

Mid Devon District Council –Here to help your business grow

The top priority in the Council's current Corporate Plan is to assist with the creation of a **Thriving Economy** for the District

We will do this by:

- increasing inward investment into the district
- providing start up, relocation and expansion opportunities for business
- providing opportunities and support to new and existing businesses
- regenerating and improve our market towns

1 - In order to lead this Policy the Council is working hard with the public, local partners and the development sector to ensure that Mid Devon can take the fullest advantage of its potential for appropriate future growth and development. The key strategic agenda setting initiatives that are currently being steered through include:-

- The Mid Devon Local Plan Options including the major employment opportunities at Junction 27
- The Tiverton Eastern Urban Extension.
- The Regeneration possibilities of the Tiverton Town Centre

2. - The Council is working to ensure that local businesses can take full advantage of the range of assistances , business support initiatives that the Council provide to assist their growth and development.

-Initiatives include the establishment of the **Mid Devon Business Advice Service**, and the facilitation of a “**Business First**” approach in the wide range of Mid Devon District Council Services that have a direct impact on and contact with business. Services include Economic Development, Property, Business Rates, Licencing, Planning and Waste Collection.

-The Council also has a role in supporting and assisting a number of the Business Groups that operate in the District. As well as Business Forum Mid Devon the Council also play a supportive role to the various Town Teams, Traders Groups, Chambers, FSB Committees , Attractions Groups, etc. that operate across

Mid Devon.

3. - The Council must also put forward a strong Mid Devon Case /Agenda/Lobby ,in liaison with other local groups and organisations, in order to bid for , take advantage of and lobby for the larger scale County ,Regional, National and European Schemes for Infrastructure Improvements, New Support and Grant Initiatives and New Inward Investments. The “Heart of the South West LEP” must be regarded as a key player/partner in this matter with its key links to Government.

- Whilst there is a strong case to continue to press for external help for key Mid Devon road and rail infrastructure needs there is also a need to support a bid for the Mid Devon area to benefit from the forthcoming LEADER programme which will hopefully assist business growth and job creation in the rural areas from 2015.It is hoped that support will be forthcoming both locally and regionally for the Mid Devon Local Development Strategy which will be worked up for submission to DEFRA in September this year.

Some specific useful sources of assistance and opportunities for your business

Full details on each of the schemes can be obtained from BIP (Business Information Point) who are tonight represented here by your Executive’s David Hinshelwood.(0800 592872) www.bipwestdevon.biz

1. Mid Devon Business Advice Service.

A source of confidential and practical advice on a wide range of Business issues that is available to smaller businesses across the whole of Mid Devon.

2. Superfast Business Support

Specialist support from an IT specialist to assist your business take advantage of new IT systems

3. Heart of the South West Business Support

Some specialist business support via a voucher scheme to SME’s (under 250 employees)

4. Growth Accelerator

A support system targeted at Businesses with a growth potential of £250,000 per year.

5. Enterprise Clubs

BIP are providing an “Enterprise Club” at giving useful advice and mutual support and motivation to any people interested in starting or who have just

started a new business. The Clubs meet in two venues –The Hayridge,Cullompton and the Library ,Tiverton on the last Thursday of the month.

6. New Enterprise Allowance

Pre- start advice, mentoring and support to produce and implement a Business Plan for people receiving Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) ,Income Support (IS) or Employment Support Allowance (ISA)

It can give £65 per week support for 13 weeks and then £33 per week for a further 13 weeks plus access to a £2500 loan.

7. Start-Up Loan

Loans of up to £9500 for eligible pre-start and first 12 months trading businesses available. 6% interest –no fees.

Finally I would wish to refer Mid Devon Businesses to two web sites that will inform you of future procurement opportunities and set out the way in which you can register and then bid in. The District Council's Procurement Office can be of assistance in this matter.

These are :

1. For a wide range of Council Tendering opportunities (including Mid Devon DC)

www.supplyingthesouthwest.org.uk

2. For the Hinkley Point C power station development.

www.hinkleysupplychain.co.uk