

# BUSINESSNEWS

informing our business community

## Welsh Assembly Government's Economic Renewal Policy -

The Welsh Assembly Government has launched their new policy called Economic Renewal – A new direction.

Their new approach has 5 key priorities:



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

- Investing in high-quality and sustainable infrastructure
- Making Wales a more attractive place to do business
- Broadening and deepening the skills base
- Encouraging innovation
- Targeting the business support

The immediate impact on our local businesses will be a reduction in the level of direct business support - in particular the cessation of the Single Investment Fund and a refocus on 6 key business sectors instead of 14:

- Creative industries
- ICT
- Energy and Environment
- Advanced material and manufacturing
- Life Sciences
- Financial and Professional services.

The new policy will also see a fundamental shift away from direct and generic support for companies to a focus on creating the right environment for businesses to succeed. The Assembly has also made a clear commitment that every business in Wales will have access to Next Generation broadband by the middle of 2016. ....[read more](#)

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Local Investment Fund increased to £10,000



The Local Investment Fund (LIF), which is administered by local authorities in North West Wales, South West Wales and the Valleys areas, will now be able to offer funding of up to £10,000 to meet up to 40% of the cost of capital investments such as buying new equipment or extending business premises. The previous limit on most funding applications was £5,000.

The LIF is a package of flexible financial support to assist new and existing businesses by offering capital grants of 40% of eligible projects, subject to a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £10,000 grant. ....[read more](#)

Contact [Economic Development](#) Tel 01443 866222

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## Help for retail businesses

The new Retail Business grant is available to independent retail businesses located in the Heads of the Valleys area of Caerphilly County Borough. It compliments the range of support that is already available to businesses and business start-ups in the [Heads of the Valleys area](#) to help them set up or expand.



It is the first time that eligible retail businesses in the Heads of the Valleys area of Caerphilly County Borough will benefit directly from financial support through the Welsh Assembly Government's Heads of the Valleys Programme.

The grant supports capital investment by new and existing independent retail businesses to set up a full-time retail business for the first time, and existing independent retail businesses to undertake capital investment. [read more](#)

Contact [Economic Development](#) Tel 01443 866222

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## Community Economic Development Programme:



£1.6 million has been made available across the Caerphilly County Borough over the next 5 years to help community voluntary organisations, local charities and social enterprises. (These are often referred to as "Third Sector").

The programme aims to encourage these community organisations to become less dependent on grants and more self-reliant.



Photo: Left -right

Carl Sargeant, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government , Jan Bennett, Caerphilly CBC, Louis Fradd, Bridgend CBC and Duncan Anstey, Torfaen CBC.

The multi million pound programme is part funded through the European Regional Development Fund and the regional launch took place in November. A local launch is planned for the New Year. ...[read more](#)

For more information contact our [Policy Unit](#) on 01443 864403.

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## Changes to the regulations for Air Conditioning Systems

An increasing number of buildings and homes have air conditioning systems and these could now come under new legislation to ensure that the systems are running efficiently. The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2007 has been extended to include all air conditioning systems over 12KW – whether in business or private use.

The legislation requires that an [accredited energy assessor](#) must inspect the system by January 2011. The assessor will submit a written report containing recommendations on how to improve the efficiency of the system.

All air conditioning units should be regularly maintained to ensure that they are running efficiently and this will help to reduce the energy consumption – and save money. ....[read more](#)

For more information contact [Trading Standards](#) 01495 235423

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## eBusiness Club helps copying firm duplicate success

An established, locally grown business is embracing greater use of modern technology thanks to help from the Council-run e-Business Club. [Dischromatics](#), formed in 1989 and now based in Abercarn, has built its reputation as supplier of high quality CD and DVD duplication and printing.

Managing Director, Gareth Spencer, has taken over the business from his father and is determined to continue the programme of investment in new technology and developing new products. To help Gareth stay abreast of new software developments and learn more about the advances of email marketing, Gareth has attended the eBusiness Club and also attended eMail Marketing workshop which was organised by the Economic Development Team  
....[read more](#)

The next session of the eBusiness Club will be held on the 7th December at 5.30 pm, Tredomen Business & Technology Centre, Ystrad Mynach, Hengoed. The subject is how to reduce your business costs through e-billing. To book a place call 01443 866212. or eMail [bisnet@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:bisnet@caerphilly.gov.uk)

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## Start-up Businesses in the news:

### A decorated career for ex-army man



An ex-serviceman is now armed with an arsenal of tools after leaving the army to set up his own decoration and finishing business. Mark Brown's new business, called '[The Finishing Touch](#)', has received a boost from the [Community Business Support Fund](#) to get the venture off the ground.

Mark has received financial support through CCBC's Economic Development Unit and UK Steel Enterprise to get the business started. Mark recently left the Army where he served until June this year. The Finishing Touch has been set up to provide a specialist painting and decorating service. [Read more](#)

Contact [Economic Development](#) Tel 01443 866222

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## Exploring Welsh nature



New not-for-profit eco-tourism company, [Eco-explore](#), is offering exciting ecological, science based tour expeditions around wildlife hotspots in Caerphilly County Borough with support from the Caerffili Cwm a Mynydd [Tourism and Recreation Advancement Funds](#).

Cllr Ron Davies, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Countryside said, "This new business has benefitted from the range of support available to start up businesses in rural areas of the county borough, and I would encourage more rural businesses to get in touch with the Rural Development Team to find out about the support that is available". [Read more](#)

Contact [Rural Development Team](#) Tel: 01443 838632

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## Blackwood Dickensian Market

4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> December:



Blackwood is to experience its first ever Dickensian Christmas. There will be plenty to see and do with a variety of craft & food stalls to look for that unusual Christmas gift, children's funfair rides and stalls all located along the High Street, which will be closed from its junctions with Bridge Street, Woodbine Road and Pentwyn Road.

There will be traditional entertainment within the town centre to take us back in time, including a Christmas Grotto, Dickensian toys and games, crafters and characters from this renowned period.

The event times are 9am until 5pm Saturday and 10am until 4pm Sunday. [Read more](#)

Contact Advisory Services 01443 866234

## Caerphilly Medieval Market

11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> December



There will be seasonal period music and hilarious frolics of the Jester, while you browse the medieval market within the castle walls and town centre.

With over 150 traders selling tasty food, replica medieval goods and traditional crafts, there will be plenty of opportunity to find that extra special gift.

Christmas fun and activities from a food and craft fayre, farmers market, continental market, street entertainers, music, cookery demonstrations, children's workshops and funfair rides provide a mixture of entertainment for the young and old. The Caerphilly Medieval Fayre has a variety of festive entertainment with many of the activities being free of charge. Standard admission charges apply on entrance to the castle, although much of the entertainment around the town is free. [Read more](#)

Contact Advisory Services on 01443 866390.

## Bargoed Christmas Market

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December

Bargoed will host a traditional on-street Christmas Market with local craft, charity & seasonal food stalls. The event will include various street entertainers, children's entertainment & Santa's Grotto.



New to the event this year is an outdoor ice rink, a first in Bargoed and a fantastic addition to the Market. The Bargoed Lantern Parade will follow the market and will leave Bargoed High Street and finish at Hanbury Road Car Park with a fantastic fireworks display to finish. Music, street entertainers and the public will be invited to follow the parade. [Read more](#)

Contact Advisory Services on 01443 866228

## Economic Development

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