



## NEWS RELEASE

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# STRONG SKILLS BASE ESSENTIAL FOR GROWTH OF HAMPSHIRE FIRMS

The Government has launched a consultation on the future direction of skills policy, called "Skills for Sustainable Growth". Commenting, Gill Edinburgh, Deputy Chief Executive at North Hampshire Enterprise, the Chamber of Commerce for North Hampshire, said:

"A knowledgeable and skilled workforce is fundamental to the development of a rich and diverse local economy. Business wants the public sector to focus limited resources on basic employability skills, focused apprenticeships and the leadership and management skills needed to help grow small businesses. North Hampshire Enterprise is pleased to see an emphasis on the apprenticeship programme which is a key recruitment resource for many small firms.

"Businesses have long complained that there is a mismatch between the skills on offer and their business needs. These simplification plans must root out this mismatch – because getting the right skills to businesses means growth in productivity, jobs and tax revenue."

**Ends**

**For more information contact:**

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**Notes to Editors:**

1. North Hampshire Enterprise is the chamber of commerce for **the Basingstoke and Deane, Hart, Rushmoor, Winchester and Test Valley areas**. Accredited by the British Chambers of Commerce it exists to help Hampshire businesses prosper and develop by providing expert business help and advice. As a membership organization it is owned by and accountable to the local business community. Visit [www.northhampshireenterprise.co.uk](http://www.northhampshireenterprise.co.uk)
2. A copy of the consultation paper is attached.