

Outer Hebrides Business Gateway e-bulletin

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Who are we and what do we do?

Business Gateway provides expertise in every aspect of business start-up and growth ranging from, but not limited to:

Business Planning

Recruitment

Exporting

Marketing

Health & Safety

Online Trading

Sourcing Premises

Finding Funding

Our Location:

Stornoway:

Business Gateway
Development Department

WORKSHOPS / EVENTS

- DEVELOPMENT PARTNER LIVE WEBCAST – 28TH FEBRUARY
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OUTER HEBRIDES BUSINESS GATEWAY

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NEWS

Scotland - £10M Jobs Package

The Finance Secretary John Swinney has announced that UP TO 5,000 people will be helped into work in Scotland thanks to a new £10 million funding package.

Finance Secretary John Swinney said the money would be used to encourage small and medium sized companies to take staff on, provide assistance with hiring new employees and encourage Scotland's exporting companies.

The three elements of the package are as follows:

- £5 million for the Employer Recruitment Incentive run by Skills Development Scotland.

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9 James Street
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Email: businessgateway@cne-siar.gov.uk

Office hours

9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

General Links

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - Business Gateway

- £2.5 million for Small Business Employment Support
- £2.5 million for a new Export Support initiative run by Scottish Development International.

For further information contact Skills Development Scotland.

Talent Scotland Graduate Placement Programme

Do any of the companies you work with require a cost-effective solution for a specific short term piece of work? The TalentScotland Graduate Placement Programme matches appropriate graduate skills and talent to a clearly defined company project.

- Projects must contribute towards the companies growth and productivity plans, be vitally important to the way they work and clearly demonstrate an impact on business performance. They can last from three months to one year and must be quantifiable and measurable
- The host company is responsible for paying the placement graduate's salary and for upholding the graduate's statutory employment rights. The salary is set at a minimum rate of £14,000 per year, pro rata. (a supplement of £1,500 will be offered to placements based in the Highlands and Islands to encourage graduates to work in the area)
- During their placement, the appointed graduate will receive a minimum of two days off-site training for placements of more than three months. This is specifically designed to develop additional innovation and business skills that the graduate can then take back into the company, so the company benefits directly. The graduate must receive full pay while on these training courses.

If any of the companies you work with identify an opportunity for a graduate placement, please contact Angela Wardrope (angela.wardrope@scotent.co.uk) or Donna Scoular (donna.scoular@scotent.co.uk) to progress.

<http://www.talentscotland.com/employers/how-we-can-help/graduate-placement.aspx>

INFORMATION

Environmental Health Information

Any businesses in the islands looking for information on how Environmental Health relates to their activities are encouraged to contact the Comhairle's Environmental

website

For loan and business advice and information.
www.cne-siar.gov.uk/eds/business.

Business Gateway

Well worth a visit for a range of information, advice and ideas on starting and running a business.
www.bgateway.com

The Princes Scottish Youth Business Trust

Offers start-up and development funding and advice to young people aged between 18 and 30 with a business idea.
www.psybt.org.uk/Regions/WesternIsles

Outer Hebrides Business Directory

The most complete local online listing of businesses and organisations in the Outer Hebrides. Please contact us if you would like to have your business listed – it FREE!
www.businesshebrides.co.uk

Highlands & Islands Enterprise

Economic Development Agency operating across the region with local offices in Stornoway and Benbecula. A wide range of useful information and links for growing businesses and community organizations.
www.hie.co.uk

Health Team. The EH team can give advice and information to businesses on a range of issues and legislation compliance, this is especially important for those in the retail, hotel, catering and office sectors.

