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**January 2011**

**Invest in Bristol Press Release—January**

**Thursday 7 April 2011 from 3pm - 6pm  
Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol**

**Tuesday 22 February, Clevedon, N Somerset.  
Thursday 17 March, Exeter Rugby Club**

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**Temple Quarter film goes live on Property Week TV**

Invest in Bristol Press Release—January

Invest in Bristol's Temple Quarter video is now live on Property Week TV and can be viewed via: <http://www.propertyweek.com/multimedia/pw-tv/>

This video is playing an important role in raising awareness of the advantages to be gained from investing in Bristol's Temple Quarter - a prime location for 21st Century environmentally sustainable office developments."

**Celebrating 21 years in business by investing in the region's future - Bristol's Bright Future Conference**

Thursday 7 April 2011 from 3pm - 6pm  
Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol

'Bristol's Bright Future' will discuss future plans for the Bristol region. It takes place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2011 from 3pm until 6pm at Ashton Gate Stadium, Bristol. The cost is £25 + vat and includes a drinks reception. It is eligible for CPD accreditation. To register go to [www.eazybook.com/bristolconference](http://www.eazybook.com/bristolconference)

There will be a drinks reception after the conference, which is sponsored by the Bristol Property Agents Association. This event is also supported by GWE Business West, Eagle Land and Estates Gazette.

Bristol finds itself in a better position than most for growth and development and this event will review some of the key projects set to have a major influence on the city's future including the City Centre Initiative and the Imperial Tobacco Project.

The conference will also present updates on the exciting Bloodhound Project, the incredible engineering adventure to build a car capable of 1000mph, Bristol City Stadium, Bristol Airport, Bristol Zoo Hollywood Site as well as key issues to be discussed including what will take the place of the South West RDA after 2012, the role and structure of the new Local Enterprise Partnership

as well as a review of the local economy and what Bristol is doing to encourage inward investment.

This is the fifth major conference in a series of successful events, which we have run about the future of Bristol and the region. The last event 'The Bristol Region 2007 and Beyond', took place in 2006 at the Commonwealth Museum and attracted over 350 business leaders. In 2011 In Any Event UK are celebrating 21 years in business by investing in the region's future.

**'Prepared for Investment' Event - FREE places available—Exclusive offer to Environmental Technology businesses**  
Tuesday 22 February, Clevedon, N Somerset  
Thursday 17 March, Exeter Rugby Club

The Environmental iNet is offering 20 free places on each of these workshops to environmental technology businesses in the South West.

Delivered by SWAIN in conjunction with high profile and experienced accountants and lawyers, these one day events usually cost £156.00.

Delegates receive a comprehensive introduction to the issues and processes associated with equity investments made into private limited companies. Topics include due diligence, fair valuation, legal agreements and patents, all of which are considered in relation to a sector relevant case study.

To book a place please go to:

<http://www.formstack.com/forms/?1042274-1JKA5hBs1r>

Places are strictly limited to companies operating in the environmental technology sector and are allocated on a 'first come first serve' basis. Book early to avoid disappointment.

What is the iNet?

The Environmental iNet is a £2.4 million programme supporting businesses in the South

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West of England's Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector.

The project will help companies to innovate their products and services faster, improve their competitiveness and market awareness, and engage with a range of routes to market.

**Lonely Planet travel guide gives Bristol a top write-up**

**Evening Post (extract) - 27 January**

The revitalisation of the Harbourside, top-class restaurants and a "crackling cultural scene" have ensured Bristol a glowing write-up in a new travel guide.

Lonely Planet's latest offering on Devon, Cornwall and South West England raves about the region's biggest city – blowing away concerns from the first edition that Bristol was a "grand old girl" who had been "a little down-at-heel in recent years".

The 2008 edition of the title noted "her fortunes are changing" but now, in the 2011 edition which has just hit the shops, it appears author Oliver Berry from Truro has been won over by Bristol's many new developments.

"There's a new sense of energy in Bristol these days," reads the tease at the front of the book. "You have a city that's crying out for exploration," it says.

It flags the "bevy of top-class restaurants" and "a buzzing artistic centre" among the old gems of the ss Great Britain and the Clifton Suspension Bridge, both designed by renowned engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Brunel, "Bristol's most famous son" has his own detailed profile in the 13-page guide to the city, which comes before Bath in the book.

Banksy is another to receive the full Lonely Planet hero worship and his stencils are marked on the map of the city alongside restaurants and

hotels.

