

DEVON delivers

Devon Delivers for Business

Devon Delivers is an inward investment campaign led by Devon County Council that highlights the benefits of relocating a business to the area.

Highlighting the extensive business, and lifestyle benefits of being based in the county, Devon Delivers is reaching out to businesses across the UK that are considering relocation, showcasing the many advantages the area has to offer.

Businesses Thrive in Devon

With one of the fastest growing economies in the UK, Devon is a place where businesses thrive.

- Devon is home to world class, innovative businesses, with strong and ambitious leadership, supply chain opportunities and knowledge sharing networks.
- World-renowned media companies, such as Twofour, join global food producers such as Burts Chips, and international technology companies, including blur Group and SRA Developments, in making Devon their base.
- Business survival rates are amongst the highest in the country: after five years, the number of businesses still thriving is 5% above the national average.

Businesses of all Sizes have Choice and Cost Effective Options

The business case for relocating to Devon is extremely compelling: competitive office and commercial rents combine with an extensive range of industrial and business park locations, providing good and cost effective options for businesses of all sizes.

- Average office rents are very competitive in Exeter in comparison with other areas around the UK, including Bristol, Bath, Thames Valley, Newcastle and Manchester, with an average cost of around £15 per sq. ft. compared with almost £28 per sq. ft. elsewhere¹.
- There are almost 250 industrial and business park locations across the county, with the Exeter Science Park and Skypark developments being two of the most significant new sites.

Well Connected to Businesses Nationally and Internationally

Already directly connected by road and rail to London and other major business centres, ongoing investment in infrastructure continues to improve and future-proof the travel and communications networks.

- By train, the journey from Exeter to London takes just two hours. Daily flights to London City airport take you to the capital in less than an hour.
- The A38 and M5 connect Plymouth and Exeter to major road networks.
- Exeter International Airport links to a large number of national and international destinations, including Paris and Amsterdam twice daily.
- The ferry port at Plymouth connects the county to France and Spain, and there are commercial port facilities at Plymouth, Teignmouth and Appledore.
- Devon's future growth is benefiting from investment in vital infrastructure, such as the improvements to the M5 at Junction 29 and the ongoing development of the South Devon Link Road.

¹ 2012 Annual UK Office Market Outlook (Jones Lang LaSalle)

- Connecting Devon and Somerset programme is also investing £94 million in bringing superfast broadband to the area, and aims to connect 90% of premises by end of 2016.

Our Workforce Means Business

Devon has a talented, skilled and motivated workforce, with a significant proportion of the working population of the county educated to degree level or above, and a higher than average proportion in trade apprenticeships.

- Devon is the third largest county in England, with a working population of 668,800.
- The county boasts three leading higher education institutions and two world-class medical schools, with Exeter University placed in the Top 10 nationally and Top 100 globally.
- Job skill and staff retention levels are strong in Devon, as reinforced by The Workforce Skills Survey 2014: it found that 95% of Devon businesses felt that all their staff have the right skills to do their jobs and 96% of businesses in the county had no problems retaining their staff.

For further information please visit www.investdevon.co.uk or contact Geri Panteva on 01392 383884 or email geri.panteva@devon.gov.uk

Devon Delivers:

- ✓ **A strong economy with positive growth** worth over £20 billion and growing faster than the national average with well above average economic activity levels
- ✓ **A highly skilled workforce** where 95% of our employers feel their staff have all the skills businesses need and with faster than average growth in productivity levels
- ✓ **A great quality of life** consistently ranked the best place to live in England with a natural outdoor playground offering a fantastic work-life balance
- ✓ **Lower overheads** driven by competitive labour costs and lower costs for office space, retail premises and factories
- ✓ **Great connections** including a £94 million investment bringing superfast broadband across Devon, and easy rail and road access to cities across the UK