

9 April 2003

BUILDING ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY IN THE EAST OF ENGLAND

Families, pensioners and business across the East of England will benefit directly from measures announced in today's Budget delivered by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Against a backdrop of global economic uncertainty and hostilities in Iraq, the Budget sets out the long-term reforms that will leave Britain well placed to deal with the impact of global events, and benefit from the coming global upturn, to build a Britain of economic strength and social justice, a Britain that is enterprising, flexible and fair.

More than ever before, Budget 2003 takes account of issues and priorities affecting the English regions. The East of England Development Agency was, along with the other Regional Development Agencies in England, for the first time as part of preparations for a Budget, asked by the Treasury to suggest policy measures on four key themes: **innovation, enterprise, regulatory reform** and **skills**. Treasury Ministers also listened to the views of regional industry, the voluntary sector and local authorities during a series of regional visits in the run up to Budget 2003.

The Chancellor said:

“We have ensured that the Budget responds to the needs and priorities of the East of England so that people, businesses and the environment will benefit through measures including: greater assistance for lone parents, greater flexibility for local and regional Jobcentre Plus offices, a package of deregulatory reforms, additional training support and tax reforms for small businesses, enhanced support for regional R & D and increased promotion and encouragement of enterprise and innovation.”

Measures announced today which are particularly relevant to the East of England include:

- **introduction of a Child Trust Fund**, strengthening the saving habit of future generations and spreading the benefits of asset ownership to all – to the benefit of the 60,100 children typically born in the East of England each year;
- **an extra £100 for the 143,000 households in the East of England with someone aged 80 or over** in addition to the £200 winter fuel payment for the remainder of this Parliament;
- **a package of new measures to increase the supply of housing**, promote greater flexibility in the housing market and to streamline and simplify the planning regime;
- **extending to 52 weeks the period over which all pensioners in hospital receive their full State Pension**;
- **a package of support for new and growing businesses**, including proposals to improve access to finance and wide-ranging reforms to simplify the tax system and reduce regulatory burdens – with the aim of increasing the business start-up rate in the East of England from its current level of 39.9 per 10,000 adult population;
- **further steps to improve skills in the workforce**, with Enterprise Advisers in schools in deprived areas, the launch of additional Employer Training Pilots; and reforms to facilitate migration as a source of skills in the economy;
- **new proposals to streamline and simplify the planning regime** to increase productivity and promote flexibility in the UK housing market;
- **more intensive support to help lone parents and partners** of out-of-work benefit claimants find work including pilots of a new jobsearch premium to cover the costs of looking for work for lone parents, and an enhanced New Deal for partners, building upon the help and support that 22,000 people in the East of England have received from the New Deal for Lone Parents;
- **substantial reform of Housing Benefit** including measures to increase the reliability of service for claimants, and

available to 15,000 recipients of Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit in the East of England;

- **a new compliance and enforcement package** to protect direct tax revenues and designed to save £1.6 billion over three years, and further anti-avoidance measures securing an additional £500 million a year;
- the launch of a study into the scope for **relocating public service staff** in recognition of the growing regional and local dimension to policy-making and delivery, and the potential for improving cost effectiveness;
- measures will be introduced to ensure that all **public sector pay systems**, including those in the East of England, will include a stronger regional and local dimension, where appropriate; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- action to improve **waste management**, an increase in the landfill tax escalator and support to help business reduce waste volumes; and an **increase in the main road fuel duties** in line with inflation from 1 October 2003;
- a freeze in the **duties** on spirits, and an increase of one penny in the duty on a pint of beer and of two pence in the duty on a standard 175ml glass of wine, and an increase in tobacco duties in line with inflation;
- new steps to promote dialogue and discussion with all **English regions**, including the East of England, to strengthen their input into future policy-making, including new regional statements of the key Budget decisions.

The Treasury will be publishing a booklet setting out more detail about Budget 2003 and what it means for the East of England shortly.

Other Relevant Press Notices

PN02 Responding to regional development issues

EAST OF ENGLAND STATISTICS

The new **Child Tax Credit** will provide, from April 2003, additional targeted support for families with children, for which 460,000 families in the East of England will be eligible. In addition, the **Working Tax Credit** will improve work incentives for 90,000 eligible families in the East of England.

Increased **Child Benefit** will benefit 638,000 families in the East of England and provide at least an extra £5 per week for every family above the 1997 levels.

300,000 pensioner households in the East of England will be eligible for the new **Pension Credit** (to be introduced in October 2003).

Measures to assist **small businesses**, such as extension of 100% First Year ICT capital allowances, simplification of the VAT regime, improvements to the R&D tax credit and extension of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme, will benefit many of the 383,000 businesses in the East of England.

Enterprise will be boosted by a range of measures in the 2000 **Enterprise Areas** (in around 50 wards in the East of England) including greater promotion of HM Customs and Excise business advice services and accreditation of community development finance institutions able to offer community investment tax relief, and confirmation of the extension of stamp duty relief, from 10 April 2003, to all non-residential transactions.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Treasury's response to the Budget input from the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) is set out in the Budget 2003 Press Notice "**Promoting flexibility across the regions**" (PN 02).

HM TREASURY PRESS OFFICE

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9 April 2003

BUILDING ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY IN THE EAST MIDLANDS

Families, pensioners and business across the East Midlands will benefit directly from measures announced in today's Budget delivered by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Against a backdrop of global economic uncertainty and hostilities in Iraq, the Budget sets out the long-term reforms that will leave Britain well placed to deal with the impact of global events, and benefit from the coming global upturn, to build a Britain of economic strength and social justice, a Britain that is enterprising, flexible and fair.

More than ever before, Budget 2003 takes account of issues and priorities affecting the English regions. The East Midlands Development Agency was, along with the other Regional Development Agencies in England, for the first time as part of preparations for a Budget, asked by the Treasury to suggest policy measures on four key themes: **innovation, enterprise, regulatory reform** and **skills**. Treasury Ministers also listened to the views of regional industry, the voluntary sector and local authorities during a series of regional visits in the run up to Budget 2003.

