



10 December 2009

EDITORIAL CONTENT – David Russ Column

A political game of hide and seek

“There has been a lot of focus around budgets, public service cut backs and taxes over recent weeks and this can be daunting to listen to.

“One thing that is clear from the recent announcements is our government having no obvious vision of how we are going to come out fighting from the recession and this concerns me.

“The message during the Pre Budget Report regarding an additional increase to National Insurance Contributions in 2011 and ultimately putting a tax on jobs is not the way to try and stabilise the economy. It is issues such as these that we will be lobbying in government.

“What would have been useful in the Pre Budget Report would have been to announce a strong, reliable and optimistic National Recovery Plan that outlines how the budget deficit will be halved leading us into an optimistic post 2010. Instead what we have been presented with is a political game of hide and seek by which certain aspects of the budget will not be announced until after a general election.

“We need to have a National Recovery Plan for Wales, something substantial, significant and sustainable to aid Welsh businesses into an economically viable post 2010 and it is essential we are engaged with the public sector to create a positive change.

“The private sector has already made tough decisions to services during the recession and we need clarity about the public sector restructuring to bring a renewed confidence in the market.

“At the South Wales Chamber we have been developing a National Recovery Plan for Wales which will be launched in the New Year. The crux of the plan outlines the short, medium and long term goals for Entrepreneurship, Internationalisation, Research and Development and Manufacturing.

“Having recently merged with the West Wales Chamber of Commerce we represent over 100,000 employees pan South Wales and have an even stronger, powerful and influential voice. We will strive to represent the voice of our members businesses coming out of the recession.”