



NEWS RELEASE

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GOOD NEWS FOR BUSINESS

Commenting on the business elements in the coalition's programme for government, Gill Edinburgh, Deputy Chief Executive at North Hampshire Enterprise, said:

"North Hampshire Enterprise has campaigned hard on policies to create a better business environment and we are pleased that many of these ideas feature in the coalition's programme for government.

"Plans to reduce the burden of red tape, review employment law and automate small business rate relief are particularly pleasing.

"However, the coalition is planning to raise capital gains tax on non-business assets. Even if there are 'significant reliefs' for entrepreneurs, this policy could hurt ordinary employees participating in company share schemes, hit small investors and dampen the spirit of enterprise in the UK.

"The coalition's steps to roll back the rise in employer National Insurance will help but the increase needs to be cancelled in full to support business growth and job creation.

"Moves to improve access to finance for smaller firms – the engine room of the North Hampshire economy – will be welcomed by many within our membership."

Ends

For more information contact:

Gill Edinburgh
Deputy Chief Executive at
North Hampshire Enterprise
07710 900632
gill.edinburgh@hampshireenterprise.co.uk

Notes to Editors

1. Coalition deal - <http://programmeforgovernment.hmg.gov.uk/>.
2. 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