



# REVIEW

**June  
2005**

## Review of Chamber Meeting + News Update

### MEETING DATES

2005

(Second Monday)

11 July

8 August

12 Sept

10 October

14 November

12 December

### YORKSHIRE FORWARD STRATEGIC PLAN

- What is the purpose of Yorkshire's Regional Development Agency?
- Current objectives, cross-cutting themes and ten-year targets
- Regional Economic Strategy Review objectives and timetable
- What are the key questions for local businesses?
- The Northern Way and proposed "City Regions" – prospects for Harrogate?

### HARROGATE & LEEDS CITY REGION

- Areas of opportunity based around Leeds, Harrogate, York and the A1 corridor,
- Eight sub-regional themes + seven spatial themes for York & North Yorkshire
- Heavy emphasis in the Business Plan on Business Support + seven priorities
- How we could best link the pool of job seekers to employers in Harrogate
- One of the priorities is improving connectivity between Leeds and Harrogate.

### HARROGATE DISTRICT NEWS

- New Harrogate Cabinet Members appointed – Chamber is seeking a meeting
- Harrogate District Strategic Partnership needs a stronger voice of business
- Harrogate's successful Business Market repeats on 8th May 2006 – book now!
- Chamber Dinner parties – a new way to help members' networking and leisure
- Transport News – A1(M) Upgrade going ahead; GNER get ECML Franchise.
- If traffic congestion still appals – why not get on a bike – or try sharing a car??

## Next Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2005

**Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> July – The Harrogate Club, 36 Victoria Avenue. (Tel: 502344)**

### ***Selling to the Council - engaging local suppliers***

**By Alan Sandy, Business Liaison Officer**

**Harrogate Borough Council, Economic Development Unit**

**Monday 8th August – Pavilions of Harrogate, Great Yorkshire Showground**

**BUSINESS SAFARI 5 - Members' Networking Event + FREE Buffet**

***"Speed-dating" opportunities for promoting local businesses!***

*(Members & Invited Guests only)*

## PROMOTING HARROGATE BUSINESS

**Harrogate Chamber of Trade & Commerce, PO Box 8, Harrogate, HG2 8XB**

Tel: 01423 879208 Fax: 01423 870025 E-mail: [info@harrogatechamber.org](mailto:info@harrogatechamber.org) Website: [harrogatechamber.org](http://harrogatechamber.org)

## **YORKSHIRE FORWARD**

**Geoff Needham, Head of North Yorkshire at Yorkshire Forward** joined us for his last official engagement in the position, which will imminently be taken over by Joanna Tuck. He summarised the role and activities of Yorkshire Forward as follows:-

Yorkshire Forward is the Regional Development Agency (RDA) for Yorkshire and the Humber. It was established in April 1999 and employs approximately 300 Staff. They are based in five offices across the region at Leeds, Bradford, York, Hull and Wath-upon-Dearne.

Yorkshire Forward is funded by Central Government and has **five statutory purposes**, which are:

- To further economic development and regeneration
- To promote business efficiency, investment and competitiveness
- To promote employment
- To enhance development and application of skills relevant to employment
- To contribute to sustainable development

### **The Regional Economic Strategy: An overview**

The first major task for the RDA was to formulate a Regional Economic Strategy for the whole Region.

This would be the key driver in guiding economic development. Consultation and drafting took place in 1999 and was endorsed by Government early in 2000.

### **Key elements: Objectives**

- Growing the region's businesses
- Higher business birth and survival rates
- Attracting and retaining more investment
- Improving education, learning and skills
- Connecting communities to economic growth
- Enhancing physical and environmental infrastructure

### **Key elements: Cross Cutting Themes**

Sustainable Development – overall aim of the strategy

- Environmental Good Practice
- Partnership
- Geographic Adaptation
- Social Inclusion and Diversity
- Creativity, Innovation and Technology
- Employment and Skills

### **Key elements: Ten-year targets**

- above EU average increases in GDP;
- create 150,000 jobs;
- double the rate of business start ups;
- treble foreign manufacturing investment;
- train 3 million people in IT skills;
- halve the number of most deprived wards (in bottom 10% in England)
- cut greenhouse gases by more than 20% by 2010

