



CHAMBER BUSINESS MATTERS

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Leadership & Wellbeing Hub will support local businesses

BY CHARLOTTE WATSON

Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce, Lincolnshire County Council and Business Lincolnshire have launched a Leadership & Wellbeing Hub, bringing together resources, events and expert advisors to support local businesses and their people during the ongoing pandemic and beyond.

Teaming up with a range of Lincolnshire leadership and wellbeing experts, businesses will be able to take advantage of one-hour FREE support sessions to discuss the challenges they are facing, how they can better support their staff or just wanting a sounding board.

The newly launched Hub which brings

together blogs, resources, workshops and one-to-one advice around a multitude of topics including mental and physical health, financial wellbeing, emotional and nutritional needs and our environment.

The experts who are working with the Chamber by sharing their insights and knowledge are:

- Alexis Powell-Howard - Fortis Therapy & Training
- Alison Harris Wellness Coach
- Dr Carol Brady - Brady Consulting Ltd
- Charles Barnascone - Infinite Possibilities
- Lizzie Jordan - Think2Speak
- Michelle Johnson - PCW Consulting Group
- Nicola Ellwood Master Coach (MSc)
- Phil Hutchinson - Lantern

- Rory Underwood - Wingman Ltd
- Roz Williams - POHP Limited
- Rachel Linstead - Firecracker
- Sam Kendall - Kendall Training
- Sean Barkes - Refinity Coaching

Charlotte Watson, Head of PR, Marketing and Communications, said: "Work-related stress and mental illness accounts for over half of work absences - and costs British businesses an estimated £26billion per annum. So why sit back and let this happen to your business and the people who work for you?"

"By offering these expert support sessions, blogs and workshops via our Hub, we want to spread the word about the importance of looking after our staff's health

and wellbeing and encourage Lincolnshire businesses to make full use of these free resources.

"Our people are our most important asset and we are absolutely delighted to be working with our expert members to help guide businesses on their way to a healthy, happier, more productive workforce."

Kicking off the support with upcoming events including mental health training workshops presented by Samantha Kendall of Kendall Training, and a stress management and resilience building workshop by Phil Hutchinson of Lantern Development.

To visit the Hub, visit www.lincs-chamberwellbeing.co.uk

Resources

Free Support

Events

LEADERSHIP AND WELLBEING HUB

Enabling support to challenges in workplace wellbeing.

Visit www.lincs-chamberwellbeing.co.uk



Council unveils £12m package of support for local economy



Cllr Martin Hill OBE

Local businesses could benefit from up to £10,000 of funding through a new grant scheme planned by the Lincolnshire County Council.

In light of the economic impact of coronavirus, the council's executive has proposed using some of the authority's reserves to provide a £12m package of support for local firms, including business grants. The support is particularly aimed at those that have not benefited from the government's Covid support schemes and smaller businesses with 50 employees or fewer.

Cllr Martin Hill OBE, leader of Lincolnshire County Council, said: "We know local businesses have had a particularly tough time during the pandemic, so we want to make additional support available. Thanks to our careful financial management over the years, we do have reserves we can draw on in times of emergency, and now is the right time to do that."

