



Devon Work Hubs

Picture: SUPPLIED

'Doing the business' work hubs network to be expanded across county

The award-winning Devon Work Hubs network has expanded with the opening of three new hubs across the county, and expansion of a fourth.

Devon County Council secured funding from the Heart of the South West LEP Getting Building Fund last year, which has now enabled three new Work Hubs to open in Great Torrington, Newton Abbot and Teignmouth. The extension of the Tavistock Enterprise Hub is also complete.

A further two Work Hubs are due to open in Ilfracombe and High Bickington in the coming months.

There are now 19 unique and flexible coworking spaces in the Devon Work Hubs network. The hubs enable freelancers and small businesses to adopt modern working patterns, by providing access to a variety of meeting rooms, hot desks and office spaces.

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Councillor Rufus Gilbert, Devon County Council Cabinet Member for Economic Recovery and Skills, said: "Devon Work Hubs provide affordable and inspiring workplaces and the success of this growing network demonstrates the County Council's commitment to supporting local enterprise. With hubs spread throughout Devon, the network is helping to stimulate those coastal and rural economies hardest hit by the pandemic, while also playing a part in tackling carbon emissions by reducing the need to travel long distances."

Karl Tucker, Chair of the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, said: "Devon Work Hubs offer a much-needed flexible working space to support small businesses and those who are self-

employed. We are delighted to support the project through our Getting Building Fund."

Councillor Andrew Saywell, Devon County Councillor for Torrington Rural, added: "This is a real asset for Great Torrington and it's great that our rural market town is now part of the Devon Work Hubs network. Work Hubs can make a huge difference in providing small local businesses and entrepreneurs with the facilities and space to grow, which, in turn, can help to generate and retain jobs in our area."

Devon Work Hubs has also announced the launch of its new website, which provides details of the choice of offices, workspaces, meeting rooms and solo desks available at convenient locations across the county.

For more information visit <https://devonworkhubs.co.uk/>

news

Schools voting time



Swimbridge Primary School

Picture: SUPPLIED

RGB Building Supplies has selected Ilfracombe & North Devon Sub Aqua Club and Swimbridge Primary School as finalists in its Surprise Supplies giveaway and it's now down to a public vote to see if either are chosen to receive £1,000 worth of building materials.

Ilfracombe & North Devon Sub Aqua Club is self-funding, with member subscriptions covering the diving expenses. If voted as a Surprise Supplies winner, the £1,000 will be used to purchase paint, flooring, timber and sanitaryware to help with

refurbishments.

Despite being a rural school, Swimbridge Primary School has no green space on its site. Recently, pupils chose to redevelop an existing part of the playground into a well-being area to support emotional and social needs.

Votes can be made by visiting RGB's Facebook page and liking the photo in the Surprise Supplies album that represents the group being voted for, or by emailing RGB@pmwcom.co.uk and putting the name of the group in the subject line.

news

Devon wages among worst in UK

Devon is home to some of the UK's worst paid areas, new research can reveal.

Of the UK's top 15 worst paid areas, a fifth are in Devon. West Devon has the lowest pay in Devon and the third worst pay in the UK. Residents of West Devon earn just £386 a week – half the weekly wage of the UK best paid area: Westminster in London.

Torrington has the second lowest pay in Devon and the fourth lowest in the UK. In Torrington, workers earn £393 a week, well below the UK average

of £504 a week, and nearly half what Westminster, the UK's highest paid area, earns (£771). North Devon also has some of the worst pay in the country, with residents banking just £419 a week.

The research, by employment experts Digital ID, analysed ONS data on gross weekly wages in every local authority in the UK to discover which areas have the highest and lowest salaries.

Pendle in Lancashire, North Norfolk and Craven in Yorkshire also have some of the lowest weekly wages in the UK, with the areas earning £398.60,

£399.30 and £399.40 a week, compared with the UK average wage of £504.

At the other end of the scale, Westminster enjoys the highest pay in the UK, with workers bringing in £771 on average a month – nearly £300 more than the UK average, and double the weekly wages of the UK's worst paid area: Richmondshire. Kensington and Chelsea have the UK's second highest wages, with residents earning an average weekly salary of £767 a month.

A spokesperson for Digital ID commented on the findings:

"With inflation soaring to the highest point in 30 years and National Insurance on the rise, Devon is experiencing a serious cost of living crisis.

"The average household, saddled with enormous utility bills, will find it particularly hard to manage soaring costs, especially with the obvious pay divide across the UK. The fact in some areas of Devon, people earn less than half of what workers earn in the country's richest areas, shows we have a long way to go towards instigating equal pay and quality of life."

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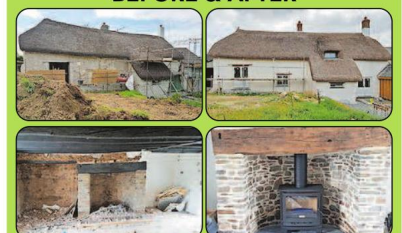


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