### **Structure of Yorkshire Forward Directorships:**

BUSINESS	Susan Johnson
ENVIRONMENT	Jan Anderson
PEOPLE	Don Stewart
STRATEGY & POLICY	Tom Riordan
FINANCE	Trevor Shaw

### **Business Directorate Structures & Roles**

Susan Johnson – Executive Director

### **REGIONAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY REVIEW**

- Government requirement – major review every 3 years
- Refresh ownership and direction
- Reflect changes in circumstances, structures and policy
- Consider enhanced evidence base
- Better integration – with other regional strategies

### **The timetable for the RES Review in 2005 is:**

- First Round Consultation with Partners:  
28th February – 27th May
- Production of a Draft Revised RES:  
28th May – 8th July
- Second Round Consultation:  
9th July – 30th September
- Final Drafting, Endorsements and Submission to Government: 1st – 31st October 2005

### **What are the Key Questions for local Business?**

#### **BUSINESS SUPPORT**

- Which Business Support interventions do you feel are working best?
- Is there enough focus on indigenous business?

#### **SKILLS**

- Which skills interventions are working best?
- What skills are most required?
- Should there be more emphasis on higher level skills?

#### **INNOVATION**

- What can be done to encourage high levels of innovation and exploit better our shared research base?

#### **TRANSPORT**

- How can the region exert more influence on transport infrastructure and services and ensure the right improvements are prioritised, befitting a world-class region?

#### **Next Steps:**

#### **NORTHERN WAY**

- Launched September 2004 to highlight proposals to bridge £30b gap between the North and rest of UK
- £100m fund - £50m from Government plus £50m from the three Northern RDA's

#### **CITY REGIONS**

- Key delivery mechanisms for the Northern Way
- Eight City Regions including Leeds and Tees Valley
- Leeds City region is led by Leeds City Council, with Harrogate, York, Selby, Craven and NYCC

#### **RES Delivery**

- Four Sub Regional ("County") Investment Plans
- Yorkshire Forward Development Fund

## HARROGATE & DISTRICT

**Nigel Avison, Head of Economic Development** at Harrogate Borough Council continued the presentation by covering the local level of the planning process, as it will affect Harrogate District.

Yorkshire Forward's Sub Regional Investment Plan is the vehicle through which the Regional Economic Strategy is to be delivered in the sub-region (York & North Yorkshire).

The Plan is not produced by Yorkshire Forward, it is produced by and on behalf of **York & North Yorkshire Development Board**, which is a partnership body set up specifically for this purpose. Harrogate Borough has influence and representation on that body through the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mike Gardner.

The first Investment Plan for York & North Yorkshire was produced in 2004 and is currently under review. That Plan sets out proposals for a number of actions, which follow from the **Strategic Economic Assessment (SEA) of York & North Yorkshire**.

The SEA was intended to paint a picture of York & North Yorkshire and look at what geographical disparities exist across the County. This identified both areas of opportunity and areas of need.

There are a number of **areas of opportunity** based around Leeds, Harrogate, York and the A1 corridor, where conditions for success are favourable. Outside those areas where it has more remote rural, coastal and the Selby coalfields, problems are more evident.

Over a five-year period it is estimated that there will be a total of **£85 million funding available**. Lobbying is underway to increase North Yorkshire's share of the Yorkshire regional pot.

**There are eight Sub-Regional Themes:-**

1. Business Support
2. Culture
3. Tourism
4. Skills
5. Social Inclusion
6. Strategic Rural Interventions
7. Broadband
8. Environmental Enhancement

**plus seven Spatial Themes:-**

1. Build and develop York's key city role
2. Develop York's key economic linkages in the sub-region
3. Develop the Sub-Regional role in the Bradford and Leeds City Region
4. Build on the economic opportunities of the northern market towns in the A1/A19 corridor
5. Utilise the heritage and natural cultural assets of the upland areas and their market towns as economic drivers
6. Achieve the renaissance of Scarborough and the coastal area

7. Develop the renaissance of Selby, particularly by transforming its economic base.

There is **heavy emphasis** in the Business Plan on **Business Support**, with seven priority actions:-

