

Outer Hebrides Business Gateway e-bulletin

In this Issue for local businesses :

Local News, Information, Events & Training:

- BUSINESS FOUNDATIONS: sign up for a new on-line business support tool
- NEW EQUALITY ACT COMES INTO FORCE
- ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR A HOLIDAY FROM N.I CONTRIBUTIONS?
- HMRC GUIDANCE ON FORTHCOMING VAT INCREASE
- COMING EVENTS:
 - 7th Oct Exporting Workshop
 - 17th Nov Social Enterprise Workshop: Sales for Non-Sales People
 - 18th Nov Fusion Conference
 - 30th Nov Sustainable Tourism Workshop
- HIE OPEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
- HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY: EMERGING TALENT PROGRAMME
- INTERESTED IN SUPPLYING YOUR PRODUCT TO TESCO?
- 'CREATE' - UHI BUSINESS IDEA COMPETITION

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:

- SHELL SPRINGBOARD COMPETITION
- EMPLOYERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE
- SPORTING CHANCE INITIATIVE
- CULTURAL ENTERPRISE OFFICE
- YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE: FUNDING PROGRAMMES
- CONSULTATION ON SCOTLAND LAND USE STRATEGY NOW OPEN
- QUEEN'S AWARDS FOR ENTERPRISE PROMOTION
- REGULARS AND LINKS

LOCAL NEWS, INFORMATION, EVENTS & TRAINING

Business Foundations

Business Foundations is a new on-line tool designed to help you start and grow your business. Available 24/7, the service combines videos, practical downloads and links to useful websites - from how to name your business to taxes and book-keeping, Business Foundations gives advice from both business experts and real business owners.

Using Business Foundations is simple – all you need is a computer with the ability to play sound. If you can watch video clips like those on YouTube, you can view Business Foundations.

If you would like to access Business Foundations and take part in this pilot, contact Business Gateway 01851 707 307 businessgateway@cne-siar.gov.uk and you will be issued with a username, password and a link to the website.

New Equality Act Comes into Force

The main provisions of the new Equality Act became law on 1 October 2010. The Act brings together and replaces the previous discrimination legislation, but

Stornoway:

Business Gateway
Development Department
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar
James Square
9 James Street
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HS1 2QN
Tel: +44 (0)1851 707307

Uist:

Business Gateway
Development Department
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Taigh Cheann a'Locha
Lionacleit
Isle of Benbecula
HS7 5PJ
Tel: +44 (0)1870 604917

Email: businessgateway@cne-siar.gov.uk

Office hours

9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

General Links

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - Business Gateway website

For loan and business advice and information.

your obligations remain largely the same.

The Equality Act covers a range of groups that have protected characteristics relating to: age/ disability/ gender reassignment/ race/ religion or belief/ sex/ sexual orientation/ marriage & civil partnership/ pregnancy & maternity.

It simplifies and streamlines the law and strengthens particular aspects of existing equality law. As a result, you may need to review and change some of your policies and practices.

For more information: <http://www.equalities.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1631>

Are you eligible for a holiday from National Insurance Contributions?

The Regional Employer National Insurance Contributions Holiday is available to new businesses for a limited period and subject to meeting certain conditions. New businesses may be able to qualify for a reduction of up to £5,000 of the employer NICs that would normally be due - for each of the first ten employees they take on. This means a potential aid to business of up to £50,000.

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/pay/intro/nics-holiday/eligibility.htm>

HMRC Guidance on forthcoming VAT increase

HMRC has published guidance on the forthcoming change to the rate of VAT, as announced in the June Budget. The standard rate will increase to 20% from 4 January 2011.

<http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/budget2010/vat.htm>

Coming

Thursday 7th October:

A free training workshop on 'Exporting' will take place at Lews Castle College, Stornoway at 2pm. For more information or to book please contact: Donald John Macdonald 01851 770 464 gateway@lews.uhi.ac.uk

Any local businesses interested in developing their market outwith the UK should contact:

Business Gateway 01851 707 307 businessgateway@cne-siar.gov.uk

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

Wednesday 17th November

Specifically developed for Social Enterprises the workshop 'Sales for Non-Sales People' will take place in Stornoway. The course is designed to de-mystify the sales process for people who are trading in products and services, aiming to make participants more comfortable with the process of sales promotion and securing orders and contracts. For more information please contact the course organisers at The Social Enterprise Academy:

01463 238 088

kate@theacademy-ssea.org

Thursday 18th November

Fusion, the entrepreneurial business networking body, are holding their annual conference this year in the Ironworks in Inverness. Invitations are extended to like minded enterprising people who own or run their own business. The conference theme is 'Flux – what's going on out there, am I well informed or am I missing out?'

