

In Touch with Elson, Hardway & Forton

JOBS FAIR SUCCESS

Record numbers attended Gosport's sixth Employment and Skills Fair held on 26th January at the Gosport Leisure Centre. Over 500 vacancies, apprenticeships and training opportunities were on offer from the 56 exhibitors representing professional services, engineering, healthcare, hospitality and the armed forces.

Cllr Piers Bateman, member of the Council's Economic Development Board, welcomed the annual event. "The aim was to ensure that as many of the exhibitors as possible were offering vacancies and the vast majority were. Although unemployment in the Borough is very low, it is still necessary to offer opportunities on the peninsula because so many people have to commute out of town to work."



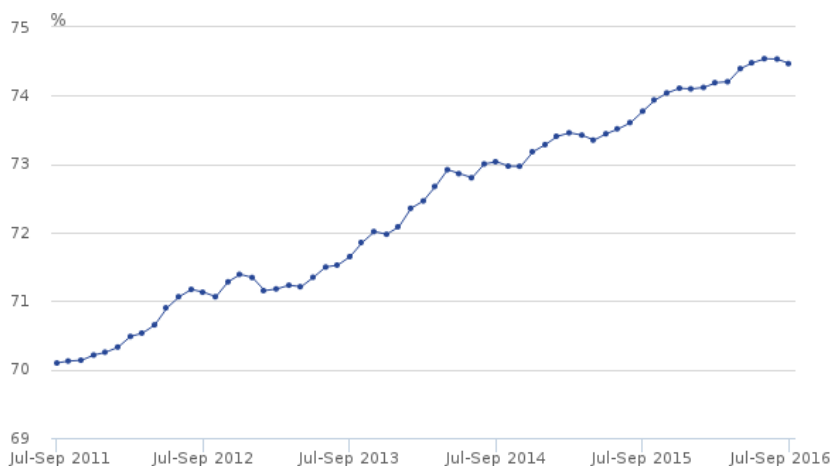
Cllr Piers Bateman

Gosport boasts the highest number of apprenticeships in Hampshire. The Employment and Skills Fair attracted over 700 visitors and employers were keen to praise the event.

Employment rate hits record high

It was announced in February that the number of people in work in the UK stood at a record high. Unemployment is the lowest for twelve years. These national figures are reflected locally with fewer than 600 people claiming unemployment benefits in Gosport.

Behind every statistic is a human story. Many people in our community who have not worked for a long time, or have never worked, have found employment. Each and every one of them should be congratulated on their efforts.



Despite these remarkable achievements there are still too few job opportunities on the Gosport peninsula. Our MP Caroline Dineage and the Conservative-run council are turning this around. New businesses are setting up all over our borough. At the same time Hampshire's Conservative council, supported by the Government, is investing millions in our transport infrastructure.