

# European Focus

The Newsletter of Yorkshire and Humber's ERDF Programme 2007-2013

## Europe Minister Visits ERDF Projects in South Yorkshire

Caroline Flint MP, Minister for Europe at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office visited three projects in South Yorkshire that have received ERDF from earlier rounds of



*Caroline Flint MP,  
Minister for  
Europe*

*Photo courtesy  
Sheffield City  
Council*

European funds or are applying for support from this one.

The Minister first visited Doncaster-based Digital Knowledge Exchange to see the firm's cutting-edge technology which has been supported by £3.8m from Europe and Yorkshire Forward to provide access for South Yorkshire SMEs to interactive 3D computer visualisation and cutting-edge advanced communication.



*DK Exchange managing director Malcolm Kay with Caroline Flint MP. Photo courtesy DK Exchange*

Caroline Flint said: "These projects are testament to what we can achieve by working with and not isolating ourselves from Europe. And they will continue to create jobs and opportunities for the region long after the funding has gone away."

DK-Exchange is based at University Centre Doncaster, which is operated by Doncaster College. The Minister then met some successful female entrepreneurs in Sheffield who had set up their own business as part of the drive to increase enterprise activity in the city. The entrepreneurs spoke with the Minister about their experience of setting up and the support they had received from the BiG: Make it Your Business programme.

*Caroline Flint MP (right) with BiG Clients Rochelle Overend and Christine Overend of Crystal Beauty Salon. Photo courtesy Sheffield City Council*



BiG: Make it Your Business offers a range of support to individuals and businesses from enterprise coaching to training, help finding premises and access to finance, support with setting up a franchise and sales and marketing. The programme is applying for £4.8 of ERDF to  
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## Investing in Your Future



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## Ministerial Visits continued...

continue to develop its provision of enterprise support activities which will enable even more Sheffield residents to be their own boss

Speaking at the Alison Business Centre, Caroline Flint said: "With International Women's Day fast approaching, it's especially exciting to how this EU funded service has helped local woman become their own bosses. I've really enjoyed hearing their success stories and I am delighted that EU support will enable budding entrepreneurs from right across the city to access this service."

The Minister then moved on to Rotherham to hear about plans to completely redevelop Rotherham Central train station.

Rotherham town centre is undergoing a major transformation through the Renaissance Towns Programme and

an improved central railway station is an integral part of the 25-year master plan to make Rotherham a more vibrant, successful and attractive place to live, work and invest.

The Minister met representatives from the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to learn about their plans for a £7.4m station redevelopment to deliver a distinct entrance to the town and provide a new station building, new ticket office and passenger waiting lounge, platform improvements including lighting, seating and CCTV and full disabled access with lifts to both platforms.

SYPTE is applying for £2.7m of ERDF to support the project alongside investment from Yorkshire Forward's Single Pot, SYPTE's Local Transport Plan and Network Rail.

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## Enterprising Bradford

People looking to start their own business in Bradford and Calderdale have been given a boost with the announcement of over £4.5 million of European investment as part of an £9.3 million funding package for enterprise development.

The funding will open economic opportunities for enterprising individuals in the most deprived communities of Bradford and Halifax by helping them to set up their own business, set up social enterprises or move into self-employment and will support local voluntary and community sector organisations become more enterprising.

The Enterprising Bradford project, which has been awarded the funding, has been established by the Bradford Metropolitan District Council working with Bradford Council for Voluntary Service, Accent Community Partnerships, Action Halifax and local contractors.

The project will support the growth of enterprises at a neighbourhood level in Bradford by providing a range of support packages helping individuals to enter the mainstream economy and set up a business. The project will also work with voluntary and community sector organisations to support them in their journey to become more

enterprising and less dependent on grants by helping them to identify opportunities for growth and to become tender ready. In Halifax, the project will link established companies to emerging community businesses and social enterprises in a mentoring programme.

New businesses and more enterprising third sector organisations will, in turn, create more income locally, generate more local employment and deliver and improve the choice of goods and services within the area's deprived neighbourhoods.

The project has been awarded £4.5 million from the European Regional Development Fund programme and will extend the activity that is already underway and being funded by £4.5 million from the Government's Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) and £126,000 from Action Halifax.

By 2011, the Enterprising Bradford project expects to create around 50 new businesses, create and safeguard around 350 jobs and add around £5m of extra activity to the local economy.



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## New Yorkshire Europe Forum takes shape

The new Yorkshire Europe Forum held its second meeting in Leeds at the beginning of February. The Forum brings together individuals from organizations in the region who have a professional interest and enthusiasm to maximize the region's engagement with European policy-makers and institutions, contribute a regional voice to European policy deliberations where appropriate and increase the interaction with and contribution that the region makes in European affairs. Malcolm Taylor, who heads Yorkshire Forward's Europe team said: "Europe is important to the region as a market and a source of investment. It is also the arena in which significant legislation is developed and discussed. If we wish to succeed

*Yorkshire Europe Forum (left to right)*

*Timothy Kirkhope MEP, Paul Jagger Learning and Skills Council, Phil Coppard Barnsley MBC, Sophie Robinson Yorkshire Forward, Trevor Shaw Yorkshire Forward, Professor Colin Mellors University of York, Malcolm Taylor Yorkshire Forward, Chris Longley Regional Forum for Third Sector, Ceri Williams University of Leeds and Margaret Jackson Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber. Dr Ian Kelly of Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce is also a member of the Forum.*

as a region we need to make our voice heard with those policy-makers and make sure that European opportunities are grasped within the region."

Timothy Kirkhope MEP, who attended the Forum, welcomed its formation as a positive step for the region. He took members through his view on emerging EU policy perspectives and emphasized the critical importance on working together in partnership within the region and across Europe to address issues of common concern. He also stressed the importance of early engagement with policy development and appropriately targeted lobbying activity.



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## Graham Pearce Joins ERDF Team



Graham Pearce has joined Yorkshire Forward's Europe Team as ERDF Project Development Manager. He is based in Wath upon Dearne in the South Yorkshire Implementation team. Graham has a wealth of experience of ERDF having previously worked as part of the Objective 1 Programme team at Government Office.

Graham's new role supports project applicants to develop their ideas into compliant and effective project proposals.

We welcome Graham to the team and wish him well for the future.

Graham Pearce



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## Regions for Economic Change conference 16-17 February 2009, Brussels

The European Commission held its third **Regions for Economic Change** conference on 16 and 17 February. This year it focused on "Networking for Results". The two-day event was organised by the Commission's Regional Policy Directorate-General and other Commission services in cooperation with the Committee of the Regions.

Yorkshire Forward's Executive Director of Finance and PMC member, Trevor Shaw attended the event on the first day along with Malcolm Taylor who heads the Europe Team for the RDA to hear the key note address



*Malcolm Taylor (left) and Trevor Shaw (right) with Chris Longley of the Regional Forum for Third Sector at the Regions for Economic Change conference.*

by Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner for Regional Policy and to participate in the workshop "Making Information Society a Reality in the Regions".

Malcolm Taylor explained: "This workshop looked at different ways that regions had drawn on EU funds to support broadband access in rural areas, and promote eGovernment and wireless services for citizens and businesses. With our South Yorkshire Digital Region project having been approved by Europe and awaiting approval from the Government it was very useful to hear about other examples as well as getting the latest Commission perspective on these issues."

Chris Longley of the Regional Forum for the Third Sector who is a member of the ERDF Programme's PMC attended the conference as did Gill Browning Alison Childs and Richard Holmes of Yorkshire Forward's Europe team .

You can download all the presentations and the key-note speeches from [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/index_en.htm)



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