

South and East Yorkshire

# Enterprise Weekly

The definitive small business e-newsletter

fsb<sup>3</sup>  
Experts in Business

Volume 430

Circulation: 5745

18 December 2015

*May we wish all our readers a Happy and Peaceful  
Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.*



Enterprise Weekly  
**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**



## What can your MP do for you?



John Healey MP

at the Holiday Inn Express, Manvers Way, Wath upon Dearne, Rotherham, S63 7EQ.

MPs can assist businesses in a variety of ways, from making private enquiries on their behalf, to raising matters publicly in the House of Commons.

They might write to the relevant department or official, send a letter to the appropriate Minister or make a personal appointment to discuss the issue. Or they may decide to make the issue public by raising it in the House of Commons, where it will be officially recorded, and could potentially come to the attention of the press and public.

Businesses could also request that their MP speak at an event concerning the issue, pledge their support to a campaign or write to the local media on their behalf.

To help businesses understand their relationship with the local MP, Experts in Business FSB have organised a free event with our special guest speaker John Healey MP at 9.00 – 10.30am (breakfast sandwiches and refreshments at 8.30am) on Friday 22 January

To book, visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/what-can-your-mp-do-for-you-tickets-19967817279>

## Join FSB at Yorkshire's primary networking event



The FSB warmly invites you to join us at a major Yorkshire regional networking opportunity, the "Inspiring Yorkshire Business" event, which will take place at 9.00am – 3.00pm on Thursday 18 February 2016 in the Big Hall at Magna, Rotherham.

Magna is bringing together 100 high-profile exhibitors, informative workshops and a wealth of main-stage presentations throughout the day from nationally-renowned speakers. The event is free to attend for all businesses.

Experts in Business FSB are proud to be major sponsors of the event and hope to see our members from across the region paying us a visit during the day.

For further information or to book a stand visit:

<http://www.mymagnaevent.co.uk/events-calendar/the-inspiring-yorkshire-business-event>

## Free information sessions for Sheffield businesses

Business Sheffield will be presenting a programme of expert-delivered business information sessions throughout January.

8 January - *How to safely produce food*

13 January - *Creating a brand*

15 January - *Social Media*

19 January - *How to run a successful crowdfunding campaign*

20 January - *Winning new customers via the telephone*

21 January - *Maximising your website*

27 January - *How to sell face to face*

All events are free of charge. For further information or to reserve yourself a place simply call the Gateway on 0800 043 55 22 or 0114 224 5000.



Enterprise Weekly

## REGIONAL AND LOCAL NEWS



## An opportunity to link your business with education



**ENTERPRISE  
ADVISER  
NETWORK**

**SHEFFIELD CITY REGION**

The world of work is changing. Small and medium size businesses account for the majority of employment opportunities in the UK. It's a time of great opportunity, yet many young people are not always in a position to take advantage of it. Youth unemployment remains high at the same time that many good jobs go unfilled.

In a recent survey 70% of companies said that students have inadequate business and customer awareness, and over half perceived weaknesses in school leavers' personal-management skills.

The Enterprise Adviser Network comprises volunteers drawn from business and other employers, both large and small. Supported by a full time Enterprise Coordinator, they work directly with the leadership of individual schools and colleges to develop effective employer engagement programmes.

Becoming an Enterprise Adviser offers you the chance to support the development of your future workforce. As an Enterprise Adviser you will become part of a local network: The Enterprise Adviser network provides a forum for employers to discuss and work together to resolve local skills issues.

To find out more visit: <http://www.enterpriseadviserscr.org.uk/information-for-employers>

### **RiDO's Martyn Benson recognised with national award**



*Martyn Benson*

National Enterprise Network has announced the winners of its annual awards, at the NatWest sponsored National Enterprise Network annual conference. Winners of the nine categories were announced by National Enterprise Network Chairman Chris Pichon and facilitator Declan Curry at the event held at the RBS in London.

The Enterprise Coach/Mentor of the Year award, sponsored by New Level Results, aimed to recognise a coach or mentor who is passionate, has built excellent relationships with clients and delivered an impressive support offering. The award went to Martyn Benson from RiDO in Rotherham.