1. Increasing the number of businesses in key clusters and sectors
2. Increasing the number of high growth businesses
3. Increasing the number of businesses exploiting better business practices
4. Ensuring the survival of those businesses with a significant importance to the local economies
5. Ensure that no business fails through lack of information or knowledge
6. Ensuring effective promotion of the sub-region
7. Increasing the quality, consistency and impact of public sector funded business support

The Sub-Regional Investment Plan is not a bidding process - it is based on **commissioning projects**. We will use the analysis, the Plan and the SEA to go to organisations and say, *"we want to make a difference in these areas and we want you to develop a project which has these characteristics."*

Currently, some of the early start projects are working their way through the appraisal process and in **Boroughbridge and Knaresborough** they are very close to having Business Plans completed, which identify what the priority investments are.

A firm of consultants is assisting in identification of the **major opportunities** for rolling out projects that are currently running, or could be running, in Leeds and Bradford. That is raising issues like job matching projects; **how we could best link the pool of job seekers to employers in Harrogate, who are currently facing recruitment difficulties**.

Nigel concluded by saying the EDU are working to ensure that when projects are approved, the means to handle them are available – awarding contracts, etc.

## QUESTION TIME

**Stuart Pearson of the Trinity Foundation** asked if there was any support for school, cultural and community links.

Nigel Avison replied there was no reason why not, provided that the activity requiring support was seen to hold up some of the objectives set out in the Plan.

Yorkshire Forward will be most interested in the things that can actually demonstrate a clear economic benefit. Supporting culture and festivals just for the sake of it is not enough; it has to be seen to have some economic benefit flowing from it.

Stuart elaborated that he was talking about encouraging schools, business and community groups to work together, including school hours being longer. He is involved in two projects where he is encouraging schools to become the centre of a community development reaching out, instead of someone waiting for people to come to them.

Nigel confirmed that one of the projects taking place is at a Boroughbridge school, which is looking at **Boroughbridge as a market town**. Looking beyond the normal school curriculum, in terms of school links with industry and a possible Centre for Enterprise is featuring quite prominently in that plan. They are currently trying to understand exactly how it might operate and what the benefits might be, but there is a high degree of enthusiasm for the innovative proposal.

It has evolved out of a process that has been running in Boroughbridge, looking at how Boroughbridge can better perform as a Market Town concerning a fairly large rural hinterland. It is looking at what the key assets are already within that community and identified the school as one of those assets. It is now trying to find out how they can make more out of it.

The idea came from a Head Teacher with great vision, whose ideas have been passed to the Consultants, who are testing some of the ideas to see if they will work and become something that could be submitted to Yorkshire Forward for funding.

**Peter Armitage of Colour It In** asked if Nigel could amplify his comments about vacancies in Harrogate and an available workforce in Harrogate.

Nigel replied that a lot of EDU contacts with employers in Harrogate are repeatedly bringing up the problems that they are having **difficulty recruiting suitable staff**. It is less about skills, but more about numbers – there are not the people to recruit in Harrogate itself. It is currently difficult to recruit from further a field, partly because people do not know about the vacancy and partly because local house prices are high.

They asked the question where staff could be found and **Bradford appeared to have a large pool of potential employees**, who were not aware of the vacancies in Harrogate.

It was hoped to make Careers Advisers in the schools in Bradford aware of the job opportunities in Harrogate and give the young people access to mentors who can help them to gain job interview skills and access vocational training where they need particular skills.

That is the West Yorkshire side of the project; the other side is a contract with employers who will offer guaranteed interviews to people coming through this process. One employer in the area has already agreed to offer this opportunity as a pilot scheme.

Another aspect of this problem is **how to get people from Bradford to Harrogate**. Possibly travel subsidies could be built into the project.

The Project Scoping exercise is about identifying the different elements and seeing how they can be joined up to create a project that benefits everybody.

**Andrew McDonald, of Conferencevent.biz** asked what were the criteria for selecting the Theme Champions?

Nigel replied some of the Theme Champions were obvious, but some of the others did not automatically

come to mind. Those bodies, therefore, have to be sought, or **created through partnership structures**.

It would have been wrong to end up with a plan that reflected an institutional body; they wanted to create a process that reflected the analysis, because the analysis (the Strategic Economic Assessment) identified what the needs are of this area.

