



# Welcome to our great Winter Wonderland Ball

SURREY CHAMBERS of Commerce is celebrating ten years of service to the local business community with an annual charity ball that promises to be the best yet.

The spectacular new Surrey Sports Park in Guildford is the venue for the Winter Wonderland Charity Ball, which takes place on Friday, 26 November.

As well as celebrating Surrey Chambers 10th Anniversary, it will raise funds for our own charity, the Surrey Chambers Community Fund.

The fund awards grants to improve the local business environment, develop facilities and services for young people, provide training and support people to retrain or to gain employment.

Guests will be treated to a three course meal and there will be entertainment in the form of a live band, raffle, auction and disco.

To celebrate our 10th anniversary, every table taken by a member who has been with us for 10 years will get champagne to enjoy on the evening. And Holiday Inn Guildford has offered a special rate for guests wishing to stay over.

The Winter Wonderland Charity Ball, sponsored by Jelf Group, is a great way to entertain clients or to say thank you to your team for their hard work.

For more details or to book, visit the website or call 01483 735540.

[www.surrey-chambers.co.uk](http://www.surrey-chambers.co.uk)

## 'Strategy for growth must follow cuts'

**BUSINESSES NEED** a clear strategy for growth in the wake of the Comprehensive Spending Review, says David Frost, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC).

"Business has been clear: the deficit must be tackled, no matter what," he said. "The spending review does the job of setting out how this will be done. Overall, the spending review could have been worse for business. While we were disappointed that the Government succumbed to political ring-fencing of some spending areas, cuts to productive infrastructure investment were not as bad as many had feared."

But now the spending review was complete, the BCC's message to Government was that it is time for a clear strategy for growth to give companies, and especially small and medium-sized

enterprises, the confidence to invest.

"Perceptions matter. Businesses and government must work together to deliver a real year for growth in 2011. This is the only way that the private sector will be able to take up the slack."

Jeff Jeffries, a partner in the Guildford office of PKF (UK) LLP, thought more could perhaps have been done to deliver good value for hard-pressed taxpayers, but said that the review was "tough but necessary given the UK is paying £43bn a year in debt interest and has the largest structural deficit in Europe."

"And while the Treasury will see a 33% cut in its budget and HM Revenue & Customs will see a 15% cut, at least £900m has been ring-fenced for HM Revenue & Customs to tackle tax

evasion and fraud.

"Some welcome news for local businesses is plans to continue capital investment programmes in the region, including Pirbright and Epsom, and the announcement of significant investment to be made in the railways and roads."

Mark Busby, Tax Partner of Davis Burton Sellek Chartered Accountants sums up the review as "Four years of uncertainty. Being 'all in it together' would be a reasonable mantra if it was backed by strong political leadership and vision. What we are currently presented with appears to be a muddle of compromised and poorly thought through policies which assume that for every job lost in the public sector there is a corresponding job in the private sector – which is simply not the case."