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NEWSRSS

Innovative Swindon hailed by Enterprise Research Centre study

Updated 9:25am Friday 29th May 2015 in News



Swindon has a high proportion of firms developing and creating new products.
Picture: STUART HARRISON

SWINDON is near the top of a regional league table of areas with the highest proportion of firms developing new products and services, according to new figures.

The research, published by the Enterprise Research Centre shows the UK has a clear arc of innovation stretching from Cambridge through the south east Midlands and along the [M4](#) corridor to take in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire.

Other beacons of innovation elsewhere include the Tees Valley, Dorset and Liverpool.

London, meanwhile, is way down the list, while Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland also show below-average levels of innovation.



WindermereMarina

The study, Benchmarking local innovation – the

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FEATURED JOBS

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Site Manager Trowbridge

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Health and Safety (HR) Officer Bath

Administrator Swindon

Retirement Housing Manager Bath

See 1,744 jobs in and around Swindon

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19. Old school bands give lesson in how to please a crowd in All Cannings

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Windermere self-catering cottages & apartments with marina views.

innovation geography of the UK, has been produced by the Enterprise Research Centre, the UK's leading independent research institute on the drivers behind business growth and success.

In the south west, Swindon and Wiltshire was ranked in ninth place.

The findings are based on new analysis of data from 14,000 firms which responded to the UK Innovation Survey 2013, relating to their innovation activity over the period 2010 to 2012.

Professor Stephen Roper, who led the ERC research, said: "For the first time, This research gives us a picture of which localities of the UK have the highest proportion of firms introducing new products and services.

"The findings run counter to the dominant narrative of a country dependent on London, with innovation being much more dispersed across the country than was previously thought.

"Innovation is strongly linked to growth, exporting and productivity - all areas in which the UK economy needs to improve if we want to boost our international competitiveness.

In the South West, Dorset and Swindon have high proportions of innovative firms, while Bristol is ranked surprisingly low on the list.

"What's also interesting is that Cornwall scores highly on innovation, despite being distant from major conurbations," said Prof Roper.

"Policymakers and researchers need to examine the local factors that could be contributing to this so that we can create the conditions for firms to become more innovative – creating jobs and growth - in every corner of the UK."

In response Kevin Baughan, director of technology at Swindon-based Innovate UK, said: "Just as it is important that research, innovation and commercialisation is developed across all parts of the economy, so is it important to society that it is now developed right across all parts of the UK.

"That's the benefit of an organisation like Innovate UK in both responding to the innovation needs of businesses wherever they are located as well as developing the strengths of local areas in the pursuit of the global markets of the future.

"How do we approach the ambition of accelerating economic growth and productivity locally and regionally? How do we avoid fragmentation and duplication?

"Innovate UK and the Research Councils have a very powerful role they

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5. Artist creates £10,000 Clint Eastwood mosaic made of bullet cartridges to celebrate the actor's 85th birthday

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2 June 2015

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9am	Drama Classes
9am	Curious About Salisbury?
10am	A Railway at War - the role of the GWR in WW1
10am	Coffee Morning

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can play in that process by looking at the evidence that emerges from their previous investments, to create a geographic picture right across the UK.

"If we can see where businesses and universities are investing, we can see where our economy is heading and how we are thinking about the future; not just as it was in the past.

"This lets everyone involved in technology and innovation have a very different, evidence based discussion about local and regional economic growth and how it can be supported to get the biggest impact."

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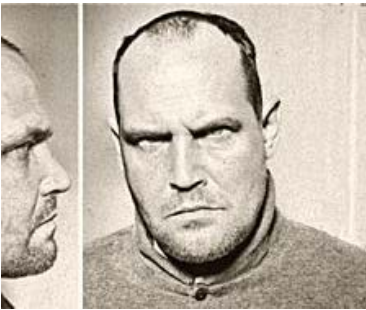
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AAT Accounts Training

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aat.org.uk/train

NATIONAL NEWS

Big Six urged to cut energy bills

Updated 5:49am Tuesday 2nd June 2015
Energy firms are facing increased pressure from the Government to pass on a fall in wholesale costs to consumers by slashing household bills .



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Comments (10)

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Julie Ann Baldry says... 11:55pm Thu 28 May 15

..... Waits for all the lefties to explain why Swindon is not innovated after all

Score: -6 Quote Report this post

dmatthe7 says... 9:37am Fri 29 May 15

Julie Ann Baldry wrote:

..... Waits for all the lefties to explain why Swindon is not innovated after all

Why do you always have to politicise every post that you write? Every post that I have seen from you makes a snipe at Labour and the left.

What value has your comment actually added to the forum?

Score: 7 Quote Report this post

dmatthe7 says...9:43am Fri 29 May 15

This should come as no surprise. For over 175 years the people of Swindon have been at the cutting edge of engineering and science. The GWR Work shops produced some of the fastest and most efficient steam locomotives and then in the 1950's turned their hand to the development of revolutionary diesel hydraulic locomotives.

We built some of the finest record decks and turntables in the world and then in the 1960's became the home of micro processing firms who lead the world in the design of silicon chips. Now we are a major motor manufacturing centre.

