

BUSINESSES MUST BE FREED FROM RED TAPE TO SUPPORT BIG SOCIETY MINISTER TELLS ESSEX FSB

Essex FSB (Federation of Small Businesses) has been told that the Government aims to free businesses from red tape to allow them and their staff to play an effective role in The Big Society.

The message came from Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Brentwood and Ongar Member of Parliament Eric Pickles who was speaking at the One Epping Forest Stakeholder Conference held at Epping Forest College in Loughton today. Essex FSB Vice Chairman, Alan Jefcoate who attended the conference, said: "Mr Pickles gave an interesting speech outlining how the Government sees The Big Society impacting on the people of Essex explaining the role he saw for voluntary groups working alongside the public sector.

"Following a question from Essex FSB he then outlined the way he sees businesses being involved in The Big Society.

"He praised the way Essex FSB had been involved in creating the Greater Essex, Kent and East Sussex Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and that it was important that it continued to be involved in delivering economic growth through the LEP to benefit the local community.

"Mr Pickles said that the main role for any business was to make money so they could provide economic wealth and jobs for local people as well as pay their taxes to help finance the government's activities.

"He added that making a profit also meant that businesses were then able to support The Big Society in a number of ways ranging from advertising in a local fete programme through to releasing staff to volunteer to help in their communities.

"No business exists on its own, it's an integral part of the community where it is based and it must not be strangled by red tape but must be freed from those restrictions to allow them to thrive and give back to the communities where they are based."

Mr Jefcoate added: "The views expressed by the Secretary of State are ones which Essex FSB welcomes and which we hope to see transferred into action as quickly as possible."

The FSB represents more than 210,000 business people across the United Kingdom and is the largest single organisation representing business interests in the country.

The Essex Region of the FSB represents small businesses in the areas covered by Essex County Council and the London Boroughs of Havering and Redbridge.

More information on the Essex Region of the FSB (Federation of Small Businesses) can

be found at www.fsb.org.uk/essex or at FSBEssex on Twitter