



## NEWS RELEASE

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# NORTH HAMPSHIRE ENTERPRISE LAUNCHES BUSINESS MANIFESTO

As the leaders of the political parties prepare for the General Election, North Hampshire Enterprise is urging their local Prospective Parliamentary Candidates in North Hampshire to help the business community create jobs and growth to help improve the economy.

This comes as the Chamber publishes its manifesto, entitled 'A Business Manifesto for North Hampshire', which sets out business policy priorities for the next Parliament. Each constituency has identified its own local issues as well as broader North Hampshire issues.

In this manifesto, the business community in North Hampshire has identified policies which we want all Prospective Parliamentary Candidates and MPs to sign-up to and implement over the next five years.

The business manifesto argues that the next government faces fundamental challenges to boost the economy. The core components in the manifesto include:

- **Rebuilding our business infrastructure** – despite the pressure on public finances, the next government must invest in road improvements, including relieving congestion between Fleet and Farnborough on the M3 and the timely delivery of transport infrastructure to support housing growth in Andover and Basingstoke.
- **Avoid more tax and regulation** – the next government should automate Small Business Rate Relief (SBRR) and help SME's cashflow by ensuring all major companies and statutory bodies reduce their payment terms for suppliers to 10 days.



- **Invest and skills and training** – there must be better communication of what skills funding is available for business and make apprenticeships an even more attractive option for employers. The next government must introduce significant educational reforms to raise standards for reading, writing and mathematics in schools.

Gill Edinburgh, Deputy Chief Executive at North Hampshire Enterprise commented on the business manifesto, she said “We have seen a steady improvement in business confidence last year but local firms still need to be supported through the recovery and beyond. We’re inviting the Prospective Parliamentary Candidates to sign-up to the proposals in the manifesto and help address the fundamental challenges which face the local economy, such as the need to invest in our infrastructure and reduce the burden on businesses through unnecessary legislation. After the election this manifesto can be used as a guide to creating an even more successful and vibrant economic and business environment in North Hampshire.”

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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 organization it is owned by and accountable to the local business community. Visit [www.northhampshireenterprise.co.uk](http://www.northhampshireenterprise.co.uk)