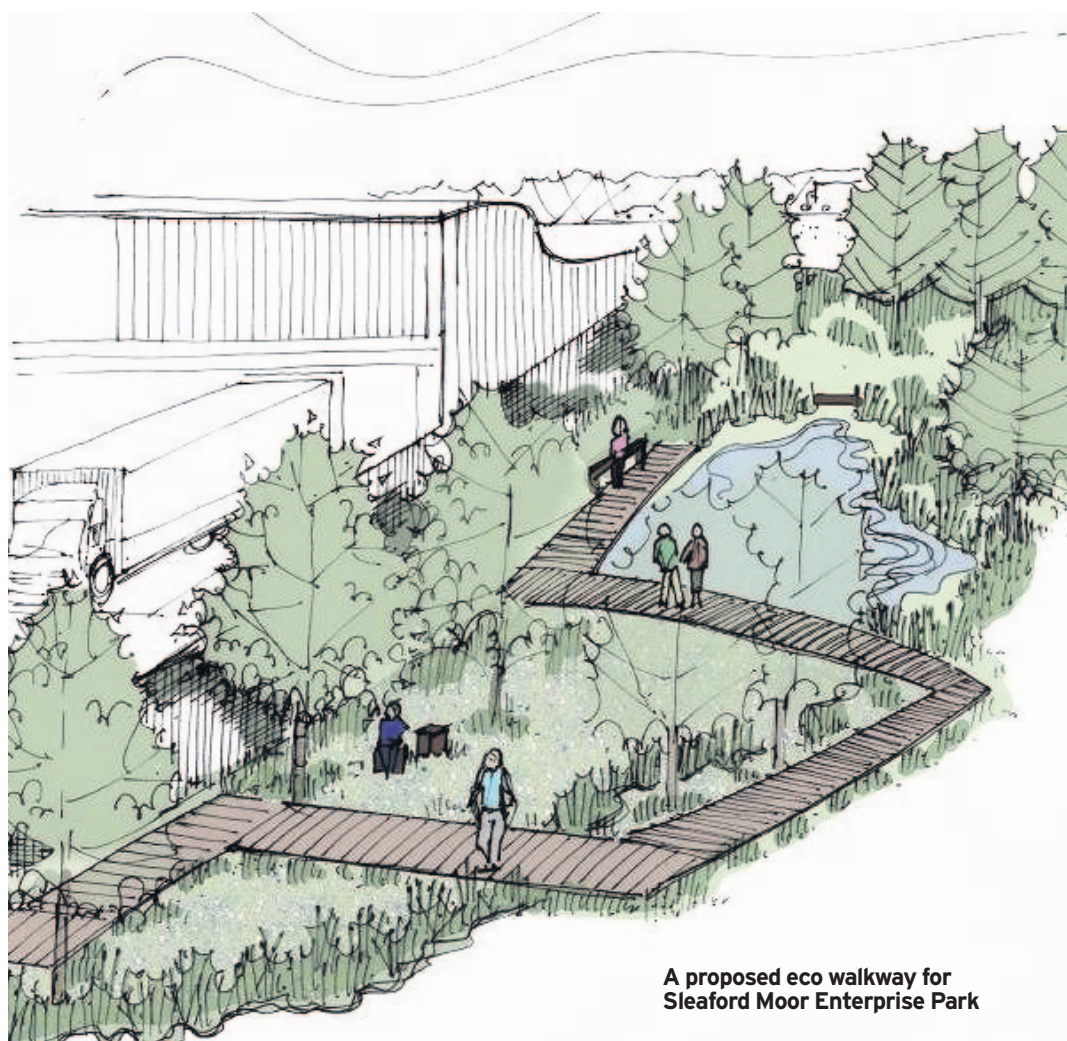
Cllr Colin Davie, executive member for economic development, said: "Our small, local businesses are the backbone of the county economy - there are around 43,000 in Lincolnshire, and it's vital we help those that have had no help to ensure they survive the financial impact of the pandemic."

"The focus will be on those businesses that have been unable to access the government's Covid support schemes, such as those that are less than a year old or without premises or home-based."

There are four grants available - Business Recovery Fund, Digital Voucher Fund, Invest for the Future Grant and Rural Business Grant.

For more details on the grant schemes visit www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/grants-funding

Banks Long & Co announced as agents for £56m Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park



A proposed eco walkway for Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park

Banks Long & Co have won a competitive tender to become the sole agents for the proposed eco conscious Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park, situated north of Pride Parkway in Sleaford.

The scheme, which is currently being considered by planners, will bring an estimated 500 jobs to the area and is seen as a ground-breaking investment by North Kesteven District Council to help support local businesses and boost the local economy.

If it is approved, Lincolnshire commercial property experts Banks Long & Co will be working closely with North Kesteven District Council to secure tenants for the new development and have already had significant enquiries from local businesses.

Councillor Richard Wright, Leader of North Kesteven District Council, said: "Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park will be a significant development for our District, involving investment by our Council of £56 million. While bringing potential for new opportunities and jobs growth in our local economy, it also forms part of our ongoing commitment to invest in our flourishing communities and North Kesteven as a fantastic place to live and work."

"With both the local environment and employee welfare high on every business's agenda, it's been designed as an enterprise park fit for the future."