For further assistance please contact:
eh@cne-siar.gov.uk 01851 822 694

Made in the Outer Hebrides

Last year saw the highly successful launch of the 'Made in the Outer Hebrides' booklet – aimed at collectively promoting the work of artists and craft makers throughout the islands. The booklet offers advertising slots for text, contact details and a photograph at £60 per half page, it is being renewed for 2011 and anyone interested in advertising their work in the booklet is encouraged to contact the Comhairle's Arts Development Officer, Elsie Mitchell:

emitchell@cne-siar.gov.uk 01851 672 708

Be the Boss – Support to Ex Service Personnel

Be the Boss is a new scheme from the Royal British Legion that provides advice and support to recent UK service leavers who wish to set up their own business. As well as funding to help start or grow your business applicants will also receive business planning support, training and mentoring. For more information please visit:

<http://www.civvystreet.org/tabid/5880/default.aspx>

Wild Scotland – Tourism Advice Service

Wild Scotland is the Scottish Wildlife & Nature Tourism Operators Association, working to promote and support wildlife tourism throughout Scotland. In partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, Wild Scotland have recently launched a tourism advice service aimed at individuals and organisations in the wildlife tourism industry. The service is subsidised but there is a fee for participating businesses. For further information please see:

www.wild-scotland.co.uk or contact caroline@wild-scotland.co.uk

Caroline Warburton, Wild Scotland

Live Hebrides

Offer local businesses and organisations a wide range of knowledge and expertise about the latest IT solutions available to them and the benefits of broadband.
www.livehebrides.com

Outer Hebrides Chamber of Commerce

For information relating to issues facing island businesses, networking and related opportunities.
www.hebrideschamber.com

The Business IT Guide

Operated by e-skills UK and assisted by Highlands & Islands Enterprise offering useful hints and tips on IT solutions for small businesses as they have found that small businesses in the UK are losing millions of pounds from lost revenue due to not being adequately IT literate. Please visit them at:
www.scotland.businessitguide.com

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - 'Socio Economic Update'

Regularly published, contains useful information on the local economy
www.cne-siar.gov.uk/factfile

Aim-Hi

An online forum for the Creative Industries sector - please feel free to register your interest and visit the site at <http://s4.invisionfree.com/aimhi/>.

TRAINING

Flexible Training Opportunities

Flexible Training Opportunities gives businesses with between 1 and 150 employees the opportunity to apply for up to £5,000 towards employee training costs.

Funding is available for up to 10 employees per business and the money is not a loan so there's no need to pay it back.

SDS will refund 50% of the cost of up to 10 training courses with a maximum value of £500 per course. And it's flexible, so 10 employees can do one course each or one employee can do 10 courses, with any combination in between.

It effectively means businesses can double their training investment. Or it might help them introduce some training when they thought it wouldn't be possible.

Businesses must register before 31st March and complete the training by 30th June 2011.

The application process is simple and the rewards can really make a difference.

<http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/our-services/services-for-employers/encourage-employees-to-develop-new-skills.aspx>

For advice, call free on 0800 783 6000.

WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

Development Partners - Live Webcast

Development Partners have teamed up with 4TM to provide you with a free Live Webcast.

Social Media and Business

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - The Creative Industries

Publishes a periodic newsletter on the website.

www.cne-siar.gov.uk/eds/creativeindustries

European Small Business Portal

http://ec.europa.eu/small-business/index_en.htm

Valuable Tool Or Just Another Fad?

If you want to find out more about just how Social Media works, but haven't been able to find the time to do it, then our 45 minute webcast on Social Media and business could be your first step.

We've teamed up with 4TM, a Scottish-based company, who help businesses with social media (that's things like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and LinkedIn) to provide you with a great free opportunity to find out more. The webcast takes a look at how to write for social media, how to grow a following and how to engage with customers but most importantly, it will help you make an informed decision about what, if anything, you should be doing.

The webcast is basically like a live TV show but viewable from anywhere with a web browser and a broadband connection (if you can watch a video on YouTube you'll be able to take part in this). The other great advantage is that you will be able to put your questions to one of 4TM's experts live online.

