



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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# **PRE-BUDGET REPORT DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH TO HELP SUSSEX BUSINESSES**

Gill Edinburgh, Director of Strategy of North Hampshire Enterprise, accuses the Government of “rearranging deckchairs” rather than facing difficult decisions head on

Gill Edinburgh, Director of Strategy of North Hampshire Enterprise said, “We are very disappointed. It is regrettable that the Chancellor did not seize this opportunity to make some difficult decisions and show his commitment to boost economic growth and job creation. Instead the pre-budget report focused on tinkering and window dressing; the phrase re-arranging deck chairs comes to mind!”

“The Chancellor said that the choice facing the country is between securing recovery or wrecking it,” continued Gill Edinburgh. “This pre-budget report does not contain enough detail to allow us to adequately secure recovery. It focuses only the short term, such as identifying £5 billion of proposed savings rather than identifying where the £82 billion required savings should come from.”

“If the Government was a business and came to the Chamber of Commerce for advice,” said Gill Edinburgh, “We would tell them to reduce waste, become more efficient and cut its costs to match its expenditure. In North Hampshire thousands of businesses have had to take these



decisions and act quickly and decisively over last 18 months in order to stay afloat. Instead of doing this, the Government has copped out. What the Chancellor is proposing is a vast number of small changes that will in fact make the system more clunky, more complicated and cost more to administer for small businesses.

“However, there are some parts of the pre-budget report we welcome,” continued Gill Edinburgh, “We called for small business corporation tax to be deferred back in November, as well as extensions to Empty Property Rate Relief. This combined with support to help young people and those over 50 gain work or training, will help our local economy. Unfortunately this is tinkering compared to the key issue of reappraising our national public sector – what the state delivers, how it delivers it and how to re-energize the economy.”

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**Notes to Editors:**

1. North Hampshire Enterprise is the chamber of commerce for the Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester and Test Valley areas. Accredited by the British Chambers of Commerce it exists to help Hampshire businesses prosper and develop by providing expert business help and advice. As a membership organisation it is owned by and accountable to the local business community. Visit [www.northhampshireenterprise.co.uk](http://www.northhampshireenterprise.co.uk)