The Chancellor said:

“We have ensured that the Budget responds to the needs and priorities of the East Midlands so that people, businesses and the environment will benefit through measures including: greater assistance for lone parents, greater flexibility for local and regional Jobcentre Plus offices, a package of deregulatory reforms, additional training support and tax reforms for small businesses, enhanced support for regional R & D and increased promotion and encouragement of enterprise and innovation.”

Measures announced today which are particularly relevant to the East Midlands include:

- **introduction of a Child Trust Fund**, strengthening the saving habit of future generations and spreading the benefits of asset ownership to all – to the benefit of the 44,600 children typically born in the East Midlands each year;
- **an extra £100 for the 103,000 households in the East Midlands with someone aged 80 or over** in addition to the £200 winter fuel payment for the remainder of this Parliament;
- **a package of new measures to increase the supply of housing**, promote greater flexibility in the housing market and to streamline and simplify the planning regime;
- **extending to 52 weeks the period over which all pensioners in hospital receive their full State Pension**;
- **a package of support for new and growing businesses**, including proposals to improve access to finance and wide-ranging reforms to simplify the tax system and reduce regulatory burdens – with the aim of increasing the business start-up rate in the East Midlands from its current level of 34.3 per 10,000 adult population;
- **further steps to improve skills in the workforce**, with Enterprise Advisers in schools in deprived areas, the launch of additional Employer Training Pilots (one of which is in Leicester, in addition to the existing pilot in Derby); and reforms to facilitate migration as a source of skills in the economy;
- **new proposals to streamline and simplify the planning regime** to increase productivity and promote flexibility in the UK housing market;
- **more intensive support to help lone parents and partners** of out-of-work benefit claimants find work including pilots of a new jobsearch premium to cover the costs of looking for work for lone parents, and an enhanced New Deal for partners, building upon the help and support that 19,000 people in the East Midlands have received from the New Deal for Lone Parents;

- **substantial reform of Housing Benefit** including measures to increase the reliability of service for claimants, and available to 11,000 recipients of Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit in the East Midlands;
- **a new compliance and enforcement package** to protect direct tax revenues and designed to save £1.6 billion over three years, and further anti-avoidance measures securing an additional £500 million a year;
- the launch of a study into the scope for **relocating public service staff** in recognition of the growing regional and local dimension to policy-making and delivery, and the potential for improving cost effectiveness; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- measures will be introduced to ensure that all **public sector pay systems**, including those in the East Midlands, will include a stronger regional and local dimension, where appropriate; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- action to improve **waste management**, an increase in the landfill tax escalator and support to help business reduce waste volumes; and an **increase in the main road fuel duties** in line with inflation from 1 October 2003;
- a freeze in the **duties** on spirits, and an increase of one penny in the duty on a pint of beer and of two pence in the duty on a standard 175ml glass of wine, and an increase in tobacco duties in line with inflation;
- new steps to promote dialogue and discussion with all **English regions**, including the East Midlands, to strengthen their input into future policy-making, including new regional statements of the key Budget decisions.

The Treasury will be publishing a booklet setting out more detail about Budget 2003 and what it means for the East Midlands shortly.

Other Relevant Press Notices

PN02 Responding to regional development issues

EAST MIDLANDS STATISTICS

The new **Child Tax Credit** will provide, from April 2003, additional targeted support for families with children, for which 380,000 families in the East Midlands will be eligible. In addition, the **Working Tax Credit** will improve work incentives for 90,000 eligible families in the East Midlands.

Increased **Child Benefit** will benefit 505,000 families in the East Midlands and provide at least an extra £5 per week for every family above the 1997 levels.

300,000 pensioner households in the East Midlands will be eligible for the new **Pension Credit** (to be introduced in October 2003).

Measures to assist **small businesses**, such as extension of 100% First Year ICT capital allowances, simplification of the VAT regime, improvements to the R&D tax credit and extension of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme, will benefit many of the 233,000 businesses in the East Midlands.

Enterprise will be boosted by a range of measures in the 2000 **Enterprise Areas** (in around 130 wards in the East Midlands) including greater promotion of HM Customs and Excise business advice services and accreditation of community development finance institutions able to offer community investment tax relief, and confirmation of the extension of stamp duty relief, from 10 April 2003, to all non-residential transactions.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Treasury's response to the Budget input from the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) is set out in the Budget 2003 Press Notice "**Promoting flexibility across the regions**" (PN 02).

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9 April 2003

BUILDING ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY IN LONDON

Families, pensioners and business across London will benefit directly from measures announced in today's Budget delivered by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Against a backdrop of global economic uncertainty and hostilities in Iraq, the Budget sets out the long-term reforms that will leave Britain well placed to deal with the impact of global events, and benefit from the coming global upturn, to build a Britain of economic strength and social justice, a Britain that is enterprising, flexible and fair.

More than ever before, Budget 2003 takes account of issues and priorities affecting the English regions. The London Development Agency was, along with the other Regional Development Agencies in England, for the first time as part of preparations for a Budget, asked by the Treasury to suggest policy measures on four key themes: **innovation, enterprise, regulatory reform** and **skills**. Treasury Ministers also listened to the views of regional industry, the voluntary sector and local authorities during a series of regional visits in the run up to Budget 2003.

The Chancellor said:

“We have ensured that the Budget responds to the needs and priorities of London so that people, businesses and the environment will benefit through measures including: greater assistance for lone parents, greater flexibility for local and regional Jobcentre Plus offices, a package of deregulatory reforms, additional training support and tax reforms for small businesses, enhanced support for regional R & D and increased promotion and encouragement of enterprise and innovation.”

