



South London Business News

August 15th 2003 – Issue 9

Learning Brokers contract

In partnership with Business Link, we have won a Learning & Skills Council contract to run an innovative programme helping small firms find the best route to training for their employees.

As part of the joint bid, Business Link will work with companies with over 10 employees and we will work with companies with less than 10. Business advisors, working through local Chambers of Commerce, will devise training programmes for participating South London businesses. These plans will help businesses identify how to improve their workforce skills levels to improve company efficiency and reach increased growth targets. The action plan, once agreed, will enable businesses to locate the most appropriate training provider for their needs. The joint bid, for approximately £600,000, has been awarded by the London South Learning & Skills Council as part of the national drive to improve workforce skills. Business Link and South London Business will also develop local borough-based skills forums to help match training provision to the needs of the local business community.

Business Bridge Programme

In partnership with SLEMBA (South London Ethnic Minority Business Association) we recently submitted a bid for LDA² funding to help bridge the gap between BME businesses and mainstream business support services. Our bid has been unsuccessful. Naturally we are very disappointed with this decision and have asked for a meeting with the LDA for more specific feedback.

www.southlondonbusiness.co.uk

Our website continues to go from strength to strength, and is currently recording approximately 850 hits per week. The site is currently being updated, to include pages on tourism, innovation and a 'research library' – which we aim to develop as a one-stop resource for data on South London. We are also proving to be a hit internationally and have now added introductory pages in four more languages – Hindi, Urdu, Korean and Russian.

Through our website we have also received interest in our recent employment sites study from a senior planner within the City of Coquitlam Planning Dept. Coquitlam lies close to Vancouver, in British Columbia, Canada.

Team Changes:

Reema Patel has joined our team as Property Advisor, responsible for day-to-day administration of our Commercial Property Database. Reema, who is currently studying dentistry at Cardiff University, will be with us until mid-September, when Nicholas Heathorn will take over full-time administration of the Database.

Contracts Manager – Following our success in winning the Small Firms Initiative contract from Business Link and the Learning Brokers contract from the Learning & Skills Council, we have

advertised for the position of Contracts Manager. The closing date for applications has now passed, and we will be interviewing candidates within the next two weeks.

*South London Business is a joint venture between the **South London Economic Development Alliance Ltd** and the **South London Chamber of Commerce & Industry Ltd**. All email correspondence is confidential. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, please delete it immediately.*

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