For more information on conference content, costs and arrangements please visit the Fusion website:

www.fusionlinking.co.uk

Tuesday 30th November

VisitScotland are giving businesses in the Outer Hebrides the opportunity to benefit from a workshop dedicated to the principles of Sustainable Tourism. The FREE ½ day event will take place in the Caberfeidh Hotel, Stornoway and will provide practical sustainability advice on a variety of topics, highlighting that sustainability is about more than just energy saving light bulbs and recycling! Experts from Scottish Business in the Community, Zero Waste Scotland and Energy Savings Trust, will be joined by local sustainability champions at each event who will share their experiences of sustainability and provide practical advice.

To register online for this workshop please go to:

<http://surveys.visitscotland.org/SustainableTourism/RegistrationForm/>

Or for more information please visit:

www.scotland-sustainabletourism.com

Highlands & Islands Enterprise Entrepreneurship

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

Creative Industries focus on the arts, crafts film, and television, publishing, and new media sectors if you are operational in this sector the following links

Development Programme

HIE in partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) are delighted to announce the 2010 Entrepreneurship Development Programme is now open for applications.

The Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) is a globally renowned business executive education course which introduces participants to MIT's entrepreneurial education programs, technology transfer system, and global entrepreneurial network. The EDP covers the entire venture creation process, from idea generation to building a viable business, with special emphasis on the nurturing roles of businesses, universities, governments, and foundations. Using MIT's entrepreneurial culture as a model, participants learn what they need to know in order to develop ideas into successful businesses and to increase entrepreneurial opportunities in their businesses, institutions and regions.

Hospitality Industry Trust Scotland – Emerging Talent Scholarships

HIT Scotland have recently announced they are open to applications for the 2011 scholarship programme, once again they are offering everyone working in Scotland's hospitality, tourism, leisure, travel, catering or related industries the opportunity to experience world-class training and learning. The Scholarship format has seven different categories: student/ craft/ young manager/ middle manager/ senior manager/ leadership and bespoke packages. Businesses of all sizes should encourage their staff to apply. Scholarships are available for all positions in the industry from front of house to administration and management, staff should discuss the programme their line-manager before filling out the form online at:

http://www.hitscotland.co.uk/scholarship_applications/Scholarship_application_1.php

Opportunity to meet the Tesco Scottish Local Sourcing Team

Tesco are hosting a 'Meet the Tesco Team' day in conjunction with Scotland Food & Drink on Tuesday 12th of Oct for companies interested in becoming a Tesco supplier. The 'free to attend' event will take place at the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena, Ratho near Edinburgh.

Scottish food and drink manufacturers not currently supplying Tesco will have the opportunity to come along and find out what it's like to work with Tesco, and

are worth a look:

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/>.
www.aim-hi.org

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - The Creative Industries

Publishes a periodic newsletter on the website.
www.cne-siar.gov.uk/eds/creativeindustries

give an insight into how the business operates:
Introduction to Tesco/ Tesco Local Sourcing/ Technical Overview/ Commercial Overview/ Marketing Opportunities
The presentation will end with a Q&A session.

For more information or to book a place at the event please contact
charlotte.herring@scotlandfoodanddrink.org 0131 5248648

CREATE: Business Idea Competition

If you have a business idea that might fly, pick up an application from your local UHI College reception, or apply online at:
<http://www.inverness.uhi.ac.uk/about-us/create/business-idea-competition/business-idea-competition-2010>

There is a total prize fund of £3,500 to be shared between the winners. Closing date for entries: Wednesday 27th October

Shell Springboard Competition

The Shell Springboard Awards programme 2010/11 is now open for entries. Shell Springboard provides a financial boost to innovative, low carbon business ideas from across the UK. £40,000 is awarded every year, no strings attached, to eight businesses with an innovative product or service that will lead to greenhouse gas emission reductions and is commercially viable. This year, the deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 5th November 2010 and awards will be made in early 2011. More information and detailed terms and conditions for the awards can be found on the website www.shellspringboard.org.