What has swung the upturn in the review is the multi-million pound addition of Cabot Circus shopping centre, the massive investment which has gone into the Harbourside and the imminent opening of the M Shed museum.

**Foyles to open in Bristol**

**Foyles Press Release—25 January**

Foyles, Britain's largest independent bookshop chain and twice UK Bookseller of the Year in 2008 and 2010, announced today that it is to open a sixth branch, in Bristol. It will be Foyles' first shop outside London for seventy years.

The new shop, which will open in early March, is in Cabot Circus, Bristol's award winning retail and leisure destination which opened in September 2008.

Home to over 120 shops, including 15 flagship stores, Cabot Circus – jointly owned by Land Securities and Hammerson - is situated in the heart of the city.

Foyles at Quakers Friars, close to Harvey Nichols, Apple and Brasserie Blanc, will have just over 5,500 square feet on two floors. Current plans are to have a café, performance area and back-office functions on the upper floor with the ground floor exclusively devoted to books.

Foyles at Quakers Friars will open in early March and will be under the overall management of Susan Sinclair, who is now Divisional Manager, with additional responsibilities for Foyles' branches in the City of London, St Pancras and The Royal Festival Hall . A new shop manager and staff will be recruited locally.

"It's a sign of great confidence in Bristol to have the first Foyles bookshop outside London in decades. It also reflects Cabot Circus's growing reputation as the South West's premier retail and leisure destination.

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"The retail experience that Foyles offer represents a unique addition to Cabot Circus. Foyles has an award-winning reputation that blends perfectly within Quakers Friars - the restored historic area of Cabot Circus."

**Language centre to create 45 jobs**  
**South West Business Insider (extract) - 25 January**

A language centre is to be based in Bristol leading to the creation of 45 jobs. The EC English Language Centre has taken three floors of a building at 63 Queen Square and is due to open next month (February 2011).

It is set to be the business' fourth language school in the UK and tenth worldwide. It will provide a range of courses from one week to a year long.

Centre director Ingmar Albig said: "We chose Bristol for our next school because it is an exciting city with great heritage and a lively social scene – ideal for our students, who tend to have high disposable incomes and act as long-term tourists while they study English in the UK and learn about this country before then returning home."

**Deep sea harbour boost**  
**South West Business Insider—25 January**

The new £600m deep sea harbour at Avonmouth is already causing a positive effect on Bristol's industrial property market. That's according to industrial property specialist Tim Davies, of Colliers International. He said:

"Companies are snapping up prime sites for warehouse and distribution."

The new harbour, located in the Bristol Channel, is to boost the capacity at the docks to about 1 million containers a year handling ships carrying up to 15,000 containers at a time - an increase from the current 3,000 container ships.

Last month, an oil rig began exploratory work in the Bristol Channel in readiness for the massive

project.

Davies says:

"Avonmouth is gearing itself up for major regeneration with knock-on effects felt throughout the South West.

"Once the new harbour is built, it will make it one of the largest and busiest in Europe and will enable Bristol to welcome some of the world's biggest container ships.

"The terminal is closer to more inland container destinations than any other deep water dock and with direct rail and motorway access right at the port, warehouse and distributions sites will soon be at a premium."

The proposed terminal is set to generate more than 1,200 new jobs and over £114m for the local economy. Work is due to start in 2015.

**Better conditions in Bristol office market**  
**25 January (extract) - South West Business Insider**

Take-up of office rental space in the Bristol area was substantially stronger in 2010 than during the previous 12 months. Overall space taken reached 860,000 sq ft, according to a snapshot survey by property agency Colliers International.

Both the city centre and out-of-town markets improved significantly on 2009, with the out of town market delivering a 21 per cent increase on the ten-year average.

"We all hoped the Bristol office market in 2010 would show an improvement over 2009," said Colliers International's James Preece.

"As expected, rental and incentive levels remained static during the year and this is likely to continue to be the case in 2011."



**Bristol is one of UK’s best placed cities to create jobs and drive economic recovery**  
**Bristol City Council Press Release—24 January**

Bristol has been identified as one of the best placed in the country to create jobs and drive economic recovery, according to a new report.

The Centre for Cities Annual Index lists Bristol as one of five cities to watch (alongside Milton Keynes, Reading, Aberdeen and Leeds).

It reports that these cities have high potential to create private sector jobs.

