

BUSINESS FIRST

TRAFFORD'S BUSINESS BULLETIN - DECEMBER 2015

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Welcome to the latest edition of Trafford's 'Business First' bulletin brought to you by Trafford Council.

In this edition you will find articles on the latest business news, support and funding opportunities including: Altrincham voting 'Yes' to establish a Business Improvement District (BID), the future development of Carrington, support and funding available to companies looking to export, R&D Tax Credits and the Video Games Prototype Fund.

The Council's Economic Growth Team is here to act as a single point of contact for business in the borough. Whether it's through identifying potential funding opportunities, searching for sites or premises, guiding you through available business support provision or supporting new and expanding companies, the Team is ready to help and advise you.

For more information about the support available to businesses, visit www.investintrafford.com, or follow us on Twitter @TraffordBiz. You can contact the team by telephoning 0161 912 4176 or e-mailing business@trafford.gov.uk

CAN YOU PROVIDE INSPIRATION TO CHILDREN IN CARE?

Trafford Council's Virtual School Team would like to hear from any company that could offer work experience or group industry visits so that children, aged 12-16, in care can experience their dreams and see first-hand what their chosen career would look like in reality. Statistically, Children in Care achieve less than their peers who have not been in the care system. They require encouragement and opportunities to raise their individual aspirations and improve confidence and self-esteem, ensuring they have belief in what they can achieve in the future. If you can provide an inspirational opportunity for Children in Care, please contact: Racheal Moore, Activity Agreement Co-Ordinator. Email Racheal.moore@trafford.gov.uk or Telephone 0161 911 8626 / 07780703477.

Activity
Agreement

AUTUMN STATEMENT 2015

- A £400m Northern Powerhouse Investment Fund is set to be created to help small businesses grow. The government revealed that it has agreed with the British Business Bank and local enterprise partnerships in the North West, Yorkshire and the Humber, and the Tees Valley to create the fund.
- The government has outlined its ambition to have three million apprentices in work in Britain by 2020, while detailing plans for a new apprenticeship levy set at 0.5 per cent of the apprentice's annual wage.
- Power over uniform business rates will be devolved to local councils, George Osborne has confirmed, after reiterating his commitment to abolishing the charge.
- The government has confirmed it plans to double its housing budget to help fund the construction of 400,000 new "affordable homes" by the end of the decade.
- Spending on energy research is to be doubled, including £250m for a nuclear research programme, and a new Shale Wealth Fund worth up to £1 bn created for communities affected by fracking industry.
- 26 new Enterprise Zones are to be created across the UK, including a new Greater Manchester Life Science zone.

ALTRINCHAM BUSINESSES VOTE YES TO BID!

Following a four-week postal ballot, businesses in Altrincham have voted YES to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) in the town centre. This will create a fund of over £1.4 million to be spent on a range of exciting projects designed to improve the town centre, increase footfall and enhance business performance over the next 5 years. Businesses voted with a 68% majority and the turnout of 44% was above the national average for a BID ballot.

Councillor Sean Anstee, Chair of Altrincham Forward and Leader of Trafford Council said: "This is a brilliant result that will help to continue the momentum in Altrincham town centre, building on the work and investment that has gone into the town over the past few years."

Martin Duff, Chair of the BID Steering Group and Owner of Randalls Jewellers said: "I am delighted that so many businesses have supported this initiative. Businesses will now have the ability and resources to work together to implement the projects and events detailed within the Altrincham BID Business Plan. This will give us a platform to really make a difference to how Altrincham town centre is perceived, make it more attractive to visitors so they keep coming back, and to improve the business environment. The BID Steering Group will now work towards appointing a BID Manager and a new Board to oversee the BID going forward. This will contain an even mix of representatives from various business sectors within the town centre as well as other key stakeholders to ensure everyone benefits."

The new BID company will be formally launched on 1st April 2016 at which point activities will commence. Projects include marketing campaigns, safety and security initiatives, events and negotiating joint procurement deals designed to save businesses money.



Cllr Sean Anstee and BID Steering Group Chair Martin Duff alongside other members of the Altrincham BID Steering Group

FUTURE CARRINGTON

Trafford Council is working in partnership with HIMOR to progress the development of the Future Carrington project at the 1,660 acre Carrington estate that was formerly occupied by Shell. As part of the scheme a masterplan for a major residential and employment development will be produced. The Masterplan will then be delivered in stages, providing new investment in housing, business premises and creating new jobs.

The development at Carrington will unlock unrivalled investment into Trafford, creating a lasting economic legacy that delivers genuine transformation and contributes to the Northern Powerhouse. It is anticipated that a first phase planning application for residential and employment development will be submitted to Trafford Council in mid 2016.

For further information regarding the project visit www.FutureCarrington.com or call Freephone 0800 170 1418.



BUSINESS SUPPORT

Each month we will cast a spotlight on three support organisations and opportunities which may be able to benefit your business. You can also find information about further support initiatives and organisations by [contacting the Economic Growth Team](#).

BUSINESSES URGED TO FULFIL EXPORT POTENTIAL

Businesses are being encouraged to tap into a portal offering real-time export opportunities as the government seeks to get 100,000 additional companies exporting by 2020.

Exporting is GREAT, part of the GREAT campaign, offers opportunities across media outlets and digital channels to businesses. It is expected about 1,000 business opportunities will come online

each month. By visiting the website, www.exportingisgreat.gov.uk you can download export guides, find useful events and access export support. Alternatively you can call the Business Support Helpline on 0300 456 3565 (Monday to Friday 9am – 6pm).



