



Medway Conservatives' 6-point pledge to help businesses beat the Credit Crunch

The current economic slowdown is creating a challenging environment for companies across the country and in Medway.

The Conservative Group on Medway Council wants new and existing businesses in Medway to grow and thrive and is doing what we can to support local firms so they can beat the Credit Crunch.

This is why we have launched our 6-point pledge outlining what help is available to businesses at this time.

Our commitment to local firms is to:

1. Pay businesses on time

Small and Medium Sized Businesses rely on invoices being paid on time. This is why Medway Council pays 50% of our invoices within 10 days and 80% of invoices within 20 days.

2. Encourage rate relief take up

The Small Business Rate Relief Scheme provides discounts to small businesses occupying property with a rateable value of less than £15,000. Currently 1,535 businesses receive this relief every year and the Council proactively encourages eligible firms to apply.

3. Help firms to grow

Through the Council's Partners for Growth scheme, small and medium sized companies can secure an interest-free loan and free expert advice to pursue a growth opportunity.

4. Provide important advice and information

A free Business Information Service is provided at Chatham Library, aimed at all stages of business development, from start-ups to expanding firms.

5. Offer facilities and support

Medway's Innovation Centre provides facilities for start-up companies from hot desks to corporate accommodation.

6. Share and support business success

The annual Business Awards presents the opportunity for firms in Medway to stand out and for their innovation and hard work to be recognised.