Measures announced today which are particularly relevant to London include:

- **introduction of a Child Trust Fund**, strengthening the saving habit of future generations and spreading the benefits of asset ownership to all – to the benefit of the 104,200 children typically born in London each year;
- **an extra £100 for the 228,500 households in London with someone aged 80 or over** in addition to the £200 winter fuel payment for the remainder of this Parliament;
- **a package of new measures to increase the supply of housing**, promote greater flexibility in the housing market and to streamline and simplify the planning regime;
- **extending to 52 weeks the period over which all pensioners in hospital receive their full State Pension**;
- **a package of support for new and growing businesses**, including proposals to improve access to finance and wide-ranging reforms to simplify the tax system and reduce regulatory burdens – with the aim of increasing the business start-up rate in London from its current level of 59.4 per 10,000 adult population;
- **further steps to improve skills in the workforce**, with Enterprise Advisers in schools in deprived areas, the launch of additional Employer Training Pilots (one of which is in East London); and reforms to facilitate migration as a source of skills in the economy;
- **new proposals to streamline and simplify the planning regime** to increase productivity and promote flexibility in the UK housing market;
- **more intensive support to help lone parents and partners** of out-of-work benefit claimants find work including pilots of a new jobsearch premium to cover the costs of looking for work for lone parents, and an enhanced New Deal for partners, building upon the help and support that 43,000 people in London have received from the New Deal for Lone Parents;
- **substantial reform of Housing Benefit** including measures to increase the reliability of service for claimants, and

available to 27,000 recipients of Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit in London;

- **a new compliance and enforcement package** to protect direct tax revenues and designed to save £1.6 billion over three years, and further anti-avoidance measures securing an additional £500 million a year;
- the launch of a study into the scope for **relocating public service staff** in recognition of the growing regional and local dimension to policy-making and delivery, and the potential for improving cost effectiveness; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- measures will be introduced to ensure that all **public sector pay systems**, including those in London, will include a stronger regional and local dimension, where appropriate; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- action to improve **waste management**, an increase in the landfill tax escalator and support to help business reduce waste volumes; and an **increase in the main road fuel duties** in line with inflation from 1 October 2003;
- a freeze in the **duties** on spirits, and an increase of one penny in the duty on a pint of beer and of two pence in the duty on a standard 175ml glass of wine, and an increase in tobacco duties in line with inflation;
- new steps to promote dialogue and discussion with all **English regions**, including London, to strengthen their input into future policy-making, including new regional statements of the key Budget decisions.

The Treasury will be publishing a booklet setting out more detail about Budget 2003 and what it means for London shortly.

Other Relevant Press Notices

PN02 Responding to regional development issues

LONDON STATISTICS

The new **Child Tax Credit** will provide, from April 2003, additional targeted support for families with children, for which 700,000 families in London will be eligible. In addition, the **Working Tax Credit** will improve work incentives for 130,000 eligible families in London.

Increased **Child Benefit** will benefit almost 857,500 families in London and provide at least an extra £5 per week for every family above the 1997 levels.

450,000 pensioner households in London will be eligible for the new **Pension Credit** (to be introduced in October 2003).

Measures to assist **small businesses**, such as extension of 100% First Year ICT capital allowances, simplification of the VAT regime, improvements to the R&D tax credit and extension of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme, will benefit many of the 668,000 businesses in London.

Enterprise will be boosted by a range of measures in the 2000 **Enterprise Areas** (in around 230 wards in London) including greater promotion of HM Customs and Excise business advice services and accreditation of community development finance institutions able to offer community investment tax relief, and confirmation of the extension of stamp duty relief, from 10 April 2003, to all non-residential transactions.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Treasury's response to the Budget input from the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) is set out in the Budget 2003 Press Notice "**Promoting flexibility across the regions**" (PN 02).

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9 April 2003

BUILDING ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY IN THE NORTH EAST

Families, pensioners and business across the North East will benefit directly from measures announced in today's Budget delivered by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Against a backdrop of global economic uncertainty and hostilities in Iraq, the Budget sets out the long-term reforms that will leave Britain well placed to deal with the impact of global events, and benefit from the coming global upturn, to build a Britain of economic strength and social justice, a Britain that is enterprising, flexible and fair.

More than ever before, Budget 2003 takes account of issues and priorities affecting the English regions. One North East was, along with the other Regional Development Agencies in England, for the first time as part of preparations for a Budget, asked by the Treasury to suggest policy measures on four key themes: **innovation, enterprise, regulatory reform** and **skills**. Treasury Ministers also listened to the views of regional industry, the voluntary sector and local authorities during a series of regional visits in the run up to Budget 2003.

The Chancellor said:

“We have ensured that the Budget responds to the needs and priorities of the North East so that people, businesses and the environment will benefit through measures including: greater assistance for lone parents, greater flexibility for local and regional Jobcentre Plus offices, a package of deregulatory reforms, additional training support and tax reforms for small businesses, enhanced support for regional R & D and increased promotion and encouragement of enterprise and innovation.”

Measures announced today which are particularly relevant to the North East include:

- **introduction of a Child Trust Fund**, strengthening the saving habit of future generations and spreading the benefits of asset

ownership to all – to the benefit of the 25,900 children typically born in the North East each year;

- **an extra £100 for the 77,000 households in the North East with someone aged 80 or over** in addition to the £200 winter fuel payment for the remainder of this Parliament;
- **a package of new measures to increase the supply of housing**, promote greater flexibility in the housing market and to streamline and simplify the planning regime;
- **extending to 52 weeks the period over which all pensioners in hospital receive their full State Pension**;
- **a package of support for new and growing businesses**, including proposals to improve access to finance and wide-ranging reforms to simplify the tax system and reduce regulatory burdens – with the aim of increasing the business start-up rate in the North East from its current level of 19.6 per 10,000 adult population;
- **further steps to improve skills in the workforce**, with Enterprise Advisers in schools in deprived areas, the launch of additional Employer Training Pilots; and reforms to facilitate migration as a source of skills in the economy.
- **new proposals to streamline and simplify the planning regime** to increase productivity and promote flexibility in the UK housing market;
- **more intensive support to help lone parents and partners** of out-of-work benefit claimants find work including pilots of a new jobsearch premium to cover the costs of looking for work for lone parents, and an enhanced New Deal for partners, building upon the help and support that 19,000 people in the North East have received from the New Deal for Lone Parents;
- **substantial reform of Housing Benefit** including measures to increase the reliability of service for claimants, and available to 10,000 recipients of Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit in the North East;