**Chamber Chief Executive, Brian Dunsby**, referred to the “Golden Triangle” where the potential for business links between Harrogate and York and Leeds are so talked about. It all depends upon how easy it is to travel between these three locations! There is no bus service to York and one train per hour, although travel to Leeds is a little easier. Now there is talk of bringing employees to Harrogate from Bradford. How?

**In the whole of the strategy there is no word about improving the sub-region transport infrastructure - is it being considered at all?**

Nigel replied that the starting point is to recognise how much money is available through the Sub-Regional Investment Plan. Transport investment could actually spend the whole of the budget.

However Nigel agreed with Brian wholeheartedly and stated that the best vehicle for funding would be through the emerging City Regions. There is the opportunity under John Prescott’s ‘Northern Way’ to make a case for **significant investment in the Leeds City Region, of which Harrogate is a part**.

John Prescott put up £100m initially for the Northern Way, with a much bigger sum potentially available thereafter. He asked various City Regions what investments would make their City perform better. The means to do that is through the City Region Development Programme, which the Local Authorities have been working on over the past six months, and was submitted to Yorkshire Forward and on to the Northern Way Steering Group recently.

**Connectivity** was at the top of the list for everybody in the Leeds City Region and across the whole of the City Region Authorities there is now a consensus that one of the **priorities is improving connectivity between Leeds and Harrogate**.

This shows there is an acceptance that this is one of the priorities and, therefore, **Leeds/Harrogate/York railway line is an investment priority**. We would hope that when John Prescott receives the submission that some of the £100 million set aside for the Northern Way find its way in our direction.

That vehicle plus the 2006 round of Government spending, which will be influenced by this process, is where the funding will come from, not the Sub-Regional Investment Plan, which is for more local and small scale project investment.

President Brian Haines thanked Geoff Needham and Nigel Avison for clarifying the many complex Strategic Planning Processes for our sub-region. Further details are available from the Harrogate Council Business Web Site: [www.harrogate.gov.uk/business](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/business)

## HARROGATE DISTRICT NEWS

### Council Cabinet Changes

Following the May elections the following Councillors are now the Borough Council Cabinet members:

Cllr. Mike Gardner, Council Leader  
Cllr. Richard Cooper, Deputy Leader + Planning  
Cllr. Julian Sturdy, Cabinet Member for Transport  
Cllr. Alan Skidmore, CM for Finance & Resources  
Cllr. Jean Butterfield, CM for Housing  
Cllr. Pat Jones, CM for Cultural Services  
Cllr. Les Ellington, CM for Environmental Health

The Chamber will keep in touch with these Councillors and the Executive have asked to have another informal meeting with the Leader, Deputy Leader and Finance & Resources Member in the near future.

We have also spoken briefly with the new Mayor, Councillor Caroline Bayliss who has kindly agreed to support next year's 2<sup>nd</sup> Business Market.

*If you have **any questions** you wish to be posed to the Cabinet Members please forward to the Secretariat.*

### Harrogate District Strategic Partnership

Brian Haines attended a recent HDSP meeting and concluded that the voice of business at these meetings is still very small. He undertook to keep repeating at these meetings that **the need for a thriving business economy** is essential first – then other benefits will be achievable. It is hoped to gain broader business representation and better management of the HDSP.

A copy of the minutes can be obtained electronically on request via the Secretariat.

Brian Dunsby emphasised that there appear to be too many diverse bodies aiming to “do good” – but nobody is speaking up for business. The Chamber does need to be **the main voice of business in Harrogate**.

Past President, Peter Armitage, emphasised that the HDSP is one of the key committees for the Chamber to be represented on. The best way for the business community to be heard is *‘wearing the Chamber’s hat’*.

He asked for volunteers to attend the meeting in Brian Haines’ and Brian Dunsby’s place on those occasions whenever they are both unable to be there.

### HBC Remuneration Panel

The Chamber was recently invited to nominate a new representative from the business community to sit on the Harrogate Council’s Independent Remuneration Panel setting local **Council Members’ Allowances**. The Chamber President, Brian Haines, was nominated in view of his relevant business experience and the nomination has now been accepted.