Banks Long & Co Director William Wall said: "We are delighted to be announced as the sole agents for this exciting development. As passionate supporters of the scheme, we feel this development offers some unique and exciting opportunities for relocation or expansion."

First class students celebrate accountancy qualifications

Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants are delighted to announce that George Blake, Ruth Bollington and Phoebe Cranmer, have passed the final examination of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and are now fully qualified chartered accountants.

Tom White and Helen Patrick have also recently passed the final examination in the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and are now fully qualified chartered certified accountants.

These newly qualified accountants are valuable members of the growing team of accountants at Forrester Boyd and testament to the Firm's commitment to growth and personal development of its team.

Studying during the pandemic has been challenging. Going from having the face-to-face support of colleagues and peers to working from home and remote learning has not gone without its challenges for our new accountants. They have done extremely well to stay focussed and determined during a very unsettled period.

Forrester Boyd not only had to adapt to supporting staff in working from home, but also supporting trainees in their development and



Left to right: Phoebe Cranmer, Philip George partner responsible for training, and George Blake

study and ensuring they had access to all the resources and people to assist them and provide a much needed sounding board.

Forrester Boyd has just launched its 2021 trainee application programme so are now looking for the next cohort of talented trainees.

Pressing ahead with projects to attract tourists

Work is pressing ahead with several projects to enhance the centre of Boston and some other nearby locations. They will not only enrich the experience of visitors to the town but also give the residents an insight into the heritage of the area. The work is well advanced and much of it will be in place in the late spring thanks to the Government's accelerated Towns Fund grant.

In the town centre signposting, maps and an arts trail will help visitors explore the town as well as highlighting the rich history of the Borough. This will enhance our cultural infrastructure, leading users to the wider retail offer of the town and presenting opportunity for fuller engagement with local businesses.

Cllr Richard Austin, Portfolio Holder for Heritage, said:



"With the strong trend towards staycation we can expect many more visitors to come here this year.

"Boston is a visually stunning market town and port with much to offer the visitor as a historic and cultural destination, so the

timing of this project is perfect. Moreover, it complements the various other investment projects being provided by the accelerated grant funding that will help present Boston as a great place to live, work and invest in."

This Experience Boston project

will share more effectively our stories highlighting Boston's historic trade and maritime associations and the influence that the town has had both locally and internationally.

At the same time the projects involved will develop physical interpretation and offer heritage resources that are focused on the historic environment of the town and its culture.

The arts trail consists of small artistic installations across the town, based on the themes 'Travel, Trade and Influence' communicating the historical importance of all these aspects.

These projects seek to complement other successful initiatives including the six Boston Buoys and Pilgrim Fathers Memorial on the bank of the Haven at Fishtoft.

Duncan & Toplis launches a new international business gateway

One of the East Midlands' largest accounting and business advisers, Duncan & Toplis has launched a new international service for companies seeking guidance on overseas trade.

Kreston Duncan & Toplis will build on the company's existing international business services and its membership of the Kreston International network of accounting firms.

Kreston International is the 13th largest accounting network in the world, encompassing 23,000 team members in 113 countries across six continents.

Duncan & Toplis has become a key member of the Kreston network in recent years, with managing director Adrian Reynolds joining the organisation's world board in 2018.

Kreston Duncan & Toplis will be led by Duncan & Toplis director, Mark Taylor who also leads Kreston International's Global Tax Group.

Under the new Kreston Duncan &

Toplis brand, the company's international team will work with organisations looking to expand overseas and explore new market opportunities. The company will also work with Kreston International colleagues whose clients want to invest in the UK and particularly the East Midlands.

Head of Kreston Duncan & Toplis, Mark Taylor said: "With our trading relationships with countries around the world changing, there are huge opportunities for a wide range of businesses, but expert advice and guidance has never been more important.

"Through our own team of more than 400 experts in accountancy, business advice, tax, payroll, HR, IT and legal services, in addition to our Kreston colleagues all over the world, we can help businesses to connect to new markets, manage the way they trade with existing markets and grow their business on a global level.

"Kreston Duncan & Toplis represents one of the boldest steps in our company's history as we connect businesses across continents."