- a **new compliance and enforcement package** to protect direct tax revenues and designed to save £1.6 billion over three years, and further anti-avoidance measures securing an additional £500 million a year;
- the launch of a study into the scope for **relocating public service staff** in recognition of the growing regional and local dimension to policy-making and delivery, and the potential for improving cost effectiveness; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- measures will be introduced to ensure that all **public sector pay systems**, including those in the North East, will include a stronger regional and local dimension, where appropriate.
- action to improve **waste management**, an increase in the landfill tax escalator and support to help business reduce waste volumes; and an **increase in the main road fuel duties** in line with inflation from 1 October 2003
- a freeze in the **duties** on spirits, and an increase of one penny in the duty on a pint of beer and of two pence in the duty on a standard 175ml glass of wine, and an increase in tobacco duties in line with inflation;
- new steps to promote dialogue and discussion with **all English regions**, including the North East, to strengthen their input into future policy-making, including new regional statements of the key Budget decisions.

The Treasury will be publishing a booklet setting out more detail about Budget 2003 and what it means for the North East shortly.

Other Relevant Press Notices

PN02 Responding to regional development issues

NORTH EAST STATISTICS

The new **Child Tax Credit** will provide, from April 2003, additional targeted support for families with children, for which 290,000

families in the North East will be eligible. In addition, the **Working Tax Credit** will improve work incentives for 70,000 eligible families in the North East.

Increased **Child Benefit** will benefit 314,000 families in the North East and provide at least an extra £5 per week for every family above the 1997 levels.

250,000 pensioner households in the North East will be eligible for the new **Pension Credit** (to be introduced in October 2003).

Measures to assist **small businesses**, such as extension of 100% First Year ICT capital allowances, simplification of the VAT regime, improvements to the R&D tax credit and extension of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme, will benefit many of the 95,000 businesses in the North East.

Enterprise will be boosted by a range of measures in the 2000 **Enterprise Areas** (in around 210 wards in the North East) including greater promotion of HM Customs and Excise business advice services and accreditation of community development finance institutions able to offer community investment tax relief, and confirmation of the extension of stamp duty relief, from 10 April 2003, to all non-residential transactions.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Treasury's response to the Budget input from the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) is set out in the Budget 2003 Press Notice "**Promoting flexibility across the regions**" (PN 02).

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9 April 2003

BUILDING ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY IN THE NORTH WEST

Families, pensioners and business across the North West will benefit directly from measures announced in today's Budget delivered by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Against a backdrop of global economic uncertainty and hostilities in Iraq, the Budget sets out the long-term reforms that will leave Britain well placed to deal with the impact of global events, and benefit from the coming global upturn, to build a Britain of economic strength and social justice, a Britain that is enterprising, flexible and fair.

More than ever before, Budget 2003 takes account of issues and priorities affecting the English regions. The North West Development Agency was, along with the other Regional Development Agencies in England, for the first time as part of preparations for a Budget, asked by the Treasury to suggest policy measures on four key themes: **innovation, enterprise, regulatory reform** and **skills**. Treasury Ministers also listened to the views of regional industry, the voluntary sector and local authorities during a series of regional visits in the run up to Budget 2003.

The Chancellor said:

“We have ensured that the Budget responds to the needs and priorities of the North West so that people, businesses and the environment will benefit through measures including: greater assistance for lone parents, greater flexibility for local and regional Jobcentre Plus offices, a package of deregulatory reforms, additional training support and tax reforms for small businesses, enhanced support for regional R & D and increased promotion and encouragement of enterprise and innovation.”

Measures announced today which are particularly relevant to the North West include:

- **introduction of a Child Trust Fund**, strengthening the saving habit of future generations and spreading the benefits of asset

ownership to all – to the benefit of the 75,200 children typically born in the North West each year;

- **an extra £100 for the 181,500 households in the North West with someone aged 80 or over** in addition to the £200 winter fuel payment for the remainder of this Parliament;
- **a package of new measures to increase the supply of housing**, promote greater flexibility in the housing market and to streamline and simplify the planning regime;
- **extending to 52 weeks the period over which all pensioners in hospital receive their full State Pension**;
- **a package of support for new and growing businesses**, including proposals to improve access to finance and wide-ranging reforms to simplify the tax system and reduce regulatory burdens – with the aim of increasing the business start-up rate in the North West from its current level of 32.1 per 10,000 adult population;
- **further steps to improve skills in the workforce**, with Enterprise Advisers in schools in deprived areas, the launch of additional Employer Training Pilots; and reforms to facilitate migration as a source of skills in the economy;
- **new proposals to streamline and simplify the planning regime** to increase productivity and promote flexibility in the UK housing market;
- **more intensive support to help lone parents and partners** of out-of-work benefit claimants find work including pilots of a new jobsearch premium to cover the costs of looking for work for lone parents, and an enhanced New Deal for partners, building upon the help and support that 46,500 people in the North West have received from the New Deal for Lone Parents;
- **substantial reform of Housing Benefit** including measures to increase the reliability of service for claimants, and available to 23,000 recipients of Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit in the North West;

- **a new compliance and enforcement package** to protect direct tax revenues and designed to save £1.6 billion over three years, and further anti-avoidance measures securing an additional £500 million a year;
- the launch of a study into the scope for **relocating public service staff** in recognition of the growing regional and local dimension to policy-making and delivery, and the potential for improving cost effectiveness; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- measures will be introduced to ensure that all **public sector pay systems**, including those in the North West, will include a stronger regional and local dimension, where appropriate; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- action to improve **waste management**, an increase in the landfill tax escalator and support to help business reduce waste volumes; and an **increase in the main road fuel duties** in line with inflation from 1 October 2003;
- a freeze in the **duties** on spirits, and an increase of one penny in the duty on a pint of beer and of two pence in the duty on a standard 175ml glass of wine, and an increase in tobacco duties in line with inflation;
- new steps to promote dialogue and discussion with all **English regions**, including the North West, to strengthen their input into future policy-making, including new regional statements of the key Budget decisions.