Bristol City Council Leader Barbara Janke said:

“This report’s strong support for Bristol’s competitiveness is particularly welcome news at the moment when many people across the city are facing tough times.

“But this report shows that despite the current economic and financial challenges, Bristol is well placed to help drive the region’s economy. We are increasingly recognised both nationally and internationally for our creative and digital industries, and a thriving environmental technologies sector.

“The Centre for Cities are absolutely right to argue the performance of our largest cities will remain crucial to the UK economy. Cities like Bristol are the engines of the economy and the places that generate the revenue that the Treasury needs to invest in other places that are lagging behind. We are determined to ensure the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership delivers for the Bristol region, attracting new investment, jobs and supporting our high growth sectors.

“I completely agree as well that we could make an even bigger contribution to the national economic recovery if we gain new financial freedoms such as full control over the local business rate, and new powers to raise money.

We shall continue to work with colleagues in other Core Cities to press this persuasive case strongly to Government.”

Cllr Janke highlighted some recent key statistics and trends to show the robustness of Bristol’s economy:

- Strong performance of Cabot Circus during the crucial Christmas to New Year sales period where they attracted 500,000 shoppers
- Encouraging news for Bristol hoteliers, who are reporting rising occupancy rates in the city, with important new hotel openings to come this year such as Holiday Inn in the city centre due to open its doors within the next month, creating 100 jobs
- Statistics from the Bristol Office Agents Society demonstrate that office take up in Bristol during the first half of 2010 was up by 74%. The research indicates that nearly 500,000sq ft of office space was let to new tenants.
- New job gains - The Co-operative Group is to build its new £35m distribution centre at Avonmouth. About 1,000 people will work at the new centre.
- The significance of Bristol’s contribution to future UK economic growth is highlighted by the fact that, outside of London, Bristol produced the highest level of private sector employment growth in England between 1998-2008 (Centre for Cities 2010)
- The UK Competitiveness Index 2010 ranked Bristol as the most competitive English large city outside London.

**Hydrogen-powered ferry to kick start environmental enterprise in Bristol**  
**Bristol City Council Press Release—21 January**

The UK’s first hydrogen-powered ferry, set to run in Bristol’s harbour this summer, will stimulate



enterprise in new technologies in the city. Bristol Hydrogen Boats - a consortium formed between No 7 Boat Trips, the Bristol Packet, and Auriga Energy Ltd - will showcase the hydrogen-fuelled ferry for six months from June 2011.

A local boat builder will be contracted to build a ferry to the consortium's design. Auriga Energy has developed the fuel cell system that will be integrated into the boat. Air Products will supply the hydrogen fuel and the dockside refuelling rig.

Clean and green, the ferry will carry up to 12 passengers per journey in order to demonstrate the commercial advantages of this technology to business, residents, commuters and tourists.

As an alternative to petrol and diesel engines, hydrogen powered transport impacts significantly less on the environment as they produce zero direct emissions: the only waste product is water.

This would mean a big reduction in air and water pollution, in addition to reduced noise, in the harbour if the technology was widely adopted in the future.

Other European cities are running or planning to introduce hydrogen-powered ferries, but here in Bristol the project is seen as an important contributor to the development of the city's economy. As an environmental technology it is linked to one of Bristol's five priority high growth sectors, which are key to the city's ambitions to create a long term, sustainable, prosperous and productive economy.

Councillor Neil Harrison, Assistant Cabinet Member for Sustainability, said:

"This project is innovative for Bristol, and innovation brings growth. The initial £225,000 investment that this project will cost is pump-priming. This project will help kick start enterprise in new environmental technology and new areas of economic growth in Bristol providing investment and more jobs for local people in the technologies of the future."

Jas Singh, Managing Director of Auriga Energy Ltd and spokesperson for the consortium, said:

"This is an exciting opportunity for Bristol Hydrogen Boats to demonstrate the viability of the new zero-emission fuel cell technologies in marine transport operations.

The project will introduce hydrogen technologies to the public and provide a stimulus to the wider adoption of this technology throughout the city, putting Bristol at the forefront of the emerging hydrogen economy and help maintain its position as the UK's green capital."

**Travelodge plans Portishead and Bristol openings**

**South West Business Insider—21 January**

Travelodge, the budget hotel chain, has unveiled plans to open two new hotels in the Bristol area before the end of the year.

A city centre opening is planned for September and a second is also planned for Portishead in November.

The openings should create 40 jobs and are part of Travelodge's national expansion strategy as activity in some corners of the hotel sector starts to improve. Up to 35 Travelodge hotels are due to open nationally in 2011.

