



Flintshire Economic Bulletin # 20

Apr-Jun 2014

A quarterly statement setting out key economic indicators for the county.

Employment

The unemployment rate is 2.1% at June 2014, representing 2,043 Flintshire people registered for Job Seekers Allowance, a decrease of 592 over the past three months. Our unemployment rate still remains low compared to that for Wales and Britain (2.9% and 2.4% respectively). However, of the 2,043 registered unemployed, 505 are aged between 18-24 years, a decrease of 220 during the first quarter, reflecting a rate for Flintshire of 4.1% (Wales 5.0% and Britain 3.9%).



New Jobs

Company	Jobs Created	Sector	Location
John Dale	4	Manufacturing	Flint
MR Martial Arts	2	Leisure	Flint
Window Geeks	2	Manufacturing / Sales	Deeside
Timpson Out There Events	5	Leisure	Deeside
Kreiga	8	Manufacturing	Deeside
Double Click	1	Social Enterprise	Deeside
Cheshire Custom Cycles	2	Leisure	Deeside
GDP Energy Ltd	10	Environmental	Deeside
Ralawise	10	Warehousing	Deeside
Comtek Network Systems	3	Electronics	Deeside
Tata Steel	50	Construction	Deeside
James Fisher Nuclear	15	Engineering	Sandycroft
Envirowise	20	Environmental	Deeside
Direct Packaging Solutions	4	Manufacturing	Deeside
Delsol	20	Logistics	Deeside
Botanical Group Services	3	Horticulture	Deeside
Corus Colours	5	Construction	Deeside

Intego Packaging	3	Manufacturing	Deeside
DRB Engineering	4	Engineering	Deeside
MACP	4	Engineering	Deeside
Carrey Glass	80	Manufacturing	Hawarden
Total	255		

Supporting Businesses – Headlines

Deeside Enterprise Zone Performance

Target 7,000 new / safeguarded jobs within DEZ over 5 years (2012-2017) of which 5,000 jobs are expected to be created as a result of the Northern Gateway development.

Jobs Summary 1 April 2012 – 30 June 2014

Number of New DEZ Enquiries	-	88
Total Jobs Created	-	1496
Total Jobs Safeguarded	-	1896
Enquiry Conversion Rate	-	60%



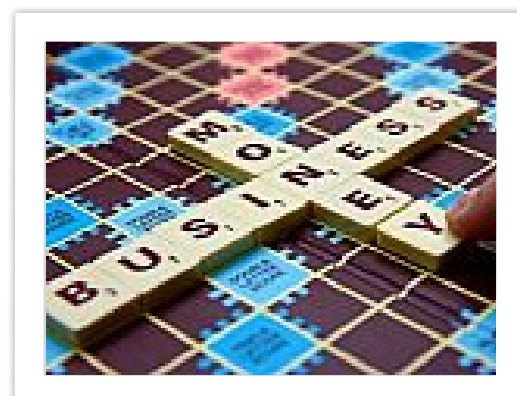
Deeside Enterprise Zone Shared Apprenticeship Scheme

During a three year cycle, the scheme will support 60 apprentices in gaining a gold standard apprenticeship in areas of advanced manufacturing. The scheme will raise awareness of opportunities available in an effort to recruit the brightest local talent to the zone and ensure that we can provide the skills needed by local business. The apprentices will be employed by Coleg Cambria to reduce the burden on local companies.

Assisted Areas and Use of Regional Aid

Assisted Areas are those areas where regional aid can be offered to undertakings, within Commission state aid rules to provide financial support to eligible businesses in key business sectors and certain strategically important projects outside these. It helps fund capital investment, job creation, research, development and innovation and certain eligible revenue projects throughout Wales.

The Flintshire bid has been accepted and retained without amendment and consultation has closed. Retention of Assisted Areas status ensures the continued offer of Enhanced Capital Allowances of £70m permitted at Deeside Enterprise Zone.



BIS has published the UK Assisted Areas Map for 2014-2020 that has been approved by the European Commission; a copy is available via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/assisted-areas-map-2014-to-2020-stage-2>

Local jobs safeguarded at Flintshire Bakery

A joint approach involving Brake Bothers, Flintshire County Council, Welsh Government and David Wood Baking Limited, has developed a package that will ensure that manufacturing operations at the Creative Foods plant at Aber Park, Flint will continue, with the 138 jobs of the existing workforce being safeguarded.