The Treasury will be publishing a booklet setting out more detail about Budget 2003 and what it means for the North West shortly.

Other Relevant Press Notices

PN02 Responding to regional development issues

NORTH WEST STATISTICS

The new **Child Tax Credit** will provide, from April 2003, additional targeted support for families with children, for which 750,000 families in the North West will be eligible. In addition, the **Working Tax Credit** will improve work incentives for 210,000 families in the North West.

Increased **Child Benefit** will benefit 314,000 families in the North West and provide at least an extra £5 per week for every family above the 1997 levels.

500,000 pensioner households in the North West will be eligible for the new **Pension Credit** (to be introduced in October 2003).

Measures to assist **small businesses**, such as extension of 100% First Year ICT capital allowances, simplification of the VAT regime, improvements to the R&D tax credit and extension of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme, will benefit many of the 345,000 businesses in the North West.

Enterprise will be boosted by a range of measures in the 2000 **Enterprise Areas** (in around 280 wards in the North West) including greater promotion of HM Customs and Excise business advice services and accreditation of community development finance institutions able to offer community investment tax relief, and confirmation of the extension of stamp duty relief, from 10 April 2003, to all non-residential transactions.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Treasury's response to the Budget input from the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) is set out in the Budget 2003 Press Notice "**Promoting flexibility across the regions**" (PN 02).

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Ruth Kelly, visited the North West on 20 March 2003 in the run-up to the Budget.

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9 April 2003

BUILDING ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY IN THE SOUTH EAST

Families, pensioners and business across the South East will benefit directly from measures announced in today's Budget delivered by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Against a backdrop of global economic uncertainty and hostilities in Iraq, the Budget sets out the long-term reforms that will leave Britain well placed to deal with the impact of global events, and benefit from the coming global upturn, to build a Britain of economic strength and social justice, a Britain that is enterprising, flexible and fair.

More than ever before, Budget 2003 takes account of issues and priorities affecting the English regions. The South East England Development Agency was, along with the other Regional Development Agencies in England, for the first time as part of preparations for a Budget, asked by the Treasury to suggest policy measures on four key themes: **innovation, enterprise, regulatory reform** and **skills**. Treasury Ministers also listened to the views of regional industry, the voluntary sector and local authorities during a series of regional visits in the run up to Budget 2003.

The Chancellor said:

“We have ensured that the Budget responds to the needs and priorities of the South East so that people, businesses and the environment will benefit through measures including: greater assistance for lone parents, greater flexibility for local and regional Jobcentre Plus offices, a package of deregulatory reforms, additional training support and tax reforms for small businesses, enhanced support for regional R & D and increased promotion and encouragement of enterprise and innovation.”

Measures announced today which are particularly relevant to the South East include:

- **introduction of a Child Trust Fund**, strengthening the saving habit of future generations and spreading the benefits of asset

ownership to all – to the benefit of the 88,5000 children typically born in the South East each year;

- **an extra £100 for the 233,500 households in the South East with someone aged 80 or over** in addition to the £200 winter fuel payment for the remainder of this Parliament;
- **a package of new measures to increase the supply of housing**, promote greater flexibility in the housing market and to streamline and simplify the planning regime;
- **extending to 52 weeks the period over which all pensioners in hospital receive their full State Pension**;
- **a package of support for new and growing businesses**, including proposals to improve access to finance and wide-ranging reforms to simplify the tax system and reduce regulatory burdens – with the aim of increasing the business start-up rate in the South East from its current level of 43.8 per 10,000 adult population;
- **further steps to improve skills in the workforce**, with Enterprise Advisers in schools in deprived areas, the launch of additional Employer Training Pilots (two of which are in Kent & Berkshire); and reforms to facilitate migration as a source of skills in the economy;
- **new proposals to streamline and simplify the planning regime** to increase productivity and promote flexibility in the UK housing market;
- **more intensive support to help lone parents and partners** of out-of-work benefit claimants find work including pilots of a new jobsearch premium to cover the costs of looking for work for lone parents, and an enhanced New Deal for partners, building upon the help and support that 32,000 people in the South East have received from the New Deal for Lone Parents;
- **substantial reform of Housing Benefit** including measures to increase the reliability of service for claimants, and available to 25,000 recipients of Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit in the South East;

- **a new compliance and enforcement package** to protect direct tax revenues and designed to save £1.6 billion over three years, and further anti-avoidance measures securing an additional £500 million a year;
- the launch of a study into the scope for **relocating public service staff** in recognition of the growing regional and local dimension to policy-making and delivery, and the potential for improving cost effectiveness; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- measures will be introduced to ensure that all **public sector pay systems**, including those in the South East, will include a stronger regional and local dimension, where appropriate; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- action to improve **waste management**, an increase in the landfill tax escalator and support to help business reduce waste volumes; and an **increase in the main road fuel duties** in line with inflation from 1 October 2003;
- a freeze in the **duties** on spirits, and an increase of one penny in the duty on a pint of beer and of two pence in the duty on a standard 175ml glass of wine, and an increase in tobacco duties in line with inflation;
- new steps to promote dialogue and discussion with all **English regions**, including the South East, to strengthen their input into future policy-making, including new regional statements of the key Budget decisions.