During his career Martyn has won a number of awards and delivered business support over a range of different topics. He is very pro-active and has made some impressive achievements which have directly contributed to the economy in and around Rotherham. It has been calculated that he has assisted in excess of 1600 clients and over 250 successful new start businesses: a fantastic achievement.

Read more at: <http://www.nationalenterprisenetwork.org/news/2015/11/2015-national-enterprise-network-awards-winners-announced/>

### **John Cracknell Youth Enterprise Bank application deadline**



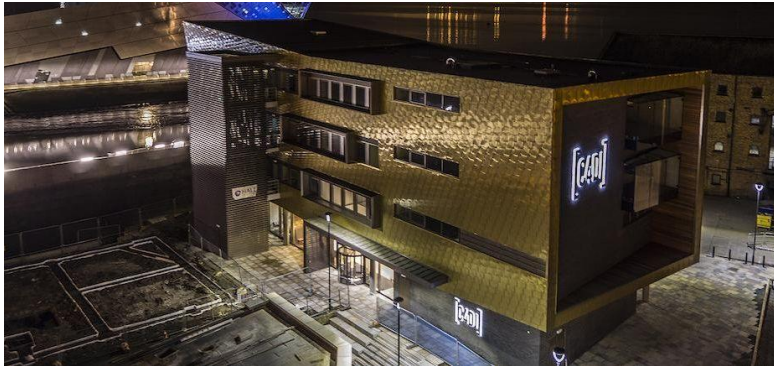
The deadline for the next round of the John Cracknell Youth Enterprise Bank is 31 January 2016, the panel will meet on Tuesday 16 February.

The Enterprise Bank supports enterprising young people aged 13 to 21 with a grant and an access to a mentor. To be eligible, applicants must live in Hull and East Riding or in exceptional circumstances have lived in Hull aged up to 18 and still have a connection with the City (this arrangement is dependent on an organisation willing to act as mentor). So if you know someone that might be interested, please pass on the details.

Further details at: <http://www.youthenterprise.co.uk/funding.php>



## Hull's £4m Centre for Digital Innovation officially opens



The Centre for Digital Innovation (C4DI), a technology hub created to lead a digital revolution across Hull and Humber and the wider northern region, officially opened this week.

The £4m 22,000 sq ft building will form the centre of the £14m @TheDock scheme and will house a

wide range of startups and businesses.

Featuring KC's Lightsteam broadband service, the C4DI brings the UK's fastest internet connection speeds to Hull, providing download speeds from 250Mbps to 1Gbps and upload speeds of between 125Mbps and 500Mbps.

The C4DI provides hot-desking facilities for tech-based start-up firms and offices from 200 sq ft upwards to accommodate growing and established digital and technology businesses.

John Connolly, managing director of C4DI Ltd, the operating company for the building, also commented: "C4DI Ltd is a company whose objective is to assist the growth of the local and regional tech and digital sector. To achieve that we needed a space for it to happen in and that idea gave birth to the idea of C4DI the building, the opening of which we are celebrating today.

"Our vision was to create a unique, vibrant specialist business space that would help drive the region's tech and digital sector forward and we have worked in partnership with the likes of KC, Hull Digital, the University of Hull and numerous local and national tech companies to achieve that.

"We also wanted to create a space where partnerships between the region's non-digital businesses and the tech companies can develop as this is where a huge amount of value can be realised from C4DI. It is not just about creating start-ups, it is about collaborating with companies that need bespoke digital and tech solutions and helping them to realise those. By doing that we enable the entire region's economy to grow while at the same time dramatically enhancing the links between mainstream industry and the tech community."

Read more at: <https://goo.gl/d20HJB>

## Minister unveils UK's first hybrid 'tram train' in South Yorkshire



The UK'S first Tram Train has been unveiled in Sheffield. Passengers in South Yorkshire will be the first in the country to benefit from the innovative Tram Trains – vehicles running on both the city's tramlines and the rail network between Sheffield and Rotherham.

The Tram Trains, which will allow passengers to make a single journey between tram stops and conventional rail

stations from early 2017, will undergo testing before being introduced on the Supertram network next summer to provide extra services at busy times.