### HIC Queen’s Suite

Brian Dunsby recently represented the Chamber at the official opening of the new Queen’s Suite at Harrogate International Centre. This offers excellent facilities for

medium-sized Conferences up to 600 theatre-style or up to ten breakout workshops, which complement the existing Conference Centre and make Harrogate even more attractive to the organisers of **large professional and trade association conferences**.

Integrated with the Exhibition Halls, the development was completed **on time within the £5 million budget**.

A comprehensive portfolio of Press Cuttings collated by HIC was displayed at the meeting, giving a most impressive international coverage of Harrogate.

Contact: Hayley Gray, Tourism Promotion Manager, Tel: 537275 or e-mail: [hayley.gray@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:hayley.gray@harrogate.gov.uk)

## MEMBERS’ FORUM

### Shirleys of Harrogate

After 13 years as Chamber Member, former President David Durrant, has sold his floristry business Shirleys of Harrogate on Montpellier Parade to Pam and Francis Hammett of Harrogate Florists, 26 Regent Parade, HG1 5AZ. Tel: 01423 501877.

We have invited them to take up Shirleys’ Chamber Membership, whilst David is being nominated for Honorary Membership on his retirement. He has joined the Board of Trustees of the Charity HORTICAP. We understand that a new tenant is taking the Montpellier Parade premises for a different type of business.

Personal Contact: David Durrant Tel: 01423 871684

### Waitrose Entertaining

Waitrose Limited, who took over the former Safeway Store on Station Parade last year, joined the Chamber in April and displayed their new business entertaining catering service at our 1<sup>st</sup> Business Market in May. We used their service for a recent Management Group Meeting working lunch and recommend it as a good scheme for entertaining in the office.

Contact: Andy Gibbon, Store Manager, 01423 501333 or 0800 169 2701 or [www.waitrose.com/entertaining](http://www.waitrose.com/entertaining)

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

### 2<sup>nd</sup> BUSINESS MARKET

As reported briefly in the May REVIEW, the Exhibitors’ Evaluation Forms confirmed the great success of Harrogate’s 1<sup>st</sup> Business Market on 9<sup>th</sup> May at Pavilions. 70 Exhibitors and over 300 individual business owners, managers and senior staff attended.

The Chamber Management Group has now agreed to hold the **2<sup>nd</sup> Business Market** on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2006 again at the Pavilions – but in larger rooms for longer hours to accommodate more exhibitors and business visitors.

We shall also be undertaking another District-wide shared mailing in March 2006 promoting the event.

Book early for a really low-cost **business-to-business promotion opportunity** for all Chamber Members!

**Please e-mail the Secretariat to get on the list now!**

## **NEW! Chamber Dinner Parties**

Following discussions on future "social events" to encourage networking between members, the Chamber Secretariat propose a series of informal "Chamber Dinner Parties" in members' restaurants.

The aim is to help local hotels and restaurants to fill tables in their 'quieter times' by inviting small groups of Chamber Members to meet informally over dinner – with a specially reduced price – or a suitable bonus offer – exclusively for our members and their guests.

We invite all Restaurant and Hotel Members to offer us one or two dates between July and November when our members will be made especially welcome to meet over dinner at a discounted rate or free bottle of wine.

Members interested in participating should also get in touch with the Secretariat. The Chamber will then publish a short list of these Chamber Dinner Party Invitations – and bookings should then be made direct by members with their chosen venues.

## **TRANSPORT NEWS**

### **A1 Upgrade – Dishforth to Barton**

Brian Dunsby was pleased to announce a significant road development with the Government decision to go ahead with the upgrading of the A1 from Dishforth to Barton. From where the current A1(M) ends near Boroughbridge, it will be **upgraded to full motorway** standard right through to the Darlington by-pass.

Access to Melmerby will be via a new junction at Baldersby. There will also be motorway junctions at Dishforth, Leeming, Catterick and Scotch Corner.

Brian attended a NYCC consultation and copies of the proposals are available on request from the Chamber Secretariat. The Consultation is open until 5<sup>th</sup> August.

Contact: Highways Agency. Tel: 0113 283 6252

### **GNER to improve services**

Brian also reported on a recent presentation by GNER to mark their achievement of a new ten-year franchise for the East Coast Main Line Rail Services between London, Yorkshire, North East and Scotland. There is a clear commitment to improving both the quality and quantity of main-line rail services to Leeds and York – coupled with recognition that **better rail and road links for Harrogate passengers** are also essential.