The Treasury will be publishing a booklet setting out more detail about Budget 2003 and what it means for the South East shortly.

Other Relevant Press Notices

PN02 Responding to regional development issues

SOUTH EAST STATISTICS

The new **Child Tax Credit** will provide, from April 2003, additional targeted support for families with children, for which 670,000 families in the South East will be eligible. In addition, the **Working Tax Credit** will improve work incentives for 140,000 eligible families in the South East.

Increased **Child Benefit** will benefit 936,000 families in the South East and provide at least an extra £5 per week for every family above the 1997 levels.

350,000 pensioner households in the South East will be eligible for the new **Pension Credit** (to be introduced in October 2003).

Measures to assist **small businesses**, such as extension of 100% First Year ICT capital allowances, simplification of the VAT regime, improvements to the R&D tax credit and extension of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme, will benefit many of the 620,000 businesses in the South East.

Enterprise will be boosted by a range of measures in the 2000 **Enterprise Areas** (in around 60 wards in the South East) including greater promotion of HM Customs and Excise business advice services and accreditation of community development finance institutions able to offer community investment tax relief, and confirmation of the extension of stamp duty relief, from 10 April 2003, to all non-residential transactions.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Treasury's response to the Budget input from the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) is set out in the Budget 2003 Press Notice "**Promoting flexibility across the regions**" (PN 02).

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9 April 2003

BUILDING ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY IN THE SOUTH WEST

Families, pensioners and business across the South West will benefit directly from measures announced in today's Budget delivered by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Against a backdrop of global economic uncertainty and hostilities in Iraq, the Budget sets out the long-term reforms that will leave Britain well placed to deal with the impact of global events, and benefit from the coming global upturn, to build a Britain of economic strength and social justice, a Britain that is enterprising, flexible and fair.

More than ever before, Budget 2003 takes account of issues and priorities affecting the English regions. The South West of England Regional Development Agency was, along with the other Regional Development Agencies in England, for the first time as part of preparations for a Budget, asked by the Treasury to suggest policy measures on four key themes: **innovation, enterprise, regulatory reform** and **skills**. Treasury Ministers also listened to the views of regional industry, the voluntary sector and local authorities during a series of regional visits in the run up to Budget 2003.

The Chancellor said:

“We have ensured that the Budget responds to the needs and priorities of the South West so that people, businesses and the environment will benefit through measures including: greater assistance for lone parents, greater flexibility for local and regional Jobcentre Plus offices, a package of deregulatory reforms, additional training support and tax reforms for small businesses, enhanced support for regional R & D and increased promotion and encouragement of enterprise and innovation.”

Measures announced today which are particularly relevant to the South West include:

- **introduction of a Child Trust Fund**, strengthening the saving habit of future generations and spreading the benefits of asset

ownership to all – to the benefit of the 48,700 children typically born in the South West each year;

- **an extra £100 for the 174,000 households in the South West with someone aged 80 or over** in addition to the £200 winter fuel payment for the remainder of this Parliament;
- **a package of new measures to increase the supply of housing**, promote greater flexibility in the housing market and to streamline and simplify the planning regime;
- **extending to 52 weeks the period over which all pensioners in hospital receive their full State Pension**;
- **a package of support for new and growing businesses**, including proposals to improve access to finance and wide-ranging reforms to simplify the tax system and reduce regulatory burdens – with the aim of increasing the business start-up rate in the South West from its current level of 36.1 per 10,000 adult population;
- **further steps to improve skills in the workforce**, with Enterprise Advisers in schools in deprived areas, the launch of additional Employer Training Pilots; and reforms to facilitate migration as a source of skills in the economy;
- **new proposals to streamline and simplify the planning regime** to increase productivity and promote flexibility in the UK housing market;
- **more intensive support to help lone parents and partners** of out-of-work benefit claimants find work including pilots of a new jobsearch premium to cover the costs of looking for work for lone parents, and an enhanced New Deal for partners, building upon the help and support that 28,000 people in the South West have received from the New Deal for Lone Parents;
- **substantial reform of Housing Benefit** including measures to increase the reliability of service for claimants, and available to 20,000 recipients of Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit in the South West;

- **a new compliance and enforcement package** to protect direct tax revenues and designed to save £1.6 billion over three years, and further anti-avoidance measures securing an additional £500 million a year;
- the launch of a study into the scope for **relocating public service staff** in recognition of the growing regional and local dimension to policy-making and delivery, and the potential for improving cost effectiveness; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- measures will be introduced to ensure that all **public sector pay systems**, including those in the South West, will include a stronger regional and local dimension, where appropriate; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- action to improve **waste management**, an increase in the landfill tax escalator and support to help business reduce waste volumes; and an **increase in the main road fuel duties** in line with inflation from 1 October 2003;
- a freeze in the **duties** on spirits, and an increase of one penny in the duty on a pint of beer and of two pence in the duty on a standard 175ml glass of wine, and an increase in tobacco duties in line with inflation;
- new steps to promote dialogue and discussion with all **English regions**, including the South West, to strengthen their input into future policy-making, including new regional statements of the key Budget decisions.

The Treasury will be publishing a booklet setting out more detail about Budget 2003 and what it means for the South West shortly.

Other Relevant Press Notices

PN02 Responding to regional development issues

SOUTH WEST STATISTICS

The new **Child Tax Credit** will provide, from April 2003, additional targeted support for families with children, for which 470,000 families in the South West will be eligible. In addition, the **Working Tax Credit** will improve work incentives for 130,000 families in the South West.

Increased **Child Benefit** will benefit 560,000 families in the South West and provide at least an extra £5 per week for every family above the 1997 levels.

300,000 pensioner households in the South West will be eligible for the new **Pension Credit** (to be introduced in October 2003).

