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A new Enterprise Zone will be created in the West of England area, today's Budget announced, potentially offering a simplified planning regime and favourable local business rates designed to stimulate growth and encourage new jobs and businesses.

Colin Skellett -Chairman of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership was delighted "One of our principal objectives was to make the case for a reduction in the barriers which prevent our businesses from growing and developing in the ways they would. This announcement is terrific news because it will make our area more attractive for new companies who will bring fresh investment and deliver new jobs."

Further details on the Enterprise Zone will be announced as soon as possible.

Colin Skellett went on to say,

"As far as business is concerned, perhaps the most encouraging general thing we heard from the Chancellor was the language he used and his concentration on delivering a plan for growth in which the private sector would be freed up to deliver more jobs and Britain became the best place to start and run a business."

"He also correctly identified the need to change our planning system which has been a barrier to development and he made it plain that he expected Councils to adopt a default position which was in favour of allowing applications, to place a sensible time limit for dealing with them and to remove cumbersome regulations."

"More specifically, it was pleasing to hear him talk about the need to help the advanced engineering and creative sectors, in which we are already strong. The larger than expected 2% cut in Corporation is welcome as is the announcement that 43 tax reliefs are to be scrapped as part of simplification of the tax code, while small businesses will be delighted to hear that there will be no new regulation on firms with fewer than 10 staff for three years."

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