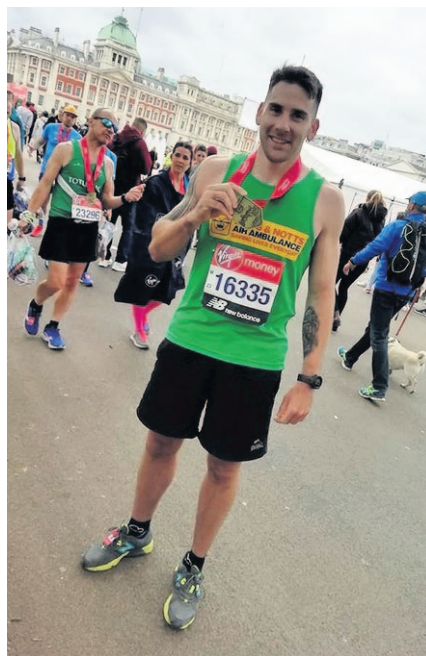
Take on the London Marathon for your air ambulance

The Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance is calling on people to lace up their trainers and raise vital funds for the charity by taking on this year's London Marathon.

The charity has five guaranteed places in the 2021 Virgin Money London Marathon, planned for October 3, and is looking for dedicated runners to take on this iconic challenge.

The Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance is an independent charity. The service relies solely on donations from members of the public. It is thanks to the support and generosity of local fundraisers, like those who will take on the London Marathon on behalf of the charity, that LNAA can remain operational and continue to save lives.

The money you raise could help stock LNAA's helicopter



Phil Weir took on the marathon in 2019

and Critical Care Cars with crucial medical supplies such as ventilators, advanced medicines and blood. Clinicians use blood to carry out transfusions on those patients that are suffering from catastrophic bleeding at the scene of an incident. Carrying out this intervention at the scene could mean the difference between life and death.

Kelly Geoghegan, Fundraising Events Coordinator at Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance, said: "Our crews at the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance have remained on the frontline throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and have experienced one of the busiest years in the charity's history, despite a significant drop in our income.

"By taking part in the London Marathon on behalf of our charity, you'll be taking on an unforgettable challenge whilst helping to make a difference at a time where we need your help more than ever. Thanks to you, we can be there for patients involved in life-threatening incidents when minutes matter."

To apply for a place in the Virgin London Marathon, visit www.ambucopter.org.uk/events

If a marathon is a step too far, the charity also has guaranteed places in this year's Lincoln 10k, due to take place on June 27, and the SimplyHealth Great North Run planned for September 12. You can find out more about charity places for the Lincoln 10k and SimplyHealth Great North Run by visiting www.ambucopter.org.uk/events

Ongo named in top 30 digital housing providers

Ongo has been announced as a top housing association by Housing Digital for their approach to offering digital services to customers.

Housing Digital is an online publication for housing professionals to access the latest housing news, issues and to work in partnership with the wider housing industry. They launched the top 30 digital

housing providers to identify all of the brilliant work happening across the sector.

Ranking at number 11, Ongo was recognised for accelerating their approach to digital transformation over the last 12 months, whilst achieving positive outcomes to benefit their tenants and customers.

The entry from Ongo focused on how they've worked

with numerous areas of the business to progress the digital experience for their tenants, including launching an e-sign up process for potential tenants to create a paperless solution.

They also talked about involving their tenants in digital decisions, including setting up a Digital Tenant Testers group to give feedback and suggest improvements to the

digital services available. An automated telephone payment line has been up and running just over 12 months and has taken 2,106 transactions - saving around 245 hours of work.

Money savings have also been achieved through Ongo's digital developments, including their rent statements being redesigned and made digital, which will save £15,000 per year.



Firm has new head of crime



Christopher Hogg

Sills & Betteridge LLP is delighted to announce the promotion of Christopher Hogg to Head of Crime after just two years as an Associate of the firm.

After training as a Barrister and working as a Legal Advisor at Reading Magistrates Court, Chris cross-qualified to become a Solicitor in 2004, and Higher Court Advocate in 2010.

On his new position, Chris said "I am delighted to be given the opportunity to build on the success of the criminal department. We have a group of excellent lawyers and support staff who work very hard to achieve the best outcomes for their clients."

Senior Partner, Stephen Wilson said "It became clear to the firm quite soon after he joined us that Chris is a highly capable criminal defence lawyer. In his short time with the firm, he has also shown he has the additional skills to manage a team and further develop his area of work at a time of significant change. We have every confidence that the department will go from strength to strength under his leadership."

