of the age of the business. The eligibility criteria is any business except Land Based, and employee numbers, these must be less than 250, so most businesses will qualify for this support.

Business Link will be working with us offering free information and support to businesses via their call centre, 0845 6009966.

The project offers support in two ways, firstly by offering short workshops in a wide range of subjects including:

- Sales and Marketing
- Computers
- Cashflow Planning
- Budgeting
- New Product Development
- Business Finance

These workshops are available free of charge throughout the three districts.

On top of this support, for a limited number of businesses that want to examine their business performance closely, in order to increase turnover and improve profits, we have up to 5 days worth of support available from a business advisor. The advisor can help you in any aspect of your business development.

If you would like to find out more about this project, please contact us in the office on our **Freephone number 0800 592872** where we will be only too happy to give you lots more information and advice. We will be sending you a flyer shortly which will give you details of the project.

### Starting In Business

Recently started a new business or thinking about starting? Free business support and information is available for all businesses up to 12 months of age. Delivered by West Devon BIP on behalf of Business Link please contact **Freephone 0800 592872** for more details.

### Do You Have a Redundant Building?

Would a grant of between £10,000 and £68,000\* help you to restore or convert it?  
Need help with the next step?

Then contact Devon Renaissance and ask about the new Redundant Buildings Grants. These are designed to help to create new business premises and support job creation in the South Hams, West Devon, Torridge and North Devon (funding for other areas of Devon applied for).

Grants are available for:-

- Space for manufacturing, service or creative industries and office premises.
- Facilities supporting tourism and leisure facilities, including licensed establishments, tearooms, cafes, museums, craft centres but not accommodation.
- Warehousing and distribution.
- Sole traders, partnerships, limited companies and co-operatives.
- Applicants who are owner-occupiers, owners proposing to lease out the premises for eligible business proposes or fixed term tenants.

Funding available:-

- Grants cover up to 25% of eligible costs which can include those associated with building works, installation of services, ICT infrastructure, access and parking and professional fees.

This project is part- funded by The European Union and SWRDA and has an upper grant limit of €100,000 which is approximately £68,000\*.

For more information contact us in the office on our **Freephone number 0800 592872.**

### Environmental Awareness – Be Aware!

I am sure that you have noticed that the weather has been extremely hot in the last month and many commentators now believe that these spells of hot weather will become more frequent as global warming and rising temperatures change our climate.

The Government has recently announced that it is looking at personal carbon allowances to combat rising domestic emissions. You may wonder what this has got to do with local businesses, but if the Government do bring this into force it will make a big difference.

You could choose to use your allowance by continuing with your current mode of transport; you may go on a number of foreign holidays, all of which contribute to emissions. These actions would be measured and if you end up producing more emissions than your carbon allowance you would need to purchase more carbon allowances in order to continue with this lifestyle. It maybe that you choose to reduce your emissions and then have surplus carbon allowances, which you could sell to others.

For businesses, it will be very important to determine what sort of emissions their businesses are producing and therefore it will be likely that businesses, which sell products with low emissions will have greater sales than those which sell products with higher emissions. It would certainly affect tourism businesses, because of the different modes of travel and transport needed to get there.

### FIRE SAFETY LAW CHANGES

**The 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006 sees changes to fire safety law, if you are an employer, responsible for business premises, self employed or a charity this applies to you.**

**You are required to carry out a risk assessment, comprising of: -**

- **Fire hazards**
- **People at risk**
- **Formulate an action plan**
- **Record, plan and train**
- **Review**

**Free guides are available for download at [www.communities.gov.uk/fire](http://www.communities.gov.uk/fire)**

**Fire Certificates will be abolished and enforcing authorities (usually fire authorities) will carry out inspections.**



### **DISCLAIMER**

Every effort has been taken to ensure the information contained in these notes is correct, however, West Devon Business Information Point will not be liable for any loss arising from the use of these notes or any omissions or errors contained within.  
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