Measures to assist **small businesses**, such as extension of 100% First Year ICT capital allowances, simplification of the VAT regime, improvements to the R&D tax credit and extension of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme, will benefit many of the 346,000 businesses in the South West.

Enterprise will be boosted by a range of measures in the 2000 **Enterprise Areas** (in around 60 wards in the South West) including greater promotion of HM Customs and Excise business advice services and accreditation of community development finance institutions able to offer community investment tax relief, and confirmation of the extension of stamp duty relief, from 10 April 2003, to all non-residential transactions.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Treasury's response to the Budget input from the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) is set out in the Budget 2003 Press Notice "**Promoting flexibility across the regions**" (PN 02).

The Paymaster General, Dawn Primarolo, visited the South West on 19 December, following the Pre-Budget Report.

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9 April 2003

BUILDING ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY IN THE WEST MIDLANDS

Families, pensioners and business across the West Midlands will benefit directly from measures announced in today's Budget delivered by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Against a backdrop of global economic uncertainty and hostilities in Iraq, the Budget sets out the long-term reforms that will leave Britain well placed to deal with the impact of global events, and benefit from the coming global upturn, to build a Britain of economic strength and social justice, a Britain that is enterprising, flexible and fair.

More than ever before, Budget 2003 takes account of issues and priorities affecting the English regions. Advantage West Midlands was, along with the other Regional Development Agencies in England, for the first time as part of preparations for a Budget, asked by the Treasury to suggest policy measures on four key themes: **innovation, enterprise, regulatory reform** and **skills**. Treasury Ministers also listened to the views of regional industry, the voluntary sector and local authorities during a series of regional visits in the run up to Budget 2003.

The Chancellor said:

“We have ensured that the Budget responds to the needs and priorities of the West Midlands so that people, businesses and the environment will benefit through measures including: greater assistance for lone parents, greater flexibility for local and regional Jobcentre Plus offices, a package of deregulatory reforms, additional training support and tax reforms for small businesses, enhanced support for regional R & D and increased promotion and encouragement of enterprise and innovation.”

Measures announced today which are particularly relevant to the West Midlands include:

- **introduction of a Child Trust Fund**, strengthening the saving habit of future generations and spreading the benefits of asset

ownership to all – to the benefit of the 60,800 children typically born in the West Midlands each year;

- **an extra £100 for the 150,000 households in the West Midlands with someone aged 80 or over** in addition to the £200 winter fuel payment for the remainder of this Parliament;
- **a package of new measures to increase the supply of housing**, promote greater flexibility in the housing market and to streamline and simplify the planning regime;
- **extending to 52 weeks the period over which all pensioners in hospital receive their full State Pension**;
- **a package of support for new and growing businesses**, including proposals to improve access to finance and wide-ranging reforms to simplify the tax system and reduce regulatory burdens – with the aim of increasing the business start-up rate in the West Midlands from its current level of 33.5 per 10,000 adult population;
- **further steps to improve skills in the workforce**, with Enterprise Advisers in schools in deprived areas, the launch of additional Employer Training Pilots (one of which is in Shropshire, in addition to the existing pilot in Birmingham & Solihull); and reforms to facilitate migration as a source of skills in the economy;
- **new proposals to streamline and simplify the planning regime** to increase productivity and promote flexibility in the UK housing market;
- **more intensive support to help lone parents and partners** of out-of-work benefit claimants find work including pilots of a new jobsearch premium to cover the costs of looking for work for lone parents, and an enhanced New Deal for partners, building upon the help and support that 29,000 people in the West Midlands have received from the New Deal for Lone Parents;
- **substantial reform of Housing Benefit** to improve financial gains to work and increase the reliability of service for

claimants, and available to 14,000 recipients of Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit in the West Midlands;

- **a new compliance and enforcement package** to protect direct tax revenues and designed to save £1.6 billion over three years, and further anti-avoidance measures securing an additional £500 million a year;
- the launch of a study into the scope for **relocating public service staff** in recognition of the growing regional and local dimension to policy-making and delivery, and the potential for improving cost effectiveness; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- measures will be introduced to ensure that all **public sector pay systems**, including those in the West Midlands, will include a stronger regional and local dimension, where appropriate; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- action to improve **waste management**, an increase in the landfill tax escalator and support to help business reduce waste volumes; and an **increase in the main road fuel duties** in line with inflation from 1 October 2003;
- a freeze in the **duties** on spirits, and an increase of one penny in the duty on a pint of beer and of two pence in the duty on a standard 175ml glass of wine, and an increase in tobacco duties in line with inflation;
- new steps to promote dialogue and discussion with all **English regions**, including the West Midlands, to strengthen their input into future policy-making, including new regional statements of the key Budget decisions.

The Treasury will be publishing a booklet setting out more detail about Budget 2003 and what it means for the West Midlands shortly.

Other Relevant Press Notices

WEST MIDLANDS STATISTICS

The new **Child Tax Credit** will provide, from April 2003, additional targeted support for families with children, benefiting 500,000 families in the West Midlands. In addition, the **Working Tax Credit** will improve work incentives for 130,000 families in the West Midlands.

Increased **Child Benefit** will benefit 650,000 families in the West Midlands and provide at least an extra £5 per week for every family above the 1997 levels.

350,000 pensioner households in the West Midlands will be eligible for the new **Pension Credit** (to be introduced in October 2003).

Measures to assist **small businesses**, such as extension of 100% First Year ICT capital allowances, simplification of the VAT regime, improvements to the R&D tax credit and extension of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme, will benefit many of the 286,000 businesses in the West Midlands.

Enterprise will be boosted by a range of measures in the 2000 **Enterprise Areas** (in around 120 wards in the West Midlands) including greater promotion of HM Customs and Excise business advice services and accreditation of community development finance institutions able to offer community investment tax relief, and confirmation of the extension of stamp duty relief, from 10 April 2003, to all non-residential transactions.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Treasury's response to the Budget input from the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) is set out in the Budget 2003 Press Notice "**Promoting flexibility across the regions**" (PN 02).