No Travel No Time Wasting – Just Knowledge

Date: Monday 28th February 2011 Time: 2.30pm –3.15pm
Venue: A computer near you

For free access details simply email: enquiries@developmentpartners.co.uk

Traditional Building Skills Workshops

The Stornoway Townscape Heritage Initiative, in partnership with the Scottish Lime Centre are delivering a programme of traditional skills courses. Although primarily directed at construction personnel places can be booked by building professionals and interested members of the public. Courses cost £10 per person per day. In addition to specialised courses in traditional skills a number of courses for health and safety at work for construction staff are also being provided.

3rd & 4th March Cement Renders and Clay Cored Buildings

23rd. March Traditional Paints and Finishes

13 & 14 April Leadworking – Venue Lews Castle College

All booking enquiries should be made through the Scottish Lime Centre
www.scotlime.org admin@scotlime.org 01382 203885

For further information please contact:
Ian R Wilson Townscape Heritage Initiative Project Manager/Conservation Officer,
01851 822690 (Please note this is not a direct line number) iwilson@cne-siar.gov.uk

Tendering Workshop

The Consentia Partnership will be hosting free Business Gateway workshops on 'Tendering' on March 8th & 9th in Stornoway and Uist. The sessions will cover a range of information to help clients gain an understanding of the tendering process and how to tender for contracts in their area of work, including guidance on completion of typical tender documentation.

For more information or to secure a place on this workshop please contact:

businessgateway@cne-siar.gov.uk 01851 822 775

HMRC Workshops

Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs will be delivering free Business Gateway Workshops in Uist and Barra on March 15th to 17th. These workshops will cover a range of issues depending on the needs of attendees but topics offered include online returns, statutory pay, guidance for the newly self-employed, employment regulations and VAT. If you are interested in attending please contact the number or email below to book your place and register the areas of information you wish the workshop to cover:

businessgateway@cne-siar.gov.uk 01851 822 775

HMRC had also planned on running the same workshop programme in Stornoway this month but unfortunately this has had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances, it will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

PSYBT Gathering

This years annual gathering of local businesses supported by the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust, volunteers and supporters will take place on Monday 14th March.

If you would like to come along and learn more about what PSYBT do locally, meet new business contacts and possibly volunteer some time to help PSYBT deliver its

work in the islands please contact:

Sarah Maclean, PSYBT Regional Manager 01815 822 775
outerhebrides@psybt.org.uk

OUTER HEBRIDES BUSINESS GATEWAY

Inter-Island Business Development Scheme

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar recently approved funding to allow the Inter-Island Business Development Scheme to operate for a further six months to 31 August 2011. If you are a business that trades, or is considering trading, across the sounds of Harris or Barra, you may be eligible to apply for a 40% saving on the cost of taking commercial vehicles on the inter-island ferry routes.

For further information and details of eligibility criteria please contact

businessgateway@cne-siar.gov.uk 01851 822 775

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar – Financial Support to Local Businesses

The Comhairle's Business Gateway Service also offers other funding support to local businesses depending on their requirements and eligibility. A full listing of all loan and grant awards made is available on the Comhairle website:

<http://intranet/internet/eds/business/businessesassisted2010.asp>

Events & Business Gateway

For more information on some of the individual businesses we have assisted please look out for our new full-page feature which will be regularly appearing in Events newspaper. This section of the paper will carry information on forthcoming workshops, funding opportunities as well as case-studies of some of the clients we have worked with in the past.

Outer Hebrides Business Directory – Contact Details

The Outer Hebrides Business Directory is a free online resource listing businesses

based or operating in the islands.

As well as helping to promote businesses to customers the listing is also used by Business Gateway to provide information on events and opportunities which may be useful – if your contact details are incorrect or if you would prefer we contacted you directly with updates or information please get in touch with us and let us know which email address / telephone number we should be using.

01851 822775 businessgateway@cne-siar.gov.uk

If you have any feedback or suggestions for us to make this service more relevant please e-mail your comments to businessgateway@cne-siar.gov.uk.

Remember that we guarantee never to sell or give your e-mail address to anyone else.

Bye for now,

The Business Gateway team

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