The Government is working in partnership with South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, Network Rail, Stagecoach Supertram and Northern Rail to pilot this pioneering technology. Three Tram Trains an hour will travel on the Supertram network from Sheffield Cathedral to Meadowhall South, before proceeding over a new section of track linking the tram line to the rail track called the Tinsley Chord, and on to the national rail network to Parkgate Retail Centre via Rotherham Central station.

Read more at: <http://blmforum.net/mag/minister-unveils-uks-first-hybrid-tram-train-south-yorkshire/>

### Tour de Yorkshire 2016 route announced



The Tour de Yorkshire, one of the most spectacular and well received events in the British sporting calendar, returns for a second year with new routes and new challenges. The huge crowds will be entertained by Race Ambassadors and a Tour de Yorkshire Caravan which will visit key points on the route before the race starts.

Whether you're a food producer, farm shop, café, coffee or tea producer, deli or even a florist there are plenty of opportunities for businesses to get involved in the Tour de Yorkshire. In particular, the opportunities for food producers range from showcasing your produce to the world's media at the media centres to contributing to the winning riders Yorkshire Hampers. Florists may even be interested in providing the flowers for each winner of the tour stages. If you'd like to be involved, email [lkirk@yorkshire.com](mailto:lkirk@yorkshire.com) for more information or to show your interest.

If you want to find out more about the Tour de Yorkshire and how your business can celebrate and embrace the event, in January 2016 the organisers will be holding Tour de Yorkshire Roadshows in selected towns and villages.

For details of the roadshow locations visit: <http://letour.yorkshire.com/news/2016-roadshows>

### Civil engineers work on Northern Powerhouse policy



*Penny Marshall*

The Institution of Civil Engineers has formed a Northern Powerhouse Panel to inform infrastructure policy across the North of England.

The panel, a group of leading infrastructure and policy experts, held its first meeting at KPMG's offices in Leeds last week. At the meeting, the panel members set out their key objectives, designed to get the best infrastructure solutions from the Northern Powerhouse.

The group's objectives are to establish the Institution as the authority on Northern Powerhouse infrastructure policy, to ensure that the Northern Powerhouse is more than Manchester and considers the North in its entirety, and to shape the implementation of the Northern Powerhouse initiative, drawing upon local expertise and experience within the Institution's membership.

Penny Marshall, Regional Director of the Institution of Civil Engineers in Yorkshire and Humber and the North East, said: "Forming the Northern Powerhouse Panel gives the ICE the opportunity to make practical and positive contributions to the future of infrastructure in the North East and Yorkshire. Working with the Institution's national policy team the panel will add to our own work on the Northern Powerhouse, contribute to the National Infrastructure Commission's call for evidence on northern transport connectivity, and engage with decision makers and local stakeholders."

Read more at: <http://blmforum.net/mag/civil-engineers-work-on-northern-powerhouse-policy/>

---

### **Construction of £25m National College for High Speed Rail in Doncaster reaches next stop**



The new National College for High Speed Rail is staying on track after planning permission was granted this week for the college at Lakeside. This is the latest milestone for the £25m college, which will develop the highly skilled workforce required to build HS2 and other infrastructure projects in the future.

Work has been taking place to ensure Doncaster benefits during this major scheme. In November 2015, over 90 representatives from local firms attended a supplier engagement and networking event organised by Doncaster Council's Business Doncaster team and Willmott Dixon – the contractor appointed to build the National College for High Speed Rail in Doncaster. This formed part of the council's commitment to support Doncaster companies and provide them with opportunities to win work during construction.

Mayor Ros Jones, said: "The National College for High Speed Rail is a game changer for Doncaster, the Sheffield City Region, Yorkshire and the North. It will encourage new investment, attract new companies into the borough and provide new high quality jobs for local people. We are on a fast track to deliver a major boost for our growing rail sector and the Doncaster economy."

Construction of the 7,200 sq m three-storey building is scheduled to start in April 2016. The £25m training facility will open its doors for the first intake of students in September 2017.