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Paul Boateng, and the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Ruth Kelly, visited the West Midlands on three occasions during January and February in the run-up to the Budget.

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9 April 2003

BUILDING ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND FLEXIBILITY IN YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE

Families, pensioners and business across Yorkshire & Humberside will benefit directly from measures announced in today's Budget delivered by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown.

Against a backdrop of global economic uncertainty and hostilities in Iraq, the Budget sets out the long-term reforms that will leave Britain well placed to deal with the impact of global events, and benefit from the coming global upturn, to build a Britain of economic strength and social justice, a Britain that is enterprising, flexible and fair.

More than ever before, Budget 2003 takes account of issues and priorities affecting the English regions. Yorkshire Forward was, along with the other Regional Development Agencies in England, for the first time as part of preparations for a Budget, asked by the Treasury to suggest policy measures on four key themes: **innovation, enterprise, regulatory reform** and **skills**. Treasury Ministers also listened to the views of regional industry, the voluntary sector and local authorities during a series of regional visits in the run up to Budget 2003.

The Chancellor said:

“We have ensured that the Budget responds to the needs and priorities of Yorkshire & Humberside so that people, businesses and the environment will benefit through measures including: greater assistance for lone parents, greater flexibility for local and regional Jobcentre Plus offices, a package of deregulatory reforms, additional training support and tax reforms for small businesses, enhanced support for regional R & D and increased promotion and encouragement of enterprise and innovation.”

Measures announced today which are particularly relevant to Yorkshire & Humberside include:

- **introduction of a Child Trust Fund**, strengthening the saving habit of future generations and spreading the benefits of asset

ownership to all – to the benefit of the 55,600 children typically born in Yorkshire & Humberside each year;

- **an extra £100 for the 139,000 households in Yorkshire & Humberside with someone aged 80 or over** in addition to the £200 winter fuel payment for the remainder of this Parliament;
- **a package of new measures to increase the supply of housing**, promote greater flexibility in the housing market and to streamline and simplify the planning regime;
- **extending to 52 weeks the period over which all pensioners in hospital receive their full State Pension**;
- **a package of support for new and growing businesses**, including proposals to improve access to finance and wide-ranging reforms to simplify the tax system and reduce regulatory burdens – with the aim of increasing the business start-up rate in Yorkshire & Humberside from its current level of 29 per 10,000 adult population;
- **further steps to improve skills in the workforce**, with Enterprise Advisers in schools in deprived areas, the launch of additional Employer Training Pilots (one of which is in South Yorkshire); and reforms to facilitate migration as a source of skills in the economy;
- **new proposals to streamline and simplify the planning regime** to increase productivity and promote flexibility in the UK housing market;
- **more intensive support to help lone parents and partners** of out-of-work benefit claimants find work including pilots of a new jobsearch premium to cover the costs of looking for work for lone parents, and an enhanced New Deal for partners, building upon the help and support that 32,000 people in Yorkshire & Humberside have received from the New Deal for Lone Parents;
- **substantial reform of Housing Benefit** including measures to increase the reliability of service for claimants, and

available to 16,000 recipients of Housing Benefit and Working Tax Credit in Yorkshire & Humberside;

- **a new compliance and enforcement package** to protect direct tax revenues and designed to save £1.6 billion over three years, and further anti-avoidance measures securing an additional £500 million a year;
- the launch of a study into the scope for **relocating public service staff** in recognition of the growing regional and local dimension to policy-making and delivery, and the potential for improving cost effectiveness;
- measures will be introduced to ensure that all **public sector pay systems**, including those in Yorkshire & Humberside, will include a stronger regional and local dimension, where appropriate; so in future we plan regional price indexes showing differences in regional inflation rates;
- action to improve **waste management**, an increase in the landfill tax escalator and support to help business reduce waste volumes; and in **increase in the main road fuel duties** in line with inflation from 1 October 2003;
- a freeze in the **duties** on spirits, and an increase of one penny in the duty on a pint of beer and of two pence in the duty on a standard 175ml glass of wine, and an increase in tobacco duties in line with inflation;
- new steps to promote dialogue and discussion with all **English regions**, including Yorkshire & Humberside, to strengthen their input into future policy-making, including new regional statements of the key Budget decisions.

The Treasury will be publishing a booklet setting out more detail about Budget 2003 and what it means for Yorkshire & Humberside shortly.

Other Relevant Press Notices

YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE STATISTICS

The new **Child Tax Credit** will provide, from April 2003, additional targeted support for families with children, for which 540,000 families in Yorkshire & Humberside will be eligible. In addition, the **Working Tax Credit** will improve work incentives for 150,000 families in Yorkshire & Humberside.

Increased **Child Benefit** will benefit 609,000 families in Yorkshire & Humberside and provide at least an extra £5 per week for every family above the 1997 levels.

350,000 pensioner households in Yorkshire & Humberside will be eligible for the new **Pension Credit** (to be introduced in October 2003).

Measures to assist **small businesses**, such as extension of 100% First Year ICT capital allowances, simplification of the VAT regime, improvements to the R&D tax credit and extension of the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme, will benefit many of the 253,000 small businesses in Yorkshire & Humberside.

Enterprise will be boosted by a range of measures in the 2000 **Enterprise Areas** (in around 120 wards in Yorkshire & Humberside) including greater promotion of HM Customs and Excise business advice services and accreditation of community development finance institutions able to offer community investment tax relief, and confirmation of the extension of stamp duty relief, from 10 April 2003, to all non-residential transactions.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

The Treasury's response to the Budget input from the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) is set out in the Budget 2003 Press Notice "**Promoting flexibility across the regions**" (PN 02).

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Paul Boateng (10 February), and the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, John Healey (13 February), visited the Yorkshire & Humberside region in the run-up to the Budget.

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