The hotel in Bristol will be on Mitchell Lane, just off Victoria Street, and will have 151 beds plus a bar and café.

The Portishead hotel will be on Harbour Road and have 60 rooms.

Travelodge chief executive Guy Parsons said:

"Travelodge had performed well in the South West throughout the recession. I have no doubt the two locations will soon be among our top-performing hotels anywhere in the country."

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**Cinnamon marks Bristol for expansion**  
**South West Business Insider—21 January**

Gateshead property law firm Cinnamon has earmarked Bristol as an expansion destination.

The growth plans were formed after the firm secured a £90,000 investment from Finance for Business North East Growth Fund.

The cash comes from the Finance for Business North East Growth Fund, managed by NEL Fund Managers, and aims to help build the Cinnamon brand across the UK.

The company wants to quadruple its £1m-plus turnover in the next three years, providing conveyancing services through a series of local partnerships. Cinnamon is targeting Birmingham, Bristol, South Yorkshire and the Home Counties in its bid for expansion.

Founder John Cook said: "We've done a lot of research into transaction levels in different parts of the country. Even taking a conservative view of what it still a relatively flat market, we can see a range of commercial opportunities for us to target.

"As well as offering a locally-based high quality service in the new markets, our structure means we will be able to compete very strongly on price as well, especially in the South."

**First wind turbine begins generating power at Bristol Airport**  
**Bristol Airport Press Release (extract) - 11 January**

A wind turbine has been successfully installed at Bristol Airport. The vertical axis turbine is part of a pilot project to trial the use of renewable energy on the Airport site, and it began harnessing wind power earlier this month.

Bristol Airport is committed to controlling the adverse effects of its operations and minimising impact on the environment and local community.

These aims are set out in the Airport's

Environmental Policy, which can be viewed at [www.bristolairport.co.uk](http://www.bristolairport.co.uk).

**Port is looking for apprentices**  
**Evening Post—12 January**

The company which runs Bristol Port is looking for the next generation of managers.

The company is in the midst of a major expansion which will see it become one of the largest deep sea container ports anywhere in the country.

And the firm is looking for six apprentices for its new Port Operations Apprenticeship Scheme. The lucky applicants will learn all aspects of cargo handling during a two-year apprenticeship.

Sue Turner, director of communications, said: "Over one million people are employed in the shipping industry worldwide but there is predicted to be a significant shortfall of skilled workers for the new generation of cargo and logistics jobs.

"We are looking for people who want to make their careers in the sector. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone who wants to gain excellent skills and likes working in a close-knit team, controlling massive equipment and putting the customers' needs first."

She added: "Bristol Port has always had a good reputation for investing in people and now, as we work towards opening the new Deep Sea Container Terminal in 2015, is the right time to start training our stars of the future."

In a new move, Bristol Port will invite shortlisted candidates to the port for a special Apprentice Day on Saturday, January 29, where they will have the chance to meet some of the port's existing employees who started out as apprentices.

**100,000 shopped during sales**  
**Evening Post (extract) - 12 January**

Bristol city centre enjoyed its busiest day ever with 100,000 people flocking to Cabot Circus on the

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first day of the sales, figures showed yesterday. The shopping centre revealed it was badly hit by the cold weather in the all-important run-up to Christmas.

Bristol suffered its coldest December on record and the heavy snowfall in the week before the festive season meant many shoppers opted to stay away. But with the thaw setting in on Boxing Day, thousands of people headed to the city centre to pick up bargains in the sales.

As a result, sales and the number of visitors in Bristol for the Christmas period were actually up on the previous year. Over the two weeks covering the Christmas holidays from Monday, December 20, through to New Year's Day the number of people visiting Bristol rose to 3.6 per cent.

The figures meant Bristol bucked the national trend and made it one of the best performing shopping centres in the country.

#### **Growing internet firm branches out into city** Evening Post- 5 January

An internet specialist firm has moved into a new office as a result of its fast-growing business.

Commcam, which specialises in e-commerce and web development, has expanded its award winning business, and opened a new office in the Aztec West business park in Almondsbury.

The firm, which is based in Somerton, was launched just over four years ago and specialises in the car spares and building merchants sectors.

A spokesman said: "To support our continuing development a decision was made to establish a presence in Bristol to enable us to tap into the pool of talented technical people available in the area." The new office also offers easier access to transport links.

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