TRAFFORD COUNCIL HOSTS R&D TAX CREDITS WORKSHOP

Trafford Council and award winning accountants and business advisors Beaver and Struthers hosted a free Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credits workshop for local businesses on 5th November 2015 at Trafford Town Hall. The workshop provided an overview of the HMRC Tax Credits Scheme, along with tailored advice on how to identify eligible expenditure and guidance on how to make a claim. A number of businesses were able to identify eligible R&D spend and are now progressing towards applying for tax refunds as a result.

HM Revenue & Customs R&D Tax Credits scheme is a government initiative to encourage investment in innovation. Eligible companies are able to deduct up to 225% of qualifying expenditure to reduce their taxable profits. R&D Tax Credits are available to all business sectors and the average SME claim is over £40,000. However, it is estimated that as little as 5% of eligible businesses are claiming relief.



If your business invests in any R&D activity or has made significant improvements to your products, services or software, then you could also be eligible. For more information about R&D Tax Credits and to find out if you are eligible, e-mail business@trafford.gov.uk

NATWEST ON MISSION TO BOOST START-UPS

Nearly half of Britons would prefer to be self-employed, according to the NatWest Entrepreneurship Monitor. To support entrepreneurs across the UK, NatWest is opening 10 Entrepreneurial Spark, free business accelerator hubs or 'Hatcheries' in its buildings across the country, including one at Hardman Boulevard, Spinningfields in Manchester in February. The aim is to support 7,000 entrepreneurs over the next five years in partnership with KPMG.

The hubs offer space, facilities, technology, bankers and existing successful entrepreneurs who act as mentors for start-ups. The experience of Spark so far is that the survival rate of small businesses it works with is up to 80% compared to an overall average of 40%. For further information visit www.entrepreneurial-spark.com



FUNDING

Funding opportunities are available to support businesses to grow and prosper. In each Business Bulletin we will highlight a number of these, but please contact us directly if you would like to learn more about potential funding opportunities available to your business.

GREATER MANCHESTER EXPORT FUND

The GM Export Fund aims to increase export sales, protect existing jobs and create new ones. It will provide targeted financial support to facilitate export-led growth, through access to grant and loan funding.

The **Grant Fund** will provide capital and revenue investment for projects which enable companies to become globally competitive. Grant funding could assist with up to 20% of the total project costs,

with a minimum grant of £10,000. Telephone Kate Simcock on 0161 237 4219 for more information.

The **Loan Fund** will provide short term trade finance of up to £500,000 to enable businesses to fulfil export orders. The Loan could be used for short term working capital or as cash support to enable the business' bank to issue a tender bond, an advanced payment

guarantee or a performance bond. Telephone Andy Nichols on 0161 245 4736 for more information.

Companies interested in a grant or a loan can also email
gmexportfund@manchestergrowth.co.uk

Supported by the
 Regional Growth Fund

£4 MILLION VIDEO GAMES PROTOTYPE FUND

A new £4 million fund to help boost the UK's growing video games industry has been launched by Government.

Aimed at helping smaller companies get concepts off the drawing board and into production, the Video Games Prototype Fund will offer grants of up to £25,000

over the next four years to support video games projects.

The Fund will be managed by the UK Games Talent and Finance Community Interest Company and will explore joint initiatives with organisations such as Digital Catapult, BAFTA, Ukie, Tiga,

Creative England, Creative Scotland and BFI.

Further information is available by visiting www.ukgamesfund.com



£45M LIFE SCIENCES FUND

The Greater Manchester & Cheshire Life Sciences Fund is a seed and early stage venture capital fund targeting life science businesses located in the Greater Manchester and Cheshire & Warrington region. The Fund is managed by Catapult Venture Managers ("Catapult Ventures").

The Fund is the result of collaboration between Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Cheshire and Warrington Enterprise Partnership, Cheshire East Council, and Manchester Science Partnerships. The fund will invest in 'Life Science' businesses across the following sectors:

- Pharmaceuticals
- Biotechnology
- Diagnostics
- Life Science contract research organisations (CRO)
- Healthcare technologies
- Medical devices

For further information visit
www.gmlifesciencesfund.com

GROUNDWORK RELOCATES TO TRAFFORD ECOLOGY PARK

Groundwork has recently completed a re-location of its main office base and Trust HQ to Trafford Ecology Park - a registered Site of Biological Importance, providing a wildlife oasis in the heart of Trafford Park industrial estate. Groundwork's relocation means that the site is now open Monday to Friday for employees of our neighbouring businesses within Trafford Park to enjoy.

Deborah Murray, Operations and Development Director at Groundwork comments "We are so excited about the future and moving towards our vision for the Eco Park of a place which workers, residents and young people can visit, enjoy and learn about; and a place which showcases sustainable living and working. We are keen to build relationships with our neighbours on Trafford Park and

would encourage any business who wants to come down and have a look to get in touch – or just call in during office hours!"

The Eco Park is proving popular with businesses and schools as

well as informal visitors, providing organised opportunities to learn, get active and spend time out of the office and classroom. To find out more about Trafford Ecology Park visit www.groundwork.org.uk/msstt



EVENTS

The coming months see a number of high-profile events featuring the strength and diversity of the Trafford business community. These include:

TRAFFORD PARK BUSINESS NETWORK



There are over 1,000 businesses and 35,000 employees in Trafford Park.

How many of these are you currently doing business with?

The next Trafford Park Business Network (open to Trafford Park Businesses only) will be held on Thursday 18th February 2016, between 8.00 am and 10.00 am. Further details will be available shortly on the Invest in Trafford website.

ROAD CLOSURE

The following forthcoming event will require limited road closures, which may impact upon businesses in the affected areas:

Santa Run 2015 (Sunday 15th December 2015) – road closures along Sir Matt Busby Way and Wharfside Way between 11.15am – 12.45pm.

For further information contact getinvolved@mufoundation.org

CONTACT

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