

10PBG Light Industrial Business Survey – Results

Issue	Priority (no. of mentions)	Suggested Action(s) & comments	Delivery
Business Support			
Expert advice & support needed (changes to legislation e.g. pensions, tax, payroll, H&S, Business Rates reliefs & review process, support & advice from local authorities, sector-specific advice eg manufacturing, funding, training)	18	Clearer signposting to advice, single point of contact idea, regular updates, business support	10PBG, TDBC, LEP
Local businesses could work together more as a community, offering discounts or a local trading scheme, plus stronger peer support	5	Options explored, peer support via networking events	10PBG
Red tape – specifically HMRC & Health & Safety - needs to be reduced, to be proportionate to the size of business or it's profits	4	Lobby via national business groups?	10PBG
Planning applications - a need for more clarity and a quicker process	4	Facilitate meeting with senior TDBC Planner?	10PBG, TDBC
Visitor offer needs to be strengthened across Somerset (esp night-time economy)	3	Lobby/work with VisitSomerset & TDBC?	10PBG, VS, TDBC
More local promotional opportunities wanted	2	Highlight Showcase & Directory, consider printed directory?	10PBG
More awareness of which other businesses are nearby	2	Promote Directory (inclusion in and use of)	10PBG
Infrastructure			
Slow Broadband speed (affecting sales & business development)	6	Lobby Connecting Devon & Somerset, LEP, BT?	10PBG
Need to retain employment land to build sustainable community in face of housing development pressure	6	Empl. Land Strategy & promotion	TDBC
Improved roads to motorway and greater resilience to poor weather needed	5	Lobby County Council	SCC
Mobile phone coverage remains patchy and is of poor quality when connected	5	Lobby OFCOM?	10PBG
Concern over lack of facilities (shops, schools and health) once new housing is built	3	Highlight concerns to TDBC Cllrs & planners, Wiv PC	10PBG
Parking in the town centre is insufficient at busy times	2	Enforcement re: vehicles left	TDBC? Who owns?
Road signs are unclear for HGV's	2	Identify exact issue, lobby SCC	10PBG, SCC

People & Skills			
More awareness of what Further Education options are available nearby	3	Invite FE Colleges to networking events & Showcase, ask for regular updates	10PBG
Finding staff with the right skills is a challenge for some	3	Invite specialist Recruitment agencies to Networking events?	10PBG
Other			
Signage rules need to be relaxed to allow reasonable signage for businesses – specifically signs on main roads for trading estates	3		

Impact of Natwest bank closure on business

- a) Yes – significant impact - 4
- b) Yes – minor impact – 5
- c) No impact on business - 10

Benefits of basing business here

- Provenance – being based locally and having a heritage brings loyalty
- Quality of life – good place to live and work
- Small commute for most
- Low cost of labour

Observation

A significant number of the participating businesses advertised email addresses online but didn't check them regularly or had changed to another address.

Draft Vision

A stronger local economy, where businesses are more connected with each other, do more local trading, and are supported to grow by TDBC & 10PBG.

Participating businesses

20 responded from 39 contacted (51%).

Quantock Engineering Ltd
 RGB Ltd
 Cotleigh Brewery Ltd
 Aardvark EM Ltd

W H Hendy & Sons Ltd
EPS Services & Tooling
Somerset & Westcountry Stairlifts Ltd.
West Taunton Powder Coatings
Wasteology
Milverton Sawmill
West Country Guns
Stuart Garden Architecture
Exmoor Ales
Country Cars & Vans
Empire Signs
J.W. Corrick
Manor Garage
Naughty Magpie
Distribution Doctor Ltd
Woodlouse Conservation Ltd