Chris and his team deal with a range of criminal matters in the Crown and Magistrates Court, including murder, fraud, drug supply, sexual assault and offences involving serious violence, as well as motoring offences leading to driving disqualifications. The team also undertakes specialist regulatory work for business clients. Chris and his team deal with a range of criminal matters in the Crown and Magistrates Court, including murder, fraud, drug supply, sexual assault and offences involving serious violence, as well as motoring offences leading to driving disqualifications. The team also undertakes specialist regulatory work for business clients.

Carrington expands with two new hires for 2021

PR and digital marketing agency Carrington Communications has expanded its team for 2021 with the arrival of two new faces, Ellen Bailey and Jack Nelson.

Ellen joined in January to bolster Carrington's PR team - led by David Sykes and Gaby White - and social media management.

Meanwhile, Jack has joined Carrington's paid media team to lead PPC and paid social accounts for the Google Partner agency.

Founder of Carrington Communications, Rob Tomkinson, said: "It's brilliant to welcome Jack and Ellen to the team and celebrate our newest clients. We've come through a challenging year in a good position, fortunately, and with the team we've got, I'm excited for the year ahead."

The appointments follow recent



Ellen Bailey



Jack Nelson

client wins for Carrington, including manufacturing supplier Bytronic, construction firm MBMS and takeaway delivery site easyFood.

Jack joins Carrington having worked in paid media at a London agency for a portfolio of international brands.

Jack Nelson said: "It's great to be working with such a reputable agency from my home county and with such a knowledgeable and supportive team. We're all looking forward to helping our customers succeed this year and beyond."

Ellen studied journalism at the University of Lincoln before working in marketing and social media for BGU.

Ellen Bailey said: "I'm really pleased to have joined Carrington. It's an exciting time for us as our client list continues to grow and I'm looking forward to growing my skills and knowledge."

Council's support for local businesses through pandemic

South Holland District Council continues to offer vital support to businesses in the District feeling the greatest impact of the coronavirus pandemic, with a further £3.7million of support issued to over 420 eligible businesses since the end of November, bringing the total distributed to around £22million since last March.

Funding has been targeted at those hardest hit by the local and national restrictions over this period, including pubs, cafes, shops and restaurants. Every closed business that has submitted applications in good time has now received a full support package until the middle of February, helping them to prepare for



future Government announcements.

To help reduce the burden on business owners at this difficult time, the Council has also been able to start making these vital payments automatically, without the need to reapply or to provide new details at each new stage or level of restriction. This allows the support to be

processed quicker and gives those feeling the most pressure one less thing to worry about.

In addition to those businesses that have been forced to close, the Council has also agreed a £550k support package for businesses that have been impacted hardest as a result of Covid, despite not

being legally required to close. This package will support business in the supply chain of the events and hospitality sector, the culture and leisure sector, and those with links to the travel and tourism sector, including businesses involved in animal care and welfare. Eligible businesses should begin to receive these payments this week.

The Council continue to closely monitor the latest guidelines and information on any further restrictions that may continue beyond this point that would severely impact South Holland's businesses, and to work to identify what support is most needed and what industries it can be given to.

Military dog handler turns to road safety

A former military dog handler who worked alongside the Army's bomb disposal team, has joined civil engineering firm, Minster Group, as its new health and safety advisor.

Sian Gidzinski, who completed two tours of Afghanistan during her 13-year career in the army, has joined Minster Group this month to oversee the health and safety of the organisation's workforce.

