

PRESS INFORMATION issued by Shropshire County Council

Business Board plan to buck economic trend

Shropshire business leaders are urging county businesses to gain strength from their own entrepreneurial expertise during the current economic difficulties.

The recently formed Shropshire Business Board is made up from some of the county's biggest employers and representatives from business support organisations. The Board has a remit to guide the development of economic policy for the county and to ensure Shropshire businesses receive strong consideration in regional and national economic planning and investments.

Geoffrey Davies OBE, Chairman of the Shropshire Business Board, said: "These are testing times for businesses. While governments seek global solutions to the banking crisis, the best tools available to Shropshire's small businesses are our strength in business enterprise and participation in joint initiatives with our public sector partners.

"Shropshire businesses can reduce their costs and improve the local economy by: seeking local suppliers in the first instance; taking advantage of local initiatives to reduce energy costs and improve innovation; and increasing collaboration with other businesses to capture new work.

"The Shropshire Business Board is working with public sector partners to ensure small businesses receive easy access to quality business support and to simplify public procurement processes for our small companies. We are now finalising our three year Business Plan, which sets out our programme of work to achieve these objectives within the current economic climate."

John Hurst-Knight, Shropshire County Council's Cabinet member for economy, added: "As a council we are committed to building stronger links with our businesses and support them during these difficult times."

The full Board will next meet on 3 November to consider the new Business Plan, which will set out their priorities and objectives up to 2012.

Ends

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