



European Briefing Session

A discussion session between European players

Gloucestershire County Council and the South West UK Brussels Office have the pleasure of inviting you for a discussion session on the European engagement of local & regional stakeholders in the South West

Why an European Briefing Session?

The European Union (EU) impacts significantly on the work of local & regional authorities and their stakeholders. As an example, 80% of the environmental legislation applicable in England comes directly from Brussels.

The recent elections for the European Parliament have brought a new line up of members of the European Parliament, who will be representing the interest of the South West of England over the next 5 years. Besides, current EU project funding is in place until 2013 and opens up a possibilities for joint research, good practice sharing, networking, fact finding and mobility across the EU in virtually all areas of public policy.

How can we engage with Europe to get the best for the South West businesses, environment and people? How can we put over our concerns to Brussels? How can we access the best funding opportunities? This European Briefing is a curtain raiser to a further effective dialogue with South West MEPs and other European 'players' such as the Representation of the European Commission in the UK and the South West UK Brussels Office (SWUKBO).

Shape of the day

The session will focus on three areas of concern both to the South West and the EU, namely i) fighting the recession; ii) the environmental challenges ahead, and iii) demographics, immigration and integration.

For each topic, strategic policy developments will be presented by high-level speakers. Local practitioners will present concrete initiatives that have helped their authorities deliver on the above mentioned areas. SWUKBO will highlight some tips & tools to make our way in the EU maze and build upon past successes.

Who should attend this event? The session is relevant to local elected members, senior and middle management and policy teams. Those working on EU projects and the third sector will also find useful information for their daily work.

Date: 4 September 2009

Time: 10.00 to 15.30, including a networking buffet lunch

Venue: Gloucestershire County Council, Shire Hall, Council Chamber, Westgate Street, Gloucester GL1 2TG. See last page





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Time

Agenda for the morning

10.00	<i>Registration of delegates - Tea and coffee</i>
10.15	Welcome address Cllr. Jackie Hall, Deputy Leader of Gloucestershire County Council Introduction to the day Cllr. Will Windsor Clive, Lead Cabinet Member for Community Safety & the Economy
10.30	The role of the European Commission Representation in the UK Elizabeth Holt, Head of Regional Affairs and Networks
10.45	Working with Structural Funds: The South West Operational Programmes Phil McVey, South West of England Regional Development Agency Director of European Programmes
11.00	European engagement: How can local stakeholders participate Panel debate with Ashley Fox, Julie Girling and Graham Watson MEPs and other key note speakers of the day on the burning issues submitted by the delegates at their registration
11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.45	Fighting the economic recession <ul style="list-style-type: none">•The EU in a recuperating globalised economy - Graham Watson MEP•<i>Case Study: Gloucestershire Economic Task Force</i>, David Owen, Gloucestershire First Chief Executive•<i>Case Study: Action for Wiltshire</i>, Haylea Fryer, Interim Head of Economic Development, Wiltshire Council Q&A Session
12.30	The Environmental Challenges Ahead <ul style="list-style-type: none">•<i>The local and regional levels: the place to act</i> - Julie Girling MEP•<i>Case Study: Bristol Green Capital Initiative</i> -Alex Minshull, Bristol City Council Sustainability Manager•<i>Case Study: Cornwall greening economic development</i> - Stephen Cirell, Programme Director for Green Cornwall Q&A Session
13.15	Networking buffet lunch



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Time	Agenda for the afternoon
14.15	<p>Demographics, Immigration and Integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of European and UK Policy for Immigration and Integration - Chris Hedges, Home Office, UK Border Agency • South West Migrant Workers Action Plan - Charles Dorr, Equality Development Officer, Equality South West • Case Study: ESF Transnational Project "Ageless at Work" and EQUAL Project "SWOOP" - Kevin Poulton, Project Manager, East Dorset District Council <p>Q&A Session</p>
15.00	<p>European engagement: a partnership building upon success</p> <p>Eleni Marianou, Director of the South West UK Brussels Office</p>
15.20	<p>Conclusions from the Chair</p>
15.30	<p>End of the event</p>

