

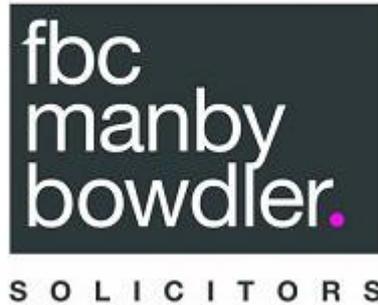


Making The Future
Monthly Newsletter



Black Country
Chamber of
Commerce
Belong Connect Communicate

Delivered in partnership with FBC Manby Bowdler LLP



Each of the articles below relate to the main areas of our [Making The Future](#) policy campaign, which include Brexit, skills, funding, collaboration and power resources.



[Carillion Liquidation Leaves Regional Supply Chain In Limbo](#)

The effect of Carillion's liquidation is slowly becoming clearer, with the helpline that we set up having seen a steady increase in supply chain businesses seeking further clarity. Overall, the helpline has dealt a wide range of enquiries from service sector recruitment and businesses with vacancies, through to those on Carillion's supply chain.

If your business has been affected by Carillion's liquidation, please call 01902 912322 or click [here](#) to send an email.

[Quarterly Economic Survey Data Reveals
Recruitment Issues](#)



The findings of our latest QES, carried out in partnership with the Black Country LEP, indicate that skills shortages throughout the region are reaching critical levels. For Q4 2017, the number of businesses that reported experiencing recruitment difficulties was 82%, which sees an increase of 25% on the previous quarter.

Please click [here](#) to read the full report.



[Europe Direct Information Centre](#)

We are pleased to announce that we have received funding from the European Commission to deliver the Europe Direct Information Centre for the Black Country. The Centre will focus on key economic areas that have been highlighted by local business and residents, including international trade across EU borders, and the rights of EU nationals and foreign workers during and post-Brexit negotiations.

Please click [here](#) for more information.

[CBI Urges 'Jobs First' Brexit](#)

Carolyn Fairbairn, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, has urged for 'calmer politics' in the next phase of the Brexit negotiations, and a 'jobs first' approach to Brexit.



Please click [here](#) to read more.

[Innovate UK Meet With Black Country Chamber Members](#)

On Friday 12th January, Robin Wilson, Innovation Lead - High Value Manufacturing at Innovate UK, attended a policy roundtable meeting with Chamber members to discuss the variety of ways that they can help businesses in the Black Country and wider region. Robin discussed funding streams, becoming better connected with other innovators and the wider Midlands innovation eco-system.

If you would like to register your interest in attending future policy roundtable meetings, please click [here](#) to send me an email.