



South London Business News

7th July - Issue 7

A busy time for South London Business – By David Main, Chief Executive.



The past two months have been particularly successful for South London Business. Not only have we won major bids, (for innovation and SME support) but we have also submitted a bid, jointly, with the South London Ethnic Minority Business Association, to develop better support for BME businesses. The project will improve access to mainstream support services operated by Chambers of Commerce and will fund new services tailored to micro BMEs.

We are continuing to work closely with the South London Partnership, especially on the draft London Plan, and are currently organising a joint event at the Croydon Park Hotel on July 21st - 'Transport Investment & Regeneration in South London'. We are also working closely with our partner Boroughs and are currently finalising agreements with each Borough on a work programme for 2003 / 2004.

I am also pleased to confirm that Bruce McDonald, Chief Executive of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, has agreed to join the Board of SLEDA. I look forward to working with Bruce, and welcome his contribution to the development of South London Business.

A "SLIC" future for South London Business!

We are pleased to announce that the LDA has confirmed we have been successful in our funding application for the formation of a South London Innovation Centre (SLIC). In its formative stages, the new Innovation Centre will be based in our offices and the funding from the LDA will allow us to recruit an experienced Innovation Manager to establish and develop the Centre, to promote and support an innovation culture, and assist new and established businesses with innovative ideas, products and processes.

An 'Eye' for property in South London!

The South London Business Commercial Property Database will be officially launched this Thursday, 10th July, with an event at the Marriott County Hall Hotel - where we will demonstrate the database to over 85 invited guests. This will be followed by an opportunity to view South London with a Pimms & Strawberries flight on the London Eye. The event is being sponsored by **CPD**, **ASB/law** and **Clarkson Wright & Jakes**.



An evening with Bob Kiley – Commissioner for Transport for London.



Commissioner for Transport for London, Bob Kiley, was our guest on 5th June at the Institute of Directors, where he addressed over 50 business and local authority representatives from across the sub-region. The event was sponsored by our South London Business partner, **Synergy Group**.

Details of Mr. Kiley's speech can be downloaded from our website.

Tourism

We have been working closely with the South London Tourism and Hospitality Group and have submitted a project outline for the development of more hotel accommodation in South London. We have also received confirmation from the LDA that we will receive funding for the management of tourism in South London. We understand the funding arrangement will include a tourism secondee who will have responsibility for the co-ordination of Tourism and Hospitality across South London and the development of appropriate proposals for funding by the LDA.

The Skills Debate

Ivan Lewis MP, the Minister for Skills at the DfES, has replied to our letter on workforce development. The tone of his response was extremely positive and we now await the publication of the Government's Skill's Review.



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