

Bedford Business

One passionate team, working together to help you

www.investinbedford.com 01234 221889

January 2011 - Happy New Year!

Features highlights from Bedford's business world, gives you a sneak preview of upcoming events and contains important snippets of information for local businesses.

Business News

Movianto expand presence in Bedford

Movianto UK, a leading logistics and distribution service provider managing in excess of 1 million items each day, has significantly expanded its presence in Bedford by taking up a further 130,000 sq ft of premises. This expansion, capitalising on Bedford's first-rate work force pool and excellent connectivity will bring with it a substantial job increase to the Borough.



Castle Quay Restaurant Open

The first of three restaurant units at the prestigious Castle Quay development has now opened. The area, which is a contemporary development in the heart of Bedford's new cultural quarter sits in an exciting riverside leisure destination.

New Road Link The Right Move For Business

The new duelled A421 linking the M1 with Bedford has now been completed providing quick and easy access to both the M1 and A1, cutting congestion, reducing journey times and considerably improving Bedford's attraction. [Click here](#) to see a map of the new road layout.



Marston Vale Innovation Park Masterplan Complete

20 acres of council owned land, adjacent to the duelled A421 just south of Bedford have taken a step closer to becoming a prestigious gateway business park with the completion of the site masterplan. The plan details Marston Vale Innovation Park as a premier commercial location providing a high-quality, innovation-focused business community.

Bedford College and 18,000 students are "engine for growth" for local economy

Bedford College celebrated another year of success in 2010 with 18,000 students signed up to courses and student successes in the top 5 % in the country. Working closely with local employers to help ensure students have the right skills for employment is key to the contribution the College makes to the local economy.



Events & Info

Winning Public Sector Contracts

Have you ever considered bidding for public sector contracts? We are providing workshops that will enable your company to acquire realistic solutions when tendering for public sector work. Find out how your business can overcome barriers to this tendering process and discover how other businesses have won a range of contracts from the public sector. Events are to be held on the 9th, 17th and 22nd of February. For more details and to book a place please email simon.dunning@bedford.gov.uk



Understanding Finance for Business

EEDA's Understanding Finance for Business programme will be running workshops in the next few months to help Bedford companies identify the right forms of finance and improve their chances of securing it. Businesses will also get updates on current banking, investment and grant finance issues. For more information [click here](#).

Coaching for High Growth

Businesses growing fast, or who expect to in the near future, can benefit from the EEDA funded Coaching for High Growth programme. Companies will receive assistance from an external coach taking a fresh look at their business and help to take it to the next level. For more information call 01223 420252 or email coaching@stjohns.co.uk



Calling Low Carbon Innovators

If you are developing low carbon technology and are an entrepreneur or SME then EEDA's £5.5m pot of grant funding could be just what you need. Grants for research and development, providing finance of up to £250,000, are available for innovative low carbon projects. To find out more please email businessfinance@eeda.org.uk

Creating a Low Carbon Future for the Bedfordshire Area - Thursday 20th January

Bedford Borough Council invite you to a free half-day workshop to help create a low carbon future for the Bedfordshire area. With the growing need for all business to dramatically cut carbon emission, come along and help develop a shared implementation plan to ensure we all benefit from being a low carbon area. For more info and to book a place please contact sustainability.team@bedford.gov.uk



Green Office Guide for Local Businesses

As part of the Council's commitment to reducing carbon emissions across the borough, a free guide to help local businesses reduce their carbon emissions is now available online. The Guide provides tips and links on such topics as energy efficiency, transport, reducing and recycling waste, water conservation and how to be sustainable at work and home. To view the guide [click here](#).

Festival of Running

Would you like your business to be associated with Olympic champions and world class role models? Would you like to expand your business contacts into untapped markets and play your part in developing a unique event? We are looking for business sponsors to help build a legacy with world class athletes. For more information please contact David Brewer at Bedford Borough Council on 01234 228078 or email david.brewer@bedford.gov.uk



Bedford Property Search

Thinking about moving premises? To show you the range of sites and premises that are currently available in the Bedford area and help identify the right premises for you, we have developed a commercial property database including offices, business centres, industrial units, warehouses, commercial land and retail property. [Click here](#) to search for commercial property.

Help us to help you

Found it useful to have all this business information at your fingertips in an easy to read newsletter? Remember to keep checking our [website](#) for exciting news and events. Designed to bring the latest information to businesses, the website is a comprehensive guide for any business operating or considering locating in the Bedford area and to provide assistance to new businesses that are just starting their journey.

You can also follow us on twitter and facebook, which is updated regularly with all important, breaking news. Click on the links in the footer below.

We look forward to speaking to you soon!

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