

NEWS RELEASE

Derby City Partnership



20 July 2006

Enterprising entrepreneurs

Enterprising entrepreneurs caught the attention of local businesses in Derby at the most recent business breakfast, held by Derby City Partnership, the University of Derby, and Derbyshire Chamber and Business Link.

Paul Stuart, Head of Derbyshire Enterprise Agency described the services and support available from the Agency for new businesses. Alan Rutherford, Project Manager at the iD Centre outlined the Centre's facilities for businesses in the rail, engineering, aerospace and technology sector, while Kelly Atkins, founder and owner of Carpet-burns Ltd talked of her achievements and the obstacles she had faced as an entrepreneur.

Helen Osler, Director of Derby City Partnership said: "It is important that small businesses and budding entrepreneurs hear about the vast range of services and opportunities available for individuals to start to expand their business and flourish as entrepreneurs "

Kelly Atkins, founder and owner of Carpet-burns Ltd came across the idea of recycling carpet whilst studying at the University of Derby. The support and mentoring provided by services such as the Prince's Trust and Business Link were key in encouraging her to explore business opportunities.

Kelly went on to win a Shell Live Wire award in 2003, and a Derby City Partnership 10th Anniversary award for best graduate start up businesses in 2005 and many more.

“It is vital that tailored support is provided to encourage entrepreneurship” emphasised Paul Stuart, Head of Derbyshire Enterprise “and Kelly is a prime example of how the Derbyshire Enterprise Agency working in partnership with other agencies can lead to success for local entrepreneurs”.

The next business breakfast will be held on Tuesday 17 October and will focus on social enterprises. Gersh Subhra, Lecturer at the University of Derby and Hayley Ash, Programme Development Leader for Derwent Community Team will talk about current developments and support systems available.

To book a place, or for more information about the business breakfasts contact Zahida Hussain, at Derby City Partnership on zahida@derbycitypartnership.co.uk, 01332 256220.

Ends

Photo attached - Local businesses networking at the event

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Derby City Partnership is an alliance of organisations that works to deliver a safe, healthy, prosperous and sustainable future for the people of Derby through shared vision and leadership.

Members represent

- public services
- local businesses
- community and voluntary groups
- individuals who live or work in Derby.

Since 1995, Derby City Partnership has been working to:

- develop closer and better working between organisations
- improve services and facilities
- attract funding
- make best use of all resources
- bring the work of all partnerships in the city together

Derby City Partnership is also the Local Strategic Partnership, delivering the National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal in the most deprived neighbourhoods of the city. www.derbycitypartnership.co.uk

Other Business breakfasts

The session on 17 October will focus on support for social enterprises.

UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

RED team T: 01332 591 078

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The University of Derby launched RED (Regional Enterprise and Development) as a gateway for business in 2002 - three years on and RED is

now leading the way in the field of employer staff and business development and has established itself as one of the foremost business service providers in the East Midlands.

RED provides a one-stop-shop for all business development needs and offers a range of services that includes training and development, research, consultancy, conferencing and events management and employment services.

RED can boast many household names amongst its client list, including the NHS, Derbyshire Constabulary, Derby City Council, New Look, Asda, Egg and Swizzles Matlow.

If you are interested in any of the services RED offers or would like further information then contact the RED team.

DERBYSHIRE CHAMBER AND BUSINESS LINK

Linda Pearson, Workforce Development Manager

T: 01246 207207

Derbyshire Chamber, is an organisation that delivers a wide range of services across Derbyshire to both its members and the wider business community, and to individuals seeking to gain employment through learning.

Chamber members can access a wide range of discounted services, sources of business information and networking opportunities. Working in close partnership with many partner organisations across the East Midlands, it has a mission to create a better future for businesses and individuals.

ID CENTRE

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DERBYSHIRE ENTERPRISE AGENCY

Paul Stuart, Head of Derbyshire Enterprise Agency

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CARPET-BURNS LTD

Kelly Atkins, founder and owner of Carpet-Burns Ltd

T: 07939 487625

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