

PRESS INFORMATION issued by Shropshire Council **Business Enterprise Fund launched at Business Board**

The Shropshire Business Enterprise Fund was officially launched at the latest Shropshire Business Board Meeting on 2 November 2009.

The Shropshire Council scheme has been set up to support new and developing businesses in response to the current difficulties in obtaining finance, and to counter the impact of the recession.

The Business Enterprise Fund Scheme has three categories:

- Retail business grants of up to £1,000 towards business rates.
- Business start up grants of up to £1,500.
- Business booster grants of up to £5,000.

Dr Geoffrey Davies OBE, Chair of Shropshire Business Board, added: "I am really impressed that the council has not only made the funds available but after consulting with the Business Board in late September, has been able to put the scheme into place so quickly.

"It is not just people wanting to set up a business that need support but many existing companies find that they face uncertainty in today's economic climate. Many of today's successful businesses have flourished after receiving a grant from local authorities and I am pleased that many more local businesses will be able to benefit from this exciting new scheme."

David Roberts, Shropshire Council's Cabinet member for local environment and economy, said: "This scheme is extremely important in this current economic climate and I am pleased that we are able to offer this financial support to our local businesses."

Full details of this scheme can be found on Shropshire Council's website www.shropshire.gov.uk/economic_development.nsf. Alternatively, people can call one of the council's Business Support Officers on 01743 252259 or 01743 252531 or e-mail economic.development@shropshire.gov.uk.