Employers and Young People

Local businesses may be interested in an initiative recently launched by the Scottish Government which provides information for employers around how they can support young people and gain business benefits in the process. The initiative aims to inform employers about what is available to young people and how it all fits around employability.
<http://www.employersandyoungpeople.org/Home>

Sporting Chance Initiative

The Sporting Chance Initiative is funded by partners including ERDF and the Scottish Government and has been launched to help small and medium enterprises across Scotland exploit the wide range of opportunities in the growing sport, health and fitness sector. Interest in the sector is increasing with the upcoming Olympic and Commonwealth Games and Sporting Chance will work with SMEs to help them to collaborate with relevant partners in developing new products or services or to adapt their existing offerings for the sport, health and fitness market. The Initiative can provide support in a number of key ways:

Providing grant funding up to £5K to enable feasibility studies with Higher Education Institutions to explore potential markets; Undertaking research to provide the detailed market intelligence required to enter a new market and by hosting events, seminars and workshops to provide SMEs with networking and learning opportunities.

For more information, please contact Gemma Kearney
Tel: 01786 458134 Email: gemma.kearney@suip.co.uk

Cultural Enterprise Office

Cultural Enterprise Office is Scotland's specialist business support and development service for creative businesses and practitioners. Cultural Enterprise Office provides an Enquiry Service that you can contact directly with any questions relating to your business or professional development. Call the Enquiry Line on 0844 544 9990 or email enquiries@culturalenterpriseoffice.co.uk for further assistance.

Alternatively you can visit www.culturalenterpriseoffice.co.uk to access a wide selection of resources including Business Maps for each sector, Factsheets, and more. The Develop Skills page allows you to explore resources that can help you at each stage of your business development. Search All enables you to pull the information you are looking for quickly and easily specific to industry or business area.

Youth Music Initiative: Funding Programmes

The Youth Music Initiative is issuing a call for applications to our three open funds: Small & Large Grants Fund/ Training & Continuing Development Fund/ Demo Fund.

Please note there are no set deadlines, applications can be submitted at any

time before the set closing dates for each scheme but if you decide to submit an application you are advised to do so as soon as possible as all funding will be awarded on a first come first served basis until all funds have been allocated.

Small & Large Grants: available for music projects involving children and young people under 25 out with school time.

Training & Continuing Professional Development Fund: Aimed at individual musicians and music facilitators providing music activities for children and young people under 25. Funding is available to improve and extend their professional practice and ability to deliver quality activities.

Demo Fund: Funding for studios to record with young bands to help emerging talent record their first demo, allowing them to take the next step in their music careers by presenting themselves professionally to the music industry. The aim is to target young musicians who are making music in an unsupervised capacity. Applications are welcome from professional studios, or organisations willing to partner with a studio.

For more information contact the Creative Scotland enquiry service on 0845 603 6000 or enquiries@creativescotland.com

Scotland's Land Use Strategy – Consultation Open

This draft strategy aims to guide, support and inform all those involved in deciding how land is to be used, by setting out a vision and long-term objectives for an integrated approach to sustainable land use in Scotland.

The consultation can be found online at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Countryside/Landusestrategy>

The deadline for responses is **17 December 2010**

The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion

These awards seek to recognise the activities of individuals who have played an outstanding role in promoting enterprise skills and attitudes in others in the UK. This can include:

Entrepreneurs, businessmen & women, inventors and innovators who give time and / or financial assistance to other potential entrepreneurs.

Those in education, training or youth work who are providing people of all ages

with enterprise skills and attitudes.

Those involved in Social Enterprise who achieve business outcomes or equip others with business skills.

The deadline for nominations is 2pm on Friday 29th October.

For more information on how to apply please visit:

<http://www.bgateway.com/bdotg/action/layer?site=202&topicId=1075193191>

or call 020 7215 6880

REGULARS AND LINKS

Outer Hebrides Business Directory

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 707307 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***

[Unsubscribe me from this list](#)

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