

NEWS RELEASE

from

devon renaissance

working for rural prosperity

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Survey launched into remote working

People throughout Devon are being urged to take part in an online survey about remote working away from town and city centre offices.

The survey is being funded by Devon Renaissance, the rural regeneration partnership organisation for the county, and is being carried out by Broadband Access Strategies.

The aim of the survey is to find out what demand there is for flexible managed workspace in rural areas, to identify potential locations for such places, and to estimate the cost of setting up and running them to make sure they are economically sustainable.

There are two surveys accessible from the website, one for employees to gauge whether people would like to reduce the cost and time involved in commuting to and from work, and one for businesses which might have started out as working from home but which now need dedicated office space to expand.

Devon Renaissance is funding the £42,000 project and the organisation's Simon Mallett said: "Flexible managed workspace could address a number of important issues, including reducing travelling between home and office, saving both time and reducing carbon dioxide emissions, and the increasing problem of congestion. If we find that people want to travel less and that there is a demand for such facilities, flexible managed workspace could be a sustainable solution."

Ken Singleton of Broadband Access Strategies of Buckfastleigh said: "We want people from all over Devon to go onto our website at www.devonflexwork.co.uk and fill in one of the surveys.

"We are also leafleting 500 homes in each of Kingsbridge, Buckfastleigh, Okehampton, Axminster and Holsworthy encouraging people to take part, and we have plans to do a similar leaflet drop in Tavistock and two areas of North Devon.

"Whether you are an employee wanting to work flexibly but having difficulty convincing your employer to allow you to do so, or just don't have the space to work at home; or you are a small company needing some office space, we would like to hear from you."

There is also a blog on the website in which people can take part in discussions about flexible and remote working.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Flexible managed workspace would provide office space with internet, printer, photocopying, fax and telephone together with areas for meetings.

Release issued by pr dogs limited, public relations consultants, on behalf of Devon Renaissance.

Devon Renaissance is the rural regeneration partnership organisation for the county. It is a not for profit partnership of the private sector, local authorities and community-based organisations. The organisation is funded by the South West Regional Development Agency and North Devon, Torridge, West Devon and South Hams district and borough councils. Devon Renaissance provides grant funding and works with projects to help create prosperity and jobs and improve access to services in rural areas. It has funding of £7 million over three years which is estimated to be worth £20 million to the Devon economy with match funding.

For further information contact John Taynton of pr dogs on 01822 859294, or 07843 436526 (mobile) or email john.taynton@prdogs.com