

The six Berkshire Local Authorities, in partnership with Business Link and Social Enterprise Berkshire have launched a new programme for small and medium sized (SME) businesses in the South East to provide support through improving sustainability, reducing impacts on the environment, and increasing their competitiveness. The programme is funded by the European Regional Development Fund through SEEDA.

Background

Over the coming years, public sector buyers will need to give high priority to improving the environmental performance of all their activities as well as ensuring that wider social and economic sustainability is taken into account.

Programme

The programme will offer a free seminar, free workshops and free mentoring support to businesses currently involved in supplying, or aspiring to supply, goods and services to the public sector.

Seminar/Workshop

This free half day programme will comprise of a seminar and a workshop. The seminar will provide an insight into local authority procurement and how sustainability is key to winning public sector contracts.

The workshops will be flexible, interactive learning sessions. Delegates will explore the issues; identify key challenges and ideas for action in their own business. Each attendee will come away with their own action plan to improve sustainability in their business.

Mentoring

The post workshop free mentoring sessions – one-to-one meetings, telephone and email support from a business mentor – will help the action plan to become reality.

Workshop Date

Workshops will be allocated on a first come, first served basis and are available on the following date:

Slough

17th March

If you can't make this dates but are still interested then let us know as we will be announcing more dates throughout the year.

SEEDA manages the ERDF programme on behalf of the region. The ERDF has allocated £15.2 million (23.706 EURO) to the South East over the period 2007-13. The total value of the programme is 47.412m EURO (£30.4m) running from 2007 to 2013. The aim of programme is to promote competitiveness and sustainability to stimulate innovation and encourage efficient business practice whilst reducing the region's ecological footprint.

For further information email:

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or call Juanita on **07715 856 263**

For and on Behalf of the six Local Authorities in Berkshire: Braknell Forest Borough Council | Reading Borough Council | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead | Slough Borough Council | West Berkshire Council | Wokingham Borough Council

Delivery Partners: Business Link | GWE Business West Enterprise Services | Reading Borough Council | Social Enterprise Berkshire