

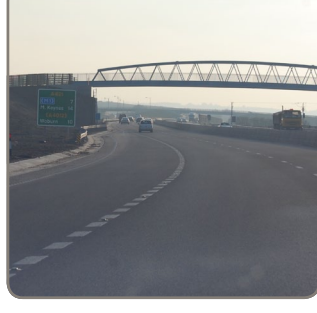
Bedford Business

One passionate team, working together to help you www.investinbedford.com 01234 221889

January 2012 - 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



A421 opens the way for Business

In the twelve months since the opening of the dualled A421, Bedford has had a growing presence on the radar of investors and intermediaries, thanks to the fast road links to both the M1 and A1 and the availability of development land situated in close proximity. With the forthcoming completion of the western bypass and the recent announcement of investment to deliver the Bedford to Oxford Rail Link, these major infrastructure improvements will leave Bedford Borough well placed to attract new investment.

Bedford on Screen

To demonstrate the proximity of Bedford to the M1 Motorway and to emphasise the quick link road (A421) between the two locations, developers Gazeley, promoting the uniquely placed G Park site have shot a short video with the aim of attracting further inward investment. To view the film [click here](#).



SEMLEP Visit

Bedford Borough Council recently welcomed the new Chair of the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP), Dr. Ann Limb OBE DL, to the area. The whistle-stop tour included visits to some of Bedford's key business areas and highlighted the array of businesses that are already established within the Borough along with those who have recently recognised the benefits and joined us.

Buy in Bedford

Metric Property Investments have invested a significant amount of money refurbishing and updating Alban Retail Park, London Road. The former Focus store has been split into two units, with new retailers B & M Homestore and Jollyes Pet Store set to move in. Owing to this, Dunelm are significantly fitting out their existing store and re-affirming their commitment to Bedford. This positive news follows the opening of a further three large stores and various independent retailers in the town centre and Castle Lane, creating over 160 new jobs.

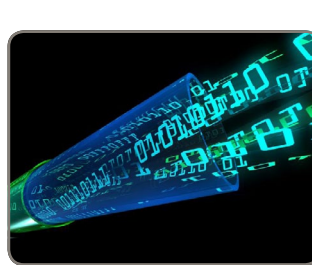


Atmosphere Bar & Clubs Invests £1million in Bedford

Atmosphere Bars & Clubs, the owners of the former nightclub, New York New York have invested over £1million and created 17 new jobs in bringing a Mediterranean influenced bar and dining experience to Bedford's town centre called Modello Bar & Kitchen.

Faster Broadband for Businesses – Help make it Happen

Bedford Borough Council is working with Central Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Councils on a multi-million pound project to improve local broadband speeds. You can help make faster broadband happen by telling us what you need. Go to www.bedford.gov.uk/broadband to do this. A specifically business focussed sub-project is also being planned, so watch this space.



Engineering Company celebrates 50 Years in Bedford

Bedford based Wichita Clutches, manufacturer of industrial use clutches for sale across the world has hit new heights over the last 12 months, doubling its turnover just in time for the firm's 50th anniversary. The firm has put a high premium on being part of Bedford with a number of the current staff coming through the company's apprenticeship scheme, including the plant manager.

Other News

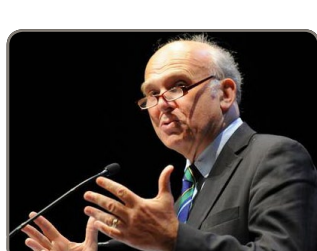


Government Launches Business Improvement Services

Two new online services provided by Business Link have now been launched. 'My New Business' offers comprehensive information and guidance to those looking to start a business and 'The Growth and Improvement Service' offers information for those who wish to develop their business. [Click here](#) for further details about the enhanced Business Link services.

Growth and Innovation Fund - £60 Million to Enhance Business Skills

The second phase of the Government's Growth and Innovation Fund (GIF) has been launched. The fund supports businesses in the UK to develop their skills solutions tailored to their own needs, transforming growth in their sector, region or supply chain. [Click here](#) for further details.



Government Outlines a Package of Measures to Reform the Employment Law System

Business Secretary Vince Cable has recently announced radical reforms to the employment law system as part of the Government's Plan for Growth. These planned changes aim to cut unnecessary burdens on business. For full details of the reforms [click here](#).

UKTI Launches Exporting for Growth Prize Competition for SMEs

The Growth Prize Competition aims to encourage more small businesses in the UK to take their products to overseas markets by offering a comprehensive package of support to the company with the best export idea. Winners will receive UKTI support worth up to £5,000 plus expert business knowledge. To find out more [click here](#).

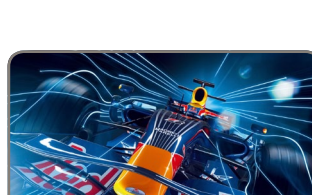


Olympic Torch to come through Bedford Borough

The people of Bedford Borough will get the chance to see the Olympic Torch after it was confirmed it will be carried through the area next summer. The torch will come to our streets on July 8th travelling through the town and will be a great opportunity to showcase all that Bedford has to offer. For more information email events@bedford.gov.uk.

Red Bull Racing

Congratulations to Red Bull Racing following another F1 Championship winning season. Did you know that their new F1 car designs are put through their paces in the Red Bull wind tunnel in Bedford? Reckoned to be one of the most advanced and accurate in the world!



Events & Info

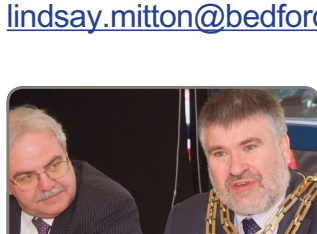


Free Energy Efficient Business Breakfast – 11th January

Bedford Borough Council has partnered with the Carbon Trust to support local SME's in their carbon reduction efforts and to help save money on their energy bills. By attending this session businesses will be able to manage and monitor their organisations energy use and identify and implement key energy reduction opportunities. Email janet.millar@bedford.gov.uk to confirm your interest.

National Apprenticeship Week - 6-10th February

Preparations are well underway for National Apprenticeship Week 2012, with the aim to raise the profile amongst Bedford employers and individuals about the positives of taking on apprentices. A host of events will be taking place in Bedford, to find out how your business can get involved or for more information on taking on an apprentice contact 01234 276918 or email lindsay.mitton@bedford.gov.uk.

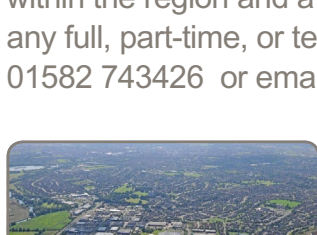
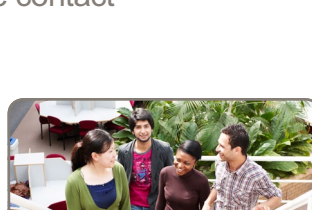


Open for Business Breakfast

As part of the Council's commitment to supporting local businesses, the Mayor and Chief Executive of Bedford Borough Council will continue to host the successful 'Council Open for Business' breakfasts in 2012. If you are a Bedford business and would like the opportunity to meet them and other key Council officers, ask questions and give your views on the Borough as well as networking with other Borough companies then please contact justine.ives@bedford.gov.uk

University of Bedfordshire – 'Zero Cost' Recruitment Service

'Recruitment Services' is a professional agency style service, so if your business is looking to recruit they can offer you access to quality students and graduates within the region and a pre-screened shortlist of suitable candidates. If you have any full, part-time, or temporary positions to fill please contact Priya Chauhan on 01582 743426 or email recruit@beds.ac.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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