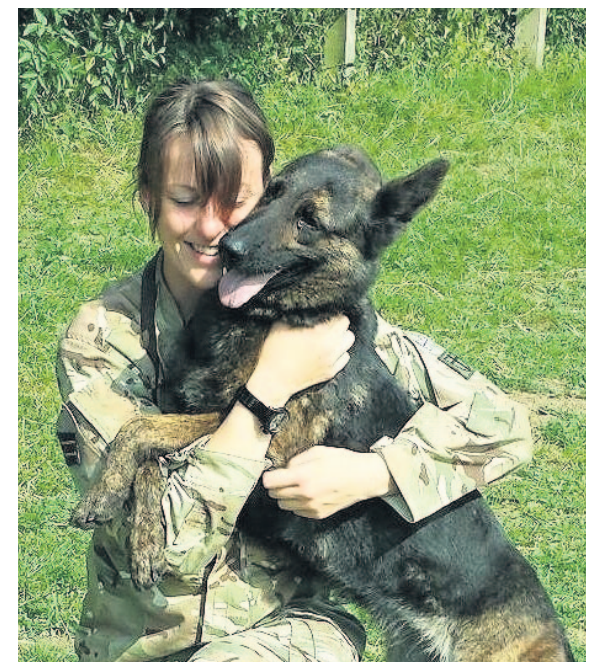
Sian's previous role saw her detecting improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in warzones and assisting in explosive ordnance disposal (EOD). She also trained military dogs around the globe for royal and governmental ceremonies. Sian's background in some of the most high pressure, safety-critical roles in the world gives her a great deal of expertise to help keep road workers safe.

Sian said: "Working in the military, in high-risk operations such as IED bomb disposal and EOD ordnance disposal in Afghanistan, the safety of our force and civilians was of utmost

importance. After serving for 13 years, I was ready to leave my role to offer more stability for my children; and having this experience in health & safety fired my passion to start a new career in the civilian world."

Minster Group is already part of the Armed Forces Covenant - a voluntary pledge ensuring that those who serve, or who have served, in the armed forces are treated with fairness and respect in the world of work. Other ex-forces employees at the firm include former paratrooper, James Allibone, who is now a team leader at Minster Group.

As a company based in "Bomber County" that works closely with the Ministry of Defence, Minster Group is dedicated to doing what it can to support the armed forces community. In 2019, the organisation achieved an MoD Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Silver Award in recognition of its support for service men and women through the Armed Forces Covenant.



Sian Gidzinski

HUGs all round as Shooting Star chooses charity for 2021

A Nottinghamshire organisation which supports people and families who have lost a baby has been chosen as Shooting Star's Charity of the Year for 2021.

Help Us Grieve (HUG) was set up in 2017 by mum Amy Everatt after she lost two babies within a 12 month period.

After leaving hospital each time she discovered there was little emotional support available and found it difficult to talk about her loss.

She and her husband Oliver, who now have two healthy daughters, Lilia (9) and Elfine (3), set up a JustGiving page to raise money to start Help Us Grieve.

Now they have a website and an app to signpost people to help and support after they have lost a baby.

"I'm chuffed to bits to have been chosen by Shooting Star," said Amy. "Everyone's had such a tough time in



Amy Everatt, founder of Help Us Grieve, with her husband Oliver Everatt and their two daughters, Lilia and Elfine Everatt

the past year so I'm so grateful and overwhelmed that HUG has been chosen.

"I'm so passionate about raising awareness of all the different services that are available as it can be hard to get help and support, so I'm really delighted that Shooting Star are going to be working with us this year."

Jez Ashberry, a Director at Shooting Star, said: "Every year we support a different good cause and help them make a difference by offering free PR and marketing support for 12 months.

"We also do our best to raise money for our charity and we'll be looking at how we can do that again this year.

"The work that HUG does really resonated with us all and it was an easy decision to adopt them as our chosen charity for the coming year."

Wilkin Chapman helps to bring mass Covid vaccination centre to Lincolnshire Showground

Safe storage facilities and the secure disposal of medical equipment were key requirements in the planning of Lincolnshire's second mass COVID vaccination site, based at the county's Showground.

The venue's newly-modernised EXO Centre has expanded into one of the NHS' mass sites being opened across the country.

A drive-through testing facility has been operational within the grounds of the Showground since last spring, originally opening for key workers before being made available to the public. This is separate to the new



centre to ensure protection of those who attend for vaccinations.

The Commercial Property team at the Lincoln office of Wilkin Chapman played an integral role in the opening of both the smaller and larger

Showground vaccination centres working with the NHS Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group, (CCG) and Showground officials. The CCG has leased the building, along with storage facilities and car parking, until August.

Commercial Property partner Andrew Harbourne and solicitor Gillian Smith led on ensuring the lease was agreed - with particular attention paid to the correct storage facilities, and safe disposal of medical equipment.