The plant, which is owned by Brake Brothers, manufactures a range of prepared meals for the hospitality sector. Following an internal review, Brakes Brothers had decided to concentrate activity in other parts of its operations; consequently, a buyer was sought for Creative Foods as a going concern. A number of companies expressed interest, with David Wood Baking Limited of Leeds, ultimately being selected as the preferred buyer.

Communities First - Business Entrepreneurship Success

Flintshire Enterprise Club celebrated eighteen months of business entrepreneurship success on Friday 6th June at Coleg Cambria. Over seventy delegates attended the event including the eight new businesses which have started trading with support from the programme.

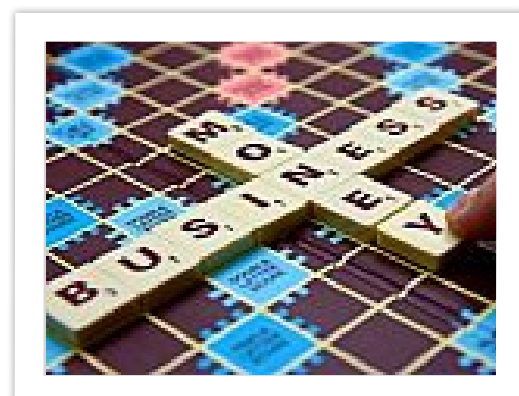


Superfast Broadband for Business

Superfast Broadband enables businesses to work more efficiently with faster upload and download speeds and reducing travel, helping to create jobs and expand businesses. Flintshire County Council recognises the importance of successful exploitation of superfast broadband infrastructure for its businesses and has signed the Superfast Exploitation Charter to partner with Welsh Government and collaborate with other Welsh Councils in the delivery of Superfast Exploitation support.

It aims to:

- help raise awareness to businesses about Superfast Broadband exploitation across Wales.
- explain how to make the most of Superfast Broadband and technologies for businesses
- offer free online guides to inform of the benefits and technologies associated with Superfast Broadband.
- signpost to further advice relating to Superfast Broadband.



To find out when your business will get Superfast Broadband visit <http://business.wales.gov.uk/superfastbusinesswales/>

Forthcoming Events

- Deeside Industrial Park Forum, Days Hotel – **September**
- Federation of Small Business North Wales Policy Summit, Llangollen Pavillion – **2 & 3 October**
- Wales Rally GB 14 – **17 November**
- Industry Awareness Event **13 & 14 November**, Toyota Service Park, Deeside
- Flintshire Business Week 7 – 17 October



Number of Planning Applications Received

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
300				300

Flintshire Economic Report is prepared quarterly by FCC Business Development Team. For more information please contact Rachael Byrne, Business Development Manager:- Tel 01352 703318 or e-mail rachael.byrne@flintshire.gov.uk



Flintshire Economic Report - Performance Indicator Dashboard

Q1

1st April 2014- 30th June

2014

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Green	Flintshire improving against previous quarter
Orange	Flintshire worsening against previous quarter
Yellow	Flintshire no change against previous quarter

Indicator Measure	Flintshire							Wales	Britain	Comments on Performance
	Q1 14/15	Q4 13/14	Q3 13/14	Q2 13/14	Q1 13/14	Q4 12/13	Q3 12/13			
Unemployment Levels	2.1%	2.7%	2.7%	3.1%	3.0%	3.3%	3.1%	2.9%	2.4%	Unemployment remains low in comparison to national and UK figures
Number of JSA Claimants	2043	2635	2595	2950	2898	3,209	2,975	x	x	Increased levels of claimants by 592 on previous quarter
% 18-24 JSA Claimants	4.1%	5.9%	5.8%	6.9%	6.4%	7.5%	7.5%	5.0%	3.9%	Of the 2,043 JSA claimants 505 are aged between 18-24 years
Number of Jobs Created	255 200 s'guarded	177	112 new 30 s'guarded	537 new 946 s'guarded	371 new 200 s'guarded	142 new 1300 s'guarded	73	x	x	Information is not comprehensive. Data collected from press announcements and local knowledge in the public domain.
Number of Jobs Lost	0	100	12	146	0	50	76	x	x	None reported this quarter
Number of Events and Delegates	5 events 402 delegates	11 events 928 delegates	20 events 2206 delegates	9 events 501 delegates	5 events 287 delegates	x	x	x	x	Events delivered through FCC, Communities First, MDA, BEN and partner organisations