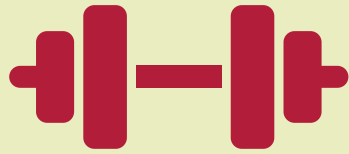




Improved business performance 49%

businesses reported improvement in performance, 5% reported a deterioration.

ALTHOUGH: a decrease from the 57% in the previous year.



Strengths in Sectors:



High Performance Technology Research and Development



Transport and logistics



Agri-Food



Visitor Economy



Business investing in training

10.5% employees received jobs related training in March 2016, above 9.6% national and 8.9% area rates.

Central Bedfordshire

Central Bedfordshire is a great place to start or grow your BUSINESS



Over 100 new commercial deals remained static on previous years, greatest % in Dunstable 40% and Leighton Buzzard 28%. Majority of deals for industrial and distribution, and retail.

Less businesses are reporting hard to fill vacancies

(39%, down from 46% in 2014) and below the SEMLEP area rate of 46%.

Largest number of businesses across SEMLEP area*

11,570 – 6.5% higher than last year.

GVA increasing

£5.4 billion generated in 2014
£300 million growth 2013-2014



90%

of businesses in CBC are Micro – less than 10 employees.



Higher survival rates – At all age ranges the business survival rate is higher in CBC than national

in 2014 the 5 year survival rate for new business was 47%, higher than the national rate of 42%.

BUT

Business growth*

although the 6.5% growth in number of businesses in 2015 is increasing, comparator areas saw higher growth – national 8.5% and SEMLEP area 9.0%.

Entrepreneurial activity level

has fallen by 1% over the last year, not in line with comparator areas that witnessed growth (national 0.6% and SEMLEP area 6.6%).

Barriers to growth

economic climate over regulation/red tape attracting/retaining customers.

Job related training only

received by 11% of private businesses, compared with 18% of public businesses.

Minority business

make up 3% of businesses compared to around 10% of the Central Bedfordshire Population.