

# Devon and Cornwall Business Council

Sowton Business Forum  
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# What the Council is

- Private sector led, sub regional economic partnership
- 70+ constituent national, regional and local organisations
- Representing some 20,000 businesses
- Not a membership organisation
- Funded by key private sector companies in the region

# What the council does

- Regional economic development
- Transport infrastructure
- Industry troubleshooting
- Venture capital (finance Cornwall/Devon)
- ICT infrastructure ( ACT now/Broadband 4 Devon)
- Supporting sustainable investment ( Met Office)
- Central contact and communication point for business

# Five Strategic Issues

- Arterial Transport
- Entrepreneurship and Aspirational culture
- Regional Spatial Planning
- Promoting Sustainable Investment
- Skills Productivity and Education

# Economy

- We are in the bottom five counties for G.V.A.
- We run at 60% of the U.K. productivity
- Devon has the lowest productivity growth in the 7 counties
- Highest exporter of graduates in the U.K.
- Lost 200,000 manufacturing jobs in 2004

# Challenges

- Rural areas 25% population lack basic skills
- 70 % jobs will be urban areas
- Highest number of 45+ year olds in the U.K. and the lowest under 16 population in the U.K.
- Torrington has the lowest weekly wage of 409 districts in the U.K.
- High housing costs
- 30% employers have difficulty in recruiting skilled staff
- By 2020, 500,000 migrants in to the region

# Future Economy

- Modern economies will rely on knowledge and innovation
- Businesses need to continually develop products and services to survive
- Need to keep up to date with rapidly changing markets, technologies and competitors
- Culture of innovation
- Improved access to knowledge

# Skills Productivity and Education

- Apparent disconnect between schools, colleges and suppliers of labour
- The business community is getting involved with local education establishments
- The relationship between the small employers and Government bodies is difficult to achieve
- Background of 80% micro business
- Knowledge economy means smaller employers and more of them

# NETWORKING

Google search 416,000,000

- Definition: The gathering of acquaintances or contacts for building up or maintaining of informal relationships especially with people where friendship could bring an advantage in business or job opportunities

# NETWORKING

- D.C.B.C. is not a networking organisation
- We have a network of up to 20,000 businesses
- Networking is incidental by-product of our activities
- Our quarterly meetings are an invited audience of the Leaders of the business groupings of Devon and Cornwall
- They look to groups such as this, Chamber of commerce for the networking option
- A straw poll of them yesterday not one belongs to a networking group per se



# Questions?

[WWW.DCBC.CO.UK](http://WWW.DCBC.CO.UK)