Interested members may request a fuller report from the Chamber Secretariat. Feedback is welcome.

### **Hornbeam Park Prize Bikes**

Chamber Member Chris Bentley of Hornbeam Park Developments is donating an initial 28 bikes worth £200 each for a weekly prize draw designed to encourage more people to use bikes instead of cars. The promotion is being run "in tandem with" the Little Red Bus Company's own solution to congestion!

## **Harrogate Car Share Scheme**

A new internet-based scheme aims to get more people sharing car journeys to work, school, shopping, etc. Part of a nationwide scheme called Liftshare.com, it is being piloted locally by the Little Red Bus Company. [www.harrogatecarshare.com](http://www.harrogatecarshare.com) or Tel: 0870 11 11 99

## **NEW MEMBERS**

### **5 For Silver** (*Sterling silver jewellery*)

Stuart Wright, Proprietor

PO Box 483, Harrogate, HG2 9WS

**Tel:** 01423 549123 **Fax:** 07092 810256

**E-mail:** [stuart@5forsilver.co.uk](mailto:stuart@5forsilver.co.uk)

**Web site:** [www.5forsilver.co.uk](http://www.5forsilver.co.uk)

### **Access Lift Consultants Ltd** (*Access Lift Suppliers*)

Maurice Feely, Director

4 Padmans Lane, Boston Spa, Wetherby, LS23 6BR

**Tel:** 01937 845558 **Fax:** 0845 280 1964

**E-mail:** [maurice@accessliftconsultants.co.uk](mailto:maurice@accessliftconsultants.co.uk)

**Web site:** no website

### **Aspect Design & Marketing** (*Design & marketing agency*)

Jonathan Rayfield, Partner LLP

22 Victoria Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 5PR

**Tel:** 01423 501161 **Fax:** 01423 505561

**E-mail:** [jr@aspectgraphics.co.uk](mailto:jr@aspectgraphics.co.uk)

**Web site:** [www.aspectgraphics.co.uk](http://www.aspectgraphics.co.uk)

### **Burtwistle Clements** (*Certified Accountants*)

David Brown, Partner

22 Victoria Avenue, Harrogate, HG1 5PR

**Tel:** 01423 525641 **Fax:** 01423 525641

**E-mail:** [davidb@burtwistleclements.co.uk](mailto:davidb@burtwistleclements.co.uk)

**Web site:** [www.burtwistleclements.co.uk](http://www.burtwistleclements.co.uk)

### **French Business Solutions** (*French Business Solutions*)

Christine Ford,

Cedar House, Hazel Drive, Burn Bridge,

HARROGATE, HG3 1NY

**Tel:** 01423 871285 **Fax:** 01423 871285

**E-mail:** [christineford1@hotmail.com](mailto:christineford1@hotmail.com) **Web site:** none

### **ITG Digital Marketing** (*Digital marketing agency*)

Kate Nestor, Sales & Marketing Executive

Regent House, Albert Street, Harrogate, HG1 1JX

**Tel:** 01423 538833 **Fax:** 01423 504743

**E-mail:** [kate.nestor@the-it-group.com](mailto:kate.nestor@the-it-group.com)

**Web site:** [www.the-it-group.com](http://www.the-it-group.com)

### **Learning Disabilities Partnership Board**

(*Support Network Partnership*)

Tim Hurren, Co Chair

1 South Park Road, Harrogate, HG1 5QU

**Tel:** 01423 727876 **Fax:** 01423 508779

**E-mail:** [timhurren@fish.co.uk](mailto:timhurren@fish.co.uk) **Web site:** none

### **Logic Building Services Ltd**

(*Fire precautions maintenance*)

Keith Langley, Account Manager

Suite 127-130 Monkswell House, Manse Lane,

Knaresborough, HG5 8NQ

**Tel:** 01423 863358 **Fax:** 01423 864438

**E-mail:** [keith@logicfiresystems.co.uk](mailto:keith@logicfiresystems.co.uk)

**Web site:** [www.logicfiresystems.co.uk](http://www.logicfiresystems.co.uk)

## BUSINESS BRIEFINGS

### **Tips for avoiding cold call scams**

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is warning businesses to be on their guard against cold callers falsely claiming to sell advertising in publications that support the emergency services or charities. This is illegal under the Control of Misleading Advertisements Regulations 1988, and businesses are urged to report any such call to the OFT immediately. Another current scam involves cold callers falsely claiming that a business has already bought advertising space and demanding payment. (Also see our *Scam Check List*)

