

Somerset County Council

Work Hubs Information Event

17th July 2013 at Great Bow Wharf, Langport



HEART OF THE SOUTH WEST

Local Enterprise Partnership

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Work Hubs Information Event

9:30 Arrival and Registration

10:00 Welcome and Introduction to the Work Hubs Initiative

10:15 Case Study: Devon Work Hubs

Steve Turner, Economic Development Manager, Devon County Council

Adam Fleet, Tavistock Enterprise Hub Manager

Q & A

11:00 The Emerging Somerset Work Hub Initiative

Phil Merrick, Senior Economic Development Officer, Somerset County Council

11:10 Open Consultation

Economy & Planning Team, Somerset County Council

12:00 Close and Networking Lunch

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Introduction & The Somerset Economy

- *Rural Growth Network* (RGN) pilot awarded by Dept. for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) to Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership.
- Vision to create a sustainable rural economy by developing network of rural enterprise hubs.
- Rural in nature and is heavily dependent on market towns.
- 22,000 Small to Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) of which 90% are micro-businesses employing less than 10 employees.
- 20,100 aged 16-74 work mainly at or from home.
- 46,800 are self-employed of which 36,700 are sole traders.

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Somerset Work Hub Initiative

- “Office when needed”
 - Professional workspace with flexible usage*
 - Alleviates isolation of lone-working* *Convenient location*
 - Hub operator and peer support* *Affordable and flexible pricing*
- £75,000 to fund c. 3 Work Hubs. Capital and Revenue.
- Somerset market towns and villages outside of Bridgwater, Taunton, Yeovil and Frome are eligible.
- Proposals will need to demonstrate market demand, sustainability and innovative approach.
- Conversion of space in existing building.
- Match funding of 50% will be required.
- Business Support services.
- Infrastructure – IT, Meeting Rooms, Kitchen etc.

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Economy & Planning Commissioning Service

Somerset County Council

County Hall

Taunton

TA1 4DY

somerseteconomicdevelopment@somerset.gov.uk

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