

Weston MP promoted to Business Team...

Local MP John Penrose has been promoted to Ken Clarke's business team to help British businesses weather the current economic storm

John said: "I'm delighted David Cameron has asked me to join Ken Clarke's team. With the economy reeling and job losses mounting it's going to be an important and difficult topic. We've got to show how to get British companies back on their feet quickly and cheaply.

"Weston isn't immune from the recession either; many local shops and businesses are finding it hard to keep their heads above water and we've seen a string of closures in Weston's high street and local villages too

"The closures have meant unemployment in our area has almost doubled in the last year alone and repossessions have increased as more people are



■ John Penrose with Ken Clarke

finding it difficult to pay their mortgage. That's why we need to do everything we can to support our local businesses and shops and to minimise the effects of the recession too."

Help available for Businesses

Weston MP John Penrose has urged local businesses to see if they are eligible for Small Business Rate Relief. They could save up to £1,100 a year but only half of eligible firms know how to claim it

John said: "I'd like to urge all local shops and any other small business in Weston and the villages to see if they're eligible for the Small Business Rate Relief if they haven't already done so. It could provide real financial help and might make the difference between staying afloat and going under."

Further details on the relief can be found at:
<http://www.leaseholdersunited.com/smallbusinessraterelief/index.aspx>

More help for most vulnerable

John Penrose has succeeded in his campaign to get better access to emergency crisis loans for Weston's most vulnerable after being contacted by local residents who couldn't get through on

the emergency phone line to make an application

The Weston MP said: "The Crisis Loan is designed to provide immediate help to anyone suffering from an emergency or disaster and who

has nowhere else to turn. Given the current economic climate it's a vital lifeline. More and more people are finding that they need the help it can provide.



"Despite its importance, many people are finding that they cannot get through to make an application. Even our local Citizen's Advice Bureau were often told there was no one available to talk to them. Given that people who apply for the loan have nowhere else to turn and need urgent help, it's shocking that this is happening.

"I've spoken to the people who manage the phone line. They've accepted there's a problem and they've put on extra staff to deal with the increased number of calls. I will be watching the situation very carefully to make sure these changes are enough."

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Here is your chance to tell John Penrose MP what you think about any issue. Please write your comments to John here....

(Please attach extra sheets of paper if necessary)

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email Address: _____

Please return to

John Penrose, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

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Local business bucking the economic trend



■ Long established Weston based company Bakers Dolphin is bucking the economic trend

Weston-super-Mare MP John Penrose was joined by Sales and Marketing Director Amanda Harrington and Operations Director Max Fletcher to open Bakers Dolphin's new headquarters before being taken on a tour to see the renovations and to meet the staff

John said: "With all the stories of economic doom and gloom in the news at the moment, it's great to see a local company with the confidence and resources to invest in its future like this. It's good news for the staff too, who will be working in new and modern surroundings.

"Bakers Dolphin has a long history in Weston - they've been here for more than a century - so it's good to see them continuing to do well. They're a ray of sunshine during the economic gloom."

John Penrose MP - Working for you all year round