HS2 will support up to 100,000 jobs nationwide, create around 25,000 jobs during construction of Phases One and Two and create 2,000 apprenticeships. The college is the only way to provide world-class training for this size of workforce to build, operate and maintain the railway.

Read more at: <https://goo.gl/qKxJ0a>

---





### **Political delay on Heathrow a brake on economic growth**



Responding to news that the Ministers are to further delay their decision on expanding the UK's overstretched airport capacity, Gordon Millward, FSB Regional Chairman said:

"Further delays to this decision sends a bad signal to British business and our international trading partners.

Businesses want to see increased airport capacity and they wanted it yesterday, last year and well over a decade ago. It is a national scandal that such a decision should be delayed for political interests in light of a

London Mayoral election six months away.

"The Government has already commissioned an independent, expert review of all the options available in which FSB members participated in good faith. The Airports Commission did its job and made a clear recommendation. Ministers should heed that recommendation as the way to end years of political dithering.

"We cannot continue to delay the big decisions on national infrastructure. It holds back the ambitions of the country, and puts us in a poor light internationally. Airport expansion, new roads, broadband infrastructure, and improved regional and national transport links are vital to our future economic growth and wellbeing. Continuing failure to take these decisions will harm business across the UK."

---

### **Measures announced to raise productivity and encourage innovation**

HM Treasury and the Department for Business have jointly published a report, 'A better deal: Boosting competition to bring down bills for families and firms', which outlines a number of measures to raise productivity and encourage innovation in the UK.

These include ensuring that energy and water regulators give small firms protection from mis-selling, provide more transparent pricing and make it easier for small firms to switch providers. There will also be a new package of Innovate UK loans with funding of £165 million by 2019-20. Catapult funding will be increased to drive the development of new technologies and processes. UKTI will be refocused with enhanced direct support for exporters and a £175 million reinvestment in the service over the next four years.

For further information, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-launches-game-changing-plan-for-families-and-firms>

---

### **400,000 small firms have no access to superfast broadband**

According to a report published by Ofcom, the availability of superfast broadband to smaller firms still lags behind that of residential consumers. The report states that superfast broadband is only available to 68% of small firms, compared to 83% of all UK premises. This means that over 400,000 small firms do not have access to superfast

broadband. The report also revealed that almost half of firms based in business parks are unable to achieve broadband speeds above 10Mbps.

John Allan, National Chairman of FSB, said: "We know poor access and understanding of the availability of superfast broadband has been a longstanding problem for the UK's smaller businesses. Progress is being made, but too many small firms remain stuck in the slow lane."

For further information, go to: <http://www.fsb.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/ofcom-finds-over-400-000-small-businesses-stuck-in-the-digital-slow-lane>

To view Ofcom's report, go to: <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/market-data-research/market-data/infrastructure/connected-nations-2015/>



Enterprise Weekly  
**TAX AND MONEY**



### **Funding for Lending Scheme extended until 2018**

The Bank of England and HM Treasury have confirmed that the Funding for Lending Scheme will be extended for a further two years until 31 January 2018. The scheme has been extended to enable the gradual phasing out of support - a move the Bank of England and HM Treasury claim should minimise any impact the withdrawal of the support could have on the economic recovery.

Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England, said: "Since its launch in 2012, the Funding for Lending Scheme has provided an important source of funding support to banks, which has flowed through to improved credit conditions across the economy. As conditions have normalised for particular sectors over the life of the scheme, we have consistently reduced the scope of this temporary scheme and focused support where it is needed most.

The announcement today continues that tapering, supporting continued improvement in SME credit conditions as the economic recovery takes hold, while gradually withdrawing that support over the next two years."

For further information on the extension to the FLS, go to:  
<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Pages/news/2015/096.aspx>

### **Tax simplification consultation launched**

The Office of Tax Simplification has launched a consultation about the closer alignment of income tax and National Insurance contributions.

The consultation will examine the different treatment of expenses and benefits for employees and the self-employed. The Office of Tax Simplification has developed a short survey for employed and self-employed individuals, and a longer survey for employers and payroll providers. The consultation closes on 31 December 2015.

