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- **BCC Meeting activity**

Last week Adam Marshall took part in a webinar with Lord Bridges from the Department for Exiting the EU, on business Brexit priorities. He also held the Presidents' Assembly, met Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Shadow Business Minister, and Duncan McCourt, Special Adviser to the Chancellor. Adam also met Joel Hills, ITV Business Editor, and Gordon Rayner, Political Editor of the Daily Telegraph.

This week, Adam will meet with Mark Kleinman, City Editor at Sky News, and attend the ERA Foundation Annual Lunch.

- **Mayoral election engagement**

Last week, Chambers from the North East, Manchester, Birmingham and the West of England attended meetings in London with Government officials on how businesses plan to engage with new mayors to deliver economic growth. Following the important elections this week for newly created mayors, officials are keen to measure the level of business engagement that you have with mayors in their first few months in office. To discuss further, and to send your feedback, then please contact [Ashley Shackleton](#).

- **Join us in London on July 6 for the [2017 Business and Education Summit](#).
Book now to secure your place.**

How can we help young people transition into the workplace and provide businesses with a pipeline of new talent? The BCC Business and Education Summit is an inspirational event aimed at exploring and encouraging collaboration between education providers and the business community in order to answer this question. This year's Summit will focus on the following key themes

Enterprise and education – how can schools create the business leaders of tomorrow?

Solving the puzzle: maximising productivity through skills

How can universities and business work together to drive economic growth?

The event is an excellent opportunity for you and your members to network with education providers, business leaders, Chambers across the UK and policy makers, as well as hearing from a line-up of insightful speakers.

[Book now](#) to make use of the Chamber discount and attend this exciting event.

- **Do your members know about [Small Business Connect](#)? Take part in The Telegraph's latest business initiative by signing up on their website.**

Small Business Connect is the Telegraph's home for entrepreneurs, SME owners and start-up professionals. The Telegraph has always served a passionate and dedicated business readership. Small Business Connect gives SMEs the chance to share stories, advice and ideas in their own words.

There are plenty of ways to get involved: you can share your ideas and hard-learned lessons by writing for them; join the conversation by following them on Twitter @TeleConnectSME; or sign up to become a member for free to receive free VIP event invites, weekly bulletins and more.

- **Heathrow launch search for Logistics Hubs**

In preparation for the expansion of the airport, Heathrow is inviting communities across Britain to showcase why their area is suitable to host one of their four new logistics hubs. Suitable locations will have good connectivity, access to relevant supply chain and strong local skills. Interested applicants should visit the [website](#) to register their interest and complete an Expression of Interest questionnaire before 31st July 2017. If you have any questions please contact [Heathrow](#).

BCC national media highlights this week

- This morning the Chamber Network launched its manifesto for General Election 2017. Adam Marshall spoke to Wake Up To Money and CNBC, Mike Spicer appeared on BBC News and Chris Fletcher from Greater Manchester Chamber appeared on BBC Breakfast.
- The manifesto received widespread coverage including the Financial Times, Telegraph, [Independent](#) and Daily Mail. Adam wrote opinion pieces on the manifesto in today's [City AM](#) and [Times' Red Box](#).
- BCC's comments on the GDP figures were picked up by the Guardian, and Suren Thiru appeared on BBC News.

Economic update

UK Public sector net borrowing (excluding public sector banks) increased by £0.8 billion to £5.1 billion in March 2017, compared with March 2016. Public sector net debt stood at 86.6% of GDP in March 2017. The first official estimate for Q1 2017 growth in UK GDP revealed that the UK economy grew by 0.3% in the first quarter of 2017, down from 0.7% in the previous quarter. In annual terms, the UK economy grew by 2.1% in Q1. According to the flash estimate, Eurozone inflation stood at 1.9% in April, up from the 1.5% recorded in March, but just below the European Central Bank's inflation target of below, but close to, 2%.

For more information, please contact [Suren Thiru](#).

Coming up

- May 4** Local and Mayoral Elections
 - May 11** ONS publishes trade statistics
 - May 12** BCC releases digital survey on mobile connectivity
 - May 16** ONS publishes inflation statistics
 - May 19** BCC releases QITO Q1 2017
 - Jun 8** General Election
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