Jane Hiles, Chairman of the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society

thanked all those involved in the arrangements: "I am delighted that we now have one of the UK's mass Vaccination Centres at the Lincolnshire Showground."

Jayne Southall, CEO of Lincolnshire Showground added: "The NHS vaccination centre uses a small part of the Showground and only one of our buildings; we hope the vaccination campaign will help to bring the events industry back up and running when restrictions are lifted and look forward to welcoming visitors back to our events when safe to do so."

Imps announce new partnership with Wilkin Chapman

Wilkin Chapman will become involved in several key Club projects including the plan to develop the Stacey West stand into a community hub.

Oliver Tasker, Partner at Wilkin Chapman which has offices throughout Lincolnshire and East Yorkshire including Lincoln, added: "We have been looking to support Lincoln City



Football Club for some time now and we are delighted to be involved with the Club at such a historic time in terms of results and growth.

The Club has experienced fantastic success over the last few years and has ambitious plans that will benefit our City, the supporters and the wider community moving forwards. We will work with the Club on their continued journey and now have the opportunity to align our shared values to make our partnership and working relationship a great success."

Wilkin Chapman will operate as the Club's solicitors and legal partner.

Andrew Whitham, Head of Commercial at Lincoln City, said the partnership would benefit the League One club on a number of levels.

"Wilkin Chapman is one of the largest firms of solicitors in the wider region and is committed to supporting the communities it serves. The firm supports our plan to extend the Stacey

West stand and create a versatile community area including classrooms and an inclusive meeting space.

"Community projects will be delivered from the Stacey West stand when the work is complete, and it is fabulous to have the support of Wilkin Chapman on this project as well as several other Club initiatives."

Wilkin Chapman is one of the many businesses who support the Club via Imps Connect allowing them to increase their business profile across Lincolnshire with other members, whilst also supporting Lincoln City Football Club. Oliver Tasker also added "It is a great opportunity to get wider exposure and work with other business network members which is a real added value benefit. We would encourage more businesses to look at the benefits this will mutually offer them and the Club."

Latest Tax Partner joins Streets



Mustafa Rafik

Corporate Tax specialist is the latest Tax Partner appointment for Streets Chartered Accountants

Streets Chartered Accountants is delighted to announce the appointment of its latest Corporate Tax Partner, Mustafa Rafik.

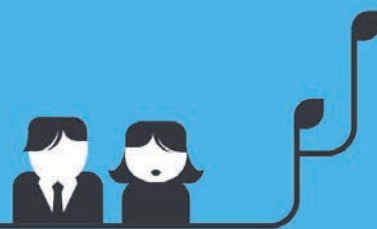
Mustafa joins Streets with over 10 years' experience in advising on corporate tax, having pursued his career with top 10 UK firms. Whilst he advises on a wide range of corporate tax matters he has developed a specialism for assisting owner managed, family and larger businesses with the tax implications of corporate restructures, mergers and acquisitions, employee incentives, R&D tax relief claim and capital allowance claims.

Commenting on his new role Mustafa said: "I am delighted to have joined Streets and to be starting a new and very exciting chapter in my career. I look forward to working with existing and new clients and developing strong personal and trusted relationships, helping to support them with their goals, aspirations and success."

When asked about what Mustafa's appointment means to Streets, Paul Tutin, Chairman and Managing Partner, said: "Recruiting an additional Corporate Tax Partner has been something we have been looking to do for some time, though finding someone with relevant expertise and commercial drive has not been easy. We have therefore been extremely fortunate in attracting Mustafa to the firm.

"Whilst he will primarily work across the firm's offices across the Midlands, Mustafa will also support our offices and clients across the wider practice. Mustafa joins a team of seven Tax Partners covering and looking after private clients, international matters and direct and indirect tax."

