

Press Release

15th June 2009.

Chambers Demand Value for Money from Local Authorities.

Employment Potential of Business Sector Needs Recognition.

Following its regular quarterly meeting, South East Chambers has issued a strong call to all Local Authorities in the region to recognise the importance of the Business sector to the local and national economy.

Speaking following the meeting, Dick White, South East Chambers, Public Relations Officer stated “We are of the view that the potential and importance of the business sector is not recognised at Local Authority levels and that we are only seen as a cash generating vehicle”

South East Chambers, represents nine Chambers stretching from Dungarvan to Gorey and includes, Carlow, Clonmel, Enniscorthy, Kilkenny, New Ross, Waterford and Wexford towns. With a Population of in excess of 500,000 people the region is one of the more significant areas in the country and offers real employment opportunities.

Covering the counties of Carlow, Kilkenny, South Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford the Chambers are of the view that the lack of a coherent focus at regional level retards potential growth. Continuing, White added, “With County Councils and Town and Borough councils all seemingly operating as independent republics the Business sector, regionally finds it difficult to obtain a coherent response”

Recognising the need to generate local taxes through commercial rates the PRO continued “We are in no way disputing the need to pay our rates, nor the need to fund local services, but on a regional basis nobody is happy that we are getting value for money at this stage”

Concluding “Millions of euro is collected across the region and many business people are at a loss as to what service is actually provided. We need to be seen to get value for money and call on all local authorities to clarify the situation. In addition the Business sector provides local employment and generates income that drives our local and national economies and this needs to be recognised”

ENDS.

From the Desk of:

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