

## **Business Board to speak with banks**

The Shropshire Business Board has invited all the major banks to a special meeting to discuss their policies on supporting small businesses through the current economic difficulties.

The banks, as well as representatives of the Bank of England, have received the invite with a view to holding a meeting early in the New Year.

Letters have also been sent to the Governor of the Bank of England, Baroness Vadera, the Minister for Economic Competitiveness and Small Business, and Ian Austin MP, West Midlands Minister asking how they intend to ensure that businesses have access to more and cheaper finance. Also the letters question what else the government is planning to do to support businesses through this period.

Geoffrey Davies OBE, Chairman of the Shropshire Business Board, said: "We will be discussing the issues facing Shropshire businesses and how banking policies on local business support and loans might assist in solving problems.

"We hope this will be an opportunity to share experiences, priorities and ideas and to forge positive relations between the banks and Shropshire businesses."

John Hurst-Knight, Shropshire County Council's Cabinet member for economy, added: "The Business Board is focussing on supporting businesses in the county to realise their ambitions."