Welcome to our new members



Active Surfaces Ltd
www.activesurfaces.co.uk

IG Agro Ltd
www.igagro.co.uk

Internacomm Ltd
www.internacomm.co.uk

MAK Cares
www.makcares.co.uk

Pharmsure
www.pharmsure.net

Preservation Renovation Ltd

Pulse Consult
www.pulseconsult.co.uk

The Great Care Company
www.thegreatcarecompany.com

The SalterGuide



**AS A CHAMBER
MEMBER I'M
WELL CONNECTED**

EVENTS

Expand your Business to Singapore and ASEAN Webinar

3rd March 2021
9:00am - 10:00am
Zoom

ChamberConnect: Five Pillars of Successful Growth for Small Businesses

4th and 11th March 2021
9.30am - 11.30am
Zoom

Virtual Lincolnshire Construction & Property Network

16th March 2021
12:30pm - 2:00pm
Zoom

Export Documentation Workshop

16th March 2021
9:30am - 3:30pm
Zoom

ChamberConnect: Stress Management and Resilience Workshop

30th & 31st March 2021
10:00am - 12:00pm
Zoom

QES Q1 Briefing

6th April 2021
8:00am - 9:00am
Zoom

ChamberConnect: Director Development - Engage your Team in Changing Times Workshop

7th, 14th, 21st & 28th April 2021
9:30am - 12:30pm
Zoom

Maximise your Membership

12th April 2021
10:00am - 11:30am
Zoom

For more events and bookings, please see our events page: www.lincs-chamber.co.uk/events or call the team on 01522 523333.

Region's LEPs welcome Humber Freeport bid submission

The Greater Lincolnshire and Humber LEPs have welcomed the region's bold bid to form a Humber-wide Freeport, encompassing ports across the area.

Such a development has the potential to boost the economy of the region by providing investment, highly skilled jobs, training opportunities and the development of more clean growth and decarbonisation developments on the Humber - all of which are major priorities of both LEPs.

A formal coalition led by ABP submitted the plans to Government early in February, which were drawn up with support from the four Humber local authorities of East Riding of Yorkshire, Hull, North and North East Lincolnshire, alongside both LEPs and partnering businesses across both banks of the estuary.

The ports of Goole, Grimsby, Hull and Immingham, which this bid incorporates, are already of huge importance to the Humber's economy, as well as the UK's economy as a whole, and Freeport status could further strengthen their position and strategic importance as well as bringing a boost to both the Humber region and the UK's economy as a



whole.

Planned new developments east of Hull, at Goole and at Killingholme - accelerated by Freeport tax incentives - would build on the success of the Humber Enterprise Zone in attracting investment to the area.

Pat Doody, Chair of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, said: "The Humber estuary is home to one of the largest and busiest ports complexes in the UK, and it makes perfect sense to locate a Freeport here based on our global strengths of advanced manufacturing and clean growth.

"This is an enormous opportunity for the Humber which will attract investment and create jobs, particularly in offshore wind, decarbonisation and advanced manufacturing. The benefits however will not just be in the Humber Freeport zone but into Greater Lincolnshire, the Midlands Engine and the Northern Powerhouse through growth in supply chains and jobs.

"We are working closely with the private sector, the local authorities and the Humber LEP and we're confident of success."

Humber Refinery Boss Joins Board of Greater Lincolnshire LEP

The appointment of Darren Cunningham, who is Lead Executive at Phillips 66 in the UK, strengthens representation on the LEP's Board of Directors from northern Lincolnshire.

Last year North and North East Lincolnshire chose to remain in the Greater Lincolnshire LEP area, while the Humber LEP is being renamed the Hull and East Yorkshire LEP.

A chemical engineer by training, Darren has more than 30 years' experience in various refining and commercial roles and has been General Manager of the Humber Refinery since 2017.

He began his career with Conoco at the Humber Refinery in 1985, where he

held various roles in engineering and planning and economics.

In 1993 he transferred to the commercial office in London as a crude oil trader. He then took assignments in Singapore and across the United States, working in business development and corporate strategy roles.

He is now leading the Humber Refinery and Phillips 66 UK decarbonisation agenda.

"I'm honoured to join the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership and look forward to working together as our region looks towards the future in these most challenging times," he said.

Phillips 66 is an American multinational energy company based in Houston, Texas.

The Humber Refinery was built at South Killingholme in 1966 and has a crude oil processing supplying 24% of UK fuels. Humber is leading the way in low carbon fuels production and was the first in the UK to produce fuel, at scale, from used cooking oil.

The Humber Refinery is a key partner in two leading decarbonisation projects for the region, Humber Zero and the Gigastack, and is one of the most complex refineries in the Phillips 66 portfolio and one of the most sophisticated in Europe.

Darren Cunningham

