

## **Business Link and the Financial Intermediary Service (FIS)**

The Financial Intermediary Service (FIS) is operated by Business Link (BL) across the South East region.

The service enables Business Link clients to access specialist financial diagnostic advice through a mixture of one to one clinics, telephone advice and with BL acting as Financial Intermediary between businesses and lenders where problems accessing finance have arisen.

The Financial Intermediary Service is neutral, impartial and free to access and provides a contact point for entrepreneurs encountering problems accessing new bank finance, or renewing existing bank facilities, in the current climate.

FIS does not duplicate the work of the Banking Ombudsman and it cannot order a bank to lend. However, it has been successful in opening mutually beneficial discussions between banks and a number of their SME customers.

**Anthony Taylor Rose** (covering Berkshire and Hampshire and IOW) and **Richard Melbourne** (Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes) have been appointed by Business Link to provide this service. Their contact details are given below.

**This service is currently only available until 31 March 2010 with a budget that allows for up to ten days service delivery in the Region. As a result of these limitations, the service will be provided on a first come first served basis.**

If you have any questions about the service in the meantime, please go to [www.businesslink.gov.uk/businesshelp](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/businesshelp).

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