

Businesses invited to rates consultation

Businesses in North Devon and Torrige are being invited to attend a breakfast meeting next month to find out about various business issues, such as how their rates are spent.

North Devon Council and Torrige District Council are holding the joint business rates consultation, in collaboration with the Chambers of Commerce, on Wednesday 1 February. It is aimed at anyone who pays business rates, which is a tax paid by occupiers of all properties used for non-domestic purposes. There will also be an opportunity to hear from other organisations about the local economy, broadband issues and the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership.

North Devon Council Leader, Councillor Brian Greenslade, says: "This consultation is an opportunity for businesses to find out how their contributions are spent on services. Even though our councils are not responsible for setting business rates, as this is done by central government, there may be more local say when the Localism Act is fully enacted. This relates to how the district's share of money is distributed. Therefore, we'd be interested in any feedback from business rate payers."

Torrige District Council Leader, Councillor Barry Parsons, says: "We'd like anyone who pays business rates in the area to come along to this event. The session is fairly short and is being held first thing in the morning to minimise any impact on the working day for businesses. We'll also have information about the rate relief scheme, which some individuals may find they qualify for."

As well as officers from both councils, representatives from North Devon + and the Chamber of Commerce will be attending. Delegates will also be able to hear about the Local Enterprise Partnership from Chairman of the LEP Business Forum Rupert Cox, and there will be a broadband presentation from Mike Matthews of the Federation of Small Businesses.

The business rates consultation will be held from 8am to 9.15am in the Taw Room at the Civic Centre in Barnstaple. Anyone wishing to attend can simply turn up at 8am on the day, or they can contact Vanessa Harrison on 01271 388216 or vanessa.harrison@northdevon.gov.uk to register their interest.

Media only – not for publication

For further information, contact:

Cllr Brian Greenslade
Council Leader
North Devon Council
01271 372065
brian.greenslade@northdevon.gov.uk

Vanessa Harrison
Economic Development Assistant
North Devon Council
01271 388216
vanessa.harrison@northdevon.gov.uk

Cllr Barry Parsons
Council Leader
Torrige District Council
01237 428705
councillor.parsons@torridge.gov.uk

Phil Byers
Director and Past President
Barnstaple and District Chamber of Commerce
07977 208533
philip@projectsw.co.uk

Ref: NDC PR 12-07