Tips about avoiding these cold call scams are at: [www.oft.gov.uk/News/Press+releases/Consumer+alerts/Cold+call+scams.htm](http://www.oft.gov.uk/News/Press+releases/Consumer+alerts/Cold+call+scams.htm)

### **New Code of Practice for pubs**

Thousands of pubs and bars have committed themselves to a new Code of Practice drafted by the British Beer and Pub Association, which aims to **regulate promotions of alcoholic drinks** in pubs and bars. The Code comes into force immediately and will prohibit promotions that could encourage excessive drinking, such as speed drinking or allowing women to drink free of charge.

More about the Code at: [www.beerandpub.com/content.asp?id\\_Content=2096&id\\_Content\\_Parent\\_Override=97](http://www.beerandpub.com/content.asp?id_Content=2096&id_Content_Parent_Override=97)

### **The Office of Public Sector Information**

Despite its name being confusingly changed from Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) to the Office of Public Sector Information (OPSI), the revamped website of this department is a useful business resource. It includes the text of all current and pending legislation for the whole of the UK, as well as advice about how to obtain and use other official publications. The re-brand is part of the UK's implementation of a European Directive on the reuse of public sector information (PSI), which comes into force in July.

Access the re-branded website at: [www.opsi.gov.uk](http://www.opsi.gov.uk)

### **Acas updates employment law guidance**

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) has updated several of its online information leaflets. The leaflets covering contracts of employment, communicating with employees, dealing with grievances, discipline at work, induction training, tackling absence, paying staff, personnel records, recruitment and selection and controlling labour turnover, have all been revised to take account of **recent changes to employment law**.

The revamped leaflets can be accessed at: [www.acas.org.uk/about\\_acas/whatsnew.html](http://www.acas.org.uk/about_acas/whatsnew.html)

### **Campaign to explain Competition Law**

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has launched a campaign to increase awareness of competition law, and particularly the 1998 Competition Act, among small businesses. Although there is awareness of the obligations the Act brings, the OFT believes that not enough businesses have taken action to comply with the legislation, which aims to prevent price-fixing and monopolies. It is also keen for businesses to use the law to their advantage.

For an outline of the campaign go to: [www.oft.gov.uk/News/Press+releases/2005/92-05.htm](http://www.oft.gov.uk/News/Press+releases/2005/92-05.htm)

### **Home businesses not properly insured**

Business owners who run their ventures from home and firms which allow staff to work from home, are risking expensive items, such as laptops, printers and fax machines, by not having the correct insurance policies in place.

Many businesses which allow home working do not have a home workers insurance policy, falsely believing that equipment is covered by employees' own home contents policies and not finding out it is not covered until they try to make a claim.

Don't forget, we have several members who can help you with your insurance requirements. See your Harrogate Chamber Membership Directory or search through our Membership List on the website.

### **Banks join forces to beat phishing**

NatWest, Halifax and Barclays banks have joined forces in an industry initiative to combat "phishing". Their plans involve delaying transfers between account holders within the same bank by up to a day in order to introduce new security checks and validation procedures. It is hoped that these checks will help banks to **spot unusual transactions**, as well as thwarting the common phishing tactic of using a UK-based intermediary to transfer funds before sending the money overseas. Phishing cost British banks an estimated £12 million last year.

Read more about the initiative: [www.theregister.co.uk/2005/05/24/phishing\\_mules\\_security\\_checks/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2005/05/24/phishing_mules_security_checks/)

### **Catering Sector Health & Safety Advice**

The HSE has revised its **guidance for caterers** to help businesses prevent accidents and meet legal requirements. The advice focuses on the dangers of slips and trips, urging businesses to keep work areas uncluttered and dry. It also highlights the importance of cleaning up spillages and maintaining floor surfaces.

Download PDF file at: [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cais6.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/cais6.pdf)

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