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

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

Less businesses are reporting hard to fill vacancies (39%, down from 46% in 2014) and below the SEMLEP area rate of 46%.

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.

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.

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.

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%.

Largest number of businesses across SEMLEP area* 11,570 – 6.5% higher than last year.

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