Set the people of Swindon a challenge and they tend to rise to that challenge! Give us the right tools and we will do the job!

Score: 11

Quote

Report this post

Clearspira says...10:58am Fri 29 May 15

It still looks horrible though. Downvote me all you like, doesn't change the fact that the town centre looks like the Luftwaffe has had a go at it.

Score: 3

Quote

Report this post

dmatthe7 says...11:50am Fri 29 May 15

Clearspira wrote:
It still looks horrible though. Downvote me all you like, doesn't change the fact that the town centre looks like the Luftwaffe has had a go at it.

I don't think that anybody would actually dispute your comment. Although this has little to do with the actual topic of the article; but sadly I do have to agree with you, there are so few buildings left in the centre of town with any character or charm.

You can thank SBC/TBC Planning Departments for much of this mess. From the photographs I have seen in the Town Library the Town Centre was never beautiful but since the 1960's many of the Victorian Buildings have been demolished to make way for ugly concrete buildings; alas all done in the name of progress.

Every year or so we hear about some new development to improve the Town Centre and after it has been completed it is no more than another lump of concrete and metal! There is certainly nothing to attract people to want to travel to shop in Swindon (apart from the Outlet Centre with its cheap parking and lovingly restored Victorian Industrial Buildings).

Our planners should look at the development that has been done recently in Bath when the ugly 1960's shopping centre was demolished to make way for Georgian styled building more in keeping with the City.

I remember as a child the original market, modest in size but still with some Victorian style. This was demolished (to within 2 feet in height) and then for many years used a car park. Then they put up the metal and tent frame and here we have a modern development. No imagination but it is modern so it must be alright! There are so many other examples the Advertiser could open a forum solely about the wanton destruction of our Town Centre.

Score: 2

Quote

Report this post

sagadude says...12:25pm Fri 29 May 15

Julie Ann Baldry wrote:
..... Waits for all the lefties to explain why Swindon is not innovated after all

Your Tory happiness will be very short lived. Wait until you see the drastic cuts the Tories will make to gather 12 billion.

Could even create another recession.

Score: -2

Quote

Report this post

dmatthe7 says...

sagadude wrote:

Julie Ann Baldry wrote:
..... Waits for all the lefties to explain why Swindon is not innovated after all

Your Tory happiness will be very short lived. Wait until you see the drastic cuts the Tories will make to gather 12 billion.

Could even create another recession.

Just to redress the balance and to try to remain politically neutral whilst I am posting on this forum; what value has your comment actually added to the forum?

Sorry but both of you are as bad as each other. Perhaps the Swindon Advertiser will run a forum next week that is more suitable for the two of you to address. An appropriate headline might be "What has any Government - Conservative or Labour actually done for us?" Then you two can **** away to your hearts content.

As I will no doubt gain a massive amount of negative feedback here, I would actually be interested to hear your opinions on the actual article. As far as I can see this article is neither politically left or right; it is stating that the people of Swindon both employers and employees are some of the most innovative in the Country. And for that we should be congratulating ourselves and not trying to score stupid political points.

You could well be right, we will just have to wait and see!

Julie Ann Baldry says...

sagadude wrote:

Julie Ann Baldry wrote:

..... Waits for all the lefties to explain why Swindon is not innovated after all

Your Tory happiness will be very short lived. Wait until you see the drastic cuts the Tories will make to gather 12 billion.

Could even create another recession.

Like the one Labour caused?
I don't think so

Score: -5

Quote

Report this post

dmatthe7 says... 1:09pm Fri 29 May 15

Julie Ann Baldry wrote:

sagadude wrote:

Julie Ann Baldry wrote:

..... Waits for all the lefties to explain why Swindon is not innovated after all

Your Tory happiness will be very short lived. Wait until you see the drastic cuts the Tories will make to gather 12 billion.

Could even create another recession.

Like the one Labour caused?
I don't think so

Don't you ever learn! Your posts are pointless; they lack humour and have nothing to do with the article posted.

This article has nothing to do with Labour or Conservatives, it is about Swindon and the people of Swindon. And believe it or not those workers and employers cover the whole political spectrum. Workers are not all socialists and managers/employers are not all Conservatives.

So stop sniping and post something positive about what the people of Swindon are capable of achieving. Sadly I remember that it was a Conservative Government that closed down Swindon's largest employer back in the 1980's and lead us into years of boom and bust. What this proves is that both parties can be as bad as each other. And finally, your party does not speak for the majority of the Country. You might have a small majority but this is gained under a vote of just 36% of the British population. This means that 64% of the British people didn't want your party in power. And if Labour hadn't made themselves unelectable by having Milliband as their leader, there could well have been a hung parliament again!

Score: 1

Quote

Report this post

Morsey says... 1:38pm Fri 29 May 15

I see Tomlinson and Buckland were far too busy in their career politics to make the usual and very boring comments to the paper about just how brilliant the Tories have been in securing 'innovation' this time.

No photos of them ... phew ... I could even restart buying The 'Oxford' Adver? Not a chance, wrong politics for me!

Score: 0

Quote

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