

North Devon Conservatives

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Support the Bill to help Small Businesses

Local Campaigner Philip Milton has today given his backing to a proposed new Bill designed to grant business rate relief to small businesses across North Devon and the rest of the Country automatically.

The Small Business Rate Relief (Automatic Payment) Bill is due to be debated in the House of Commons on Friday 6 March 2009.

Business rates are currently the third largest cost to small firms, after salaries and rent. Yet many small businesses are unaware that they are entitled to rate relief.

Every year, around £400 million (as calculated and ear-marked by the Treasury for eligible businesses) goes unclaimed - even though this money poses no extra cost to the Government or tax payer.

More than half of small businesses miss-out on claiming back up to £1,200 of their business rates.

Commenting on the new Bill, Philip Milton, the Conservative Prospective MP for North Devon, said:

“Small businesses are the heart of our local economy and I am delighted that this Bill, which has the potential to help so many local businesses, has been launched.

“It is alarming how many businesses did not know about the rate relief. I am urging all those who care about local small businesses to write to their MP and ask them to support the new Bill.

“In these difficult times, every penny counts. A simple online tool has been created for local businesses to check if they are eligible for the relief and how to apply for it - please visit www.leaseholdersunited.com for more details.”

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