For further information, go to: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/income-tax-and-national-insurance-contributions-closer-alignment-survey>



### **FCA consulting on protection of small firms**

The Financial Conduct Authority has published a discussion paper on whether its rules and guidance for the financial services sector are sufficient to protect small and medium-sized firms that purchase financial services. The Financial Conduct Authority is also asking whether a voluntary code of practice for the sector would benefit small firms, whether access to the Financial Services Ombudsman should be extended to all small and medium-sized firms, and whether the maximum amount of compensation that the Ombudsman can award should be increased from the current maximum of £150,000.

Although most small and medium-sized firms can access the Ombudsman, the Financial Conduct Authority reports that the number of firms that cannot "account for a substantial share of the sector's demand for financial services". Responses to the discussion paper must be submitted by 18th March 2016.

Read more about the discussion paper at: <http://www.fca.org.uk/news/fca-seeks-views-on-its-approach-to-small-businesses>



Enterprise Weekly

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE**



### **Small firms lack skills to deal with employee health issues**

According to a report published by the Work Foundation, small and medium-sized firms often lack the skills and awareness to help their staff deal with health issues.

The Work Foundation report makes several recommendations that could help small firms manage the impact of employees' health issues. These include the Government taking action to raise awareness of interventions that are currently available to employers, such as Fit for Work; creating a dedicated one-stop shop for health and wellbeing information for employers; and incentivising smaller firms to use income protection insurance programmes.

Libby McEnhill, lead author of the report, said: "Employee ill health can severely impact on an SME's ability to meet its normal business obligations, and even a single incidence of illness in a very small business could prove disastrous."

For further information about the report, go to:

<http://www.wsandb.co.uk/wsb/news/2436567/government-urged-to-boost-sme-health-support>



Enterprise Weekly

## **CONSTRUCTION NEWS**



### **2016 Constructing Excellence Yorkshire and Humber Awards**



Entries for the 2016 Constructing Excellence Yorkshire and Humber Awards are now being invited. Held every year in July, the awards are a celebration of the very best the regional construction industry has to offer, recognising and rewarding the pioneering individuals,

projects and organisations that are truly moving our sector forward.

Fully inclusive, entries are welcome from any organisations, companies and/or project teams involved in delivering building and civil engineering projects in our region over the last 12 months. Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to show off your achievements to over 400 of your professional peers.

The closing date for entries is Friday 29 April 2016 with the winners being revealed at our gala dinner which this year will be held on Friday 1 July 2016.

Following on from a spectacular 2015 ceremony at the National Railway Museum in York, the event will be returning to Leeds for its gala presentation evening for the first time in three years.

For entry forms and information visit: <http://ckegroup.org/cexcellenceyh/ceyh-awards-2016/>

### **Construction firms discouraged from hiring apprentices**

The Federation of Master Builders has published a report, 'Defusing the skills time bomb'. The report reveals that, although 94% of small construction firms wanted to train apprentices, the perceived bureaucracy and cost involved is preventing 33% of these firms from taking on apprentices.

Brian Berry, Chief Executive of the FMB, has suggested that providing better information, and making it more easily accessible, would encourage more small construction firms to hire apprentices. According to the FMB's research, almost 80% of firms that do not recruit apprentices are unaware of the apprenticeship grants available to them and 75% of these firms stated that they would be more likely to take on an apprentice if they had knowledge of the financial support available.

For further information about the report, go to: <http://www.fmb.org.uk/about-the-fmb/newsroom/a-third-of-construction-firms-are-turned-off-by-taking-on-apprentices/>



Enterprise Weekly is edited by

**Neville Martin**  
**Development Manager – South and East Yorkshire**  
**Federation of Small Businesses**

<http://www.fsb.org.uk/070>

Tel: 0114 261 7132

Mobile: 07917 628922

send your stories to him at:

[neville.martin@fsb.org.uk](mailto:neville.martin@fsb.org.uk)

**fsb**<sup>08</sup>  
Experts in Business

*This free newsletter is for information only. The content is believed to be accurate at the time of publication, but you should make suitable checks before acting upon it. Content does not necessarily reflect the views of the FSB. Reproduction or copying of the information in this bulletin is strictly forbidden without prior written permission.*