



NEWS RELEASE

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INTEREST RATE DECISION

Reacting to today's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decision, Gill Edinburgh, Deputy Chief Executive at Sussex Enterprise, the Chamber of Commerce for Sussex, said:

"The MPC made the right decision by leaving interest rates unchanged this month. However, uncertainty over future interest rate policy is damaging confidence. Businesses cannot properly plan for recovery without clear knowledge that rate rises will be off the agenda for a long period.

"The Budget announcement included tough deficit-reduction measures. Although necessary, they will increase the threat of a UK economic setback. It is vital, therefore, that the MPC maintains the current low level of interest rates until the second quarter of 2011 at the earliest."

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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