



# Conservatives in the European Parliament

## Press Release

Release: Immediate

Date: 9/2/10

Issued by: Malcolm Harbour MEP

Brussels: +32 2 28 45132

UK : 01676 530682

### Local Euro MEP welcomes Conservative's superfast broadband promise

Malcolm Harbour, Herefordshire's member of the European parliament and champion of local employment has welcomed new Conservative plans to deliver the roll out of superfast broadband at speeds of up to 100 Mbps across the County by 2017.

Malcolm said, **"I believe that the provision of adequate broadband to rural businesses is key to the survival and growth of our rural small businesses. Without this access our businesses are at a disadvantage that should not be tolerated. We need fast communications in order to compete in world markets"**

He went on to say, **"The provision of this necessary tool of modern business does not necessitate addition tax – it only needs fair competition. If access to the current 'local loop' is granted provision can begin to roll out. Access to broadband is the same as access to other necessary utilities; it is essential."**

Malcolm Harbour also welcomed the plans to investigate other utility infrastructure, such a sewers, to increase the accessibility of superfast broadband.

He said, **"It is time to end the digital divide that disadvantages rural enterprise and competitiveness."**

Ends

