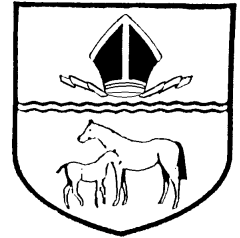


News from East Cambridgeshire District Council



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Author: Tony Taylorson
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EAST CAMBS IS THE PLACE FOR NEW BUSINESSES TO GROW

Despite the economic downturn, East Cambridgeshire continues to be the place for new businesses with a rise of over 15 per cent in firms located in the district in the last seven years.

During 2007/08, 3500 businesses were officially recorded as VAT registered in East Cambridgeshire by NOMIS who supply labour market statistics; this is up from 3350 in the previous year.

The district can also boost a new business survival rate which exceeds the national average. In the last 12 months, 94 per cent of businesses survived the first year in East Cambridgeshire compared with the national figure of 90 per cent.

Over two years, the figures are even better with 86 per cent of businesses surviving compared to the national figure of 80 per cent.

Councillor Ron Bradney, who leads on economic development on East Cambridgeshire District Council said: "These figures show that despite the current economic gloom, East Cambridgeshire is still a great place to start a business. In all the figures available to us we are ahead of the national averages in terms of business survival rates. I am not suggesting that we will be immune to the pressures of the economic downturn but we are better placed than many areas.

"We believe we are popular with business for a variety of reasons. We are in close proximity to Cambridge and London; the area is generally an affordable and attractive place to work and the district has an ever-growing skilled workforce with the population continuing to rise. These are important as we all move forward and batten the hatches as we enter what may be a difficult 2009."

ENDS

Notes for editors

For further information contact Tony Taylorson in the Press and Public Relations Office on 01223 699285.

East Cambridgeshire District Council is working for the well being of the community, with partners, to plan and deliver high quality, customer centred services.

Our objectives:

- High quality services - to champion accessible public services to protect and enhance a high quality of life for all residents and ensuring effective and efficient use of resources
- Partnership - to work with our partners to deliver continuous improvement through effective challenge and learning and achieve the development of an informed, involved and united community
- Sustainable growth - as one of the fastest growing districts in the country, we aim to stimulate and properly manage the social, economic and environmental impact of growth to meet the needs and aspirations of the whole community.