

Richmond Business Awards 2016

Brexit concerns still major worry for many businesses

THE uncertainty surrounding the UK's departure from the European Union still looms over the economy. So much so Heathrow airport this week announced a series of measures it has dubbed a "Brexit boost" it hopes will get the country growing quicker and give business a shot in the arm.

Richmond Chambers of Commerce chief executive Anne Newton confirmed businesses locally responded to a chamber-organised survey during the days directly after the Brexit referendum and found a large number of respondents had concerns.

In all 99 per cent of businesses who responded at that time were worried about the impact on their businesses, of reduced business confidence across the UK, Europe and internationally; felt the could be a potential disruption to the skilled and non-skilled staffing resource pool from EU citizens and overseas; as well as the political and economic uncertainty arising from the vote.

Since then businesses have requested a chamber-led Brexit initiative.

Businesses in the borough are keen to work together with the chamber to get assistance in interpreting the effects of Government, EU and Central Bank policies and to help them judge general economic and political climate on their business decisions both now and also for the medium and long term.

Ms Newton said: "As a conse-



Chief executive: Anne Newton

quence, the chamber is launching 'Brexit - What does it mean for your business?' on December 2 at the House of Lords at 3.30pm with many prominent peers and political representatives including the Right Hon-

ourable Tania Mathias MP and headline sponsor Moore Blatch Solicitors and sponsors Richmond & Twickenham Times and RACC, Richmond Business School.

"The afternoon will comprise a

chaired question and answer followed by networking and we welcome all businesses.

"To book their seats online at richmondchamberofcommerce.co.uk/upcoming-events/."

Final deadline for business award entries is Monday

FINAL deadline for entering your business or non-profit into the Richmond Business Awards 2016 is Monday, October 3.

Richmond Chambers of Commerce chief executive Anne Newton said she is delighted to announce that Greg Dyke will be presenting the Richmond Business Awards 2016 at the home of the Rugby Football Union on November 4 with MPs Tania Mathias, Zac Goldsmith, Richmond Borough's Mayor Councillor David Linette, and the council's former chief executive Gillian Norton.

Ms Newton said: "Entering couldn't be easier and is judged by completely independent business judges.

"Simply go online and enter as many categories as are relevant to

your business or organisation at www.richmondbusinessawards.com."

"Consider the following. Are you a retailer? Then why not enter Best Retailer.

"Do you innovate products, services or processes? If so enter Best Innovation.

"Do you export products or services? Share this with us by entering this category.

"Are you a start-up business? Please share your story with us by entering Best Start-Up.

"Is your business or trade, in your opinion, reliant on being professional? Then tell us how so we increasingly recognise sectors such as hospitality, health, engineering, retailing as professional - so enter Best Professional

"We all train our teams, whether we are in a large or small organisation, so why not enter this category. You could win.

"Websites are a must as business becomes more mobile, so share your website with us and tell us why it works for you.

"Are you popular with your colleagues and the general public? If yes then encourage people to vote for your business or non profit in The People's Choice category.

"If your business is valued at less than £1m then enter the Best Small Business and if over £1m then enter Best Business.

"Charities and non profits are invited to enter their own specific category, so that businesses learn about some of our best among the 900 plus

non profits in the borough of Richmond.

"If you have great customer service, then we want to hear about it. There is a Best Customer Service category - in fact you could also enter Best Professional too as service is all about professionalism and retaining the customer as your main focus.

"Corporations and large organisations such as Kew Gardens, PayPal, the RFU, Reed Exhibitions rely on delivering excellent CSR that delivers - so we ask all major corporations and SME's to share their CSR strategy and programmes with us by entering Best CSR.

"Thank you to all our sponsors all of whom have made this celebration of business possible."

In brief

Tuesday, October 4, 10am - Chamber Coffee Morning at St Mary's University, Twickenham.

Monday, October 10, 2pm - Chamber Business Workshop: The Dimensions of Successful Leadership, Harlequins Football Club.

Thursday, October 13, 6.30pm - Chamber Cocktail Party at Livin Kitchens TW9 2SE.

Thursday, October 20, 7.30pm - Chamber Business Breakfast with Dr Tania Mathias MP at The Lensbury.

Monday, October 31 - Exclusive Members only Chamber Group Mentoring Programme - group mentoring programme designed to give local businesses peer to peer support.

Friday, November 4 - RICHMOND BUSINESS AWARDS 2016 BLACK TIE GALA EVENING AND RECEPTION.

Tuesday, November 8 - Chamber Coffee Morning at Shambles Italian Bar & Restaurant Teddington.

Thursday, November 17 - Chamber Pampers Evening at The House of Fraser, Richmond.

Monday, November 21 - Exclusive Members only Chamber Group Mentoring Programme.

Tuesday, November 22 - Chamber Business Breakfast at Richmond Upon Thames College.

Tuesday, November 22 - Chamber Business Masterclass: Build your Social Enterprise.

Thursday, December 8 - Chamber Festive Business Breakfast at Whole Foods Market Richmond

Monday, December 12 - Chamber Business Masterclass: Develop your Business Online, Richmond Borough Chamber of Commerce, Richmond Adult and Community College, 2pm to 5pm.