

Press release

21 February 2006

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Local Business Information at your fingertips

Southampton City Council's Economic Development team is aware that www.invest-in-southampton.co.uk is fast becoming a favourite with people when looking for Southampton business and commercial property information. Therefore they have continued their initiative to provide easy to use and up-to-date free online information.

The site has been live for over 3 years and is regularly up-dated to further improve its relevance and ease of use to local businesses.

[invest-in-southampton.co.uk](http://www.invest-in-southampton.co.uk) aims to be the first address that people will visit when they have any question about running a business in Southampton. The site has a Your Business section which incorporates areas of running your own business and pin-points the most relevant organisation to offer the best free advice. Details of how the City Council can help local businesses are also presented in easy to follow web pages. From here visitors can access City Council services such as Trade waste, Licensing, Environmental Health and Trading Standards.

A major feature of the site is offering advice to people thinking of starting their own business. This can be a daunting experience for people so invest-in-southampton.co.uk has a specialist section which offers specific advice aimed at helping people through these early stages. Once businesses have had a successful start invest-in-southampton.co.uk can also help further with advice that concentrates on growth strategies.

The Business Training section has proved a major success. It details local business training & events ranging from business start-up workshops; health & safety issues; sales and marketing; IT; and people management where practical business skills can be developed and new contacts can be made. The courses are run by a variety of professional business advisors and organisations and many are free or heavily subsidised and all are designed to help you and your business succeed.

A regularly up-dated business news section has also been welcomed by the business community as it offers easy access to the latest news updates from a carefully chosen selection of relevant professional business organisations all at one address.

Karen Bladen, Regional Organiser for FSB Wessex Region says 'I regularly visit the site and find it easy to use. I recommend it to businesses from the local area that are looking for up-to-date relevant information. The Business News and Training & Events sections are excellent sources of information and are easy to access'.

Successful features of invest-in-southampton.co.uk, such as the regional Commercial Property & Sites Register are still readily available on invest-in-southampton.co.uk. This feature has been developed through consultation with Southampton region property agents and allows easy access to an up-to-date list of available properties in each of the local authorities covered by the register, i.e. Southampton, Test Valley, New Forest, Eastleigh and Winchester. Searching in preferred locations is easy using a list of towns, postcode areas or industrial estates and an interactive map. The council also recognise that people can't always check the register to see if new properties have been added as much as they'd like. Therefore they have created an email alert service where users can register their property requirements. When any suitable properties become available an email is automatically sent giving full details.

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Craig Powell, Associate at Humberts, said "Southampton City Council have given businesses the opportunity to quickly and efficiently identify commercial properties that meet their requirements. It is a forward thinking local authority that provides a valuable service to local business occupiers, property owners and agents. In fact their use of the Internet is leading the way in forming new partnerships between these property consultants, owners and occupiers."

Businesses also want to be kept up-to-date with what is happening in Southampton. The Economic Development team recognises this need and has included details about major city centre developments, such as Ocean Village, as well as details of development opportunities in the area on invest-in-southampton.co.uk. A very popular commercial property news section also gives up-dates of the latest deals and news from local agents, developers and Southampton City Council.

invest-in-southampton.co.uk has a new Southampton Economy section which includes up-to-date recently researched facts and figures about

Southampton's economy and population including details of skills & qualifications, the labour market, weekly wages and creative and knowledge based industries. This information is needed by local businesses for their business planning and for companies looking to relocate to Southampton.

Lisa Hall, Business Information Manager at Southampton & Fareham Chamber of Commerce & Industry says 'we regularly use the site and recommend it to others who contact us for information. The Online property [register](#) is especially beneficial to people wishing to relocate to Southampton, whether their search is for warehouse or office accommodation. The statistics provided on the site are also another excellent source of information on this quick and easy to access site. The quick supply of so much relevant [data](#) makes it one of the first places that I visit when I require information.'

City centre retail businesses have specific reasons to visit [invest-in-southampton.co.uk](#) as City Centre Management pages have now also been included. These will hold project news, for example CCTV cameras, Night-time Economy and Business Improvement Districts, and list event opportunities around the city centre giving specific details on aspects such as licensing. Recent copies of the City Centre News Bulletin and the City Centre Health Check will also be available to download.

For further information visit [invest-in-southampton.co.uk](#) or phone 023 8083 2587 to speak to a member of the Economic Development Team.

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The Economic Development team recognises that businesses want to be kept up-to-date with what is happening in Southampton. Therefore the Developments & Investments section on [invest-in-southampton.co.uk](#) gives details about major city centre developments, such as Northern Above Bar, Woolston Riverside, West Quay Phase 3, and Royal Pier.¶
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