



PRESS RELEASE

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Falkirk celebrates its 3000th business start up

THREE thousand new businesses have been launched in Falkirk district over the past ten years.

The figures were revealed by Business Gateway, which is provided locally by Falkirk for Business, as it celebrated the opening of its new premises at Falkirk Stadium. The organisation, backed by Falkirk Council, provides a range of support services, many free, to new and growing businesses.

Textile retailer Décor World, located on Falkirk High Street, became the 3000th start-up to be recorded in the area since figures were first collated in the year 2000.

Owner Charles Campbell was previously the area manager for Scotland for the FADS textile group. He selected the Falkirk area to establish his new firm due to the area's strong demographic mix, demand from the local population and its accessible location. He also received good support and advice from Business Gateway to identify and agree on premises.

Laurence Barrett, the chief executive of Falkirk for Business commented: "This is great news for the area. Achieving 3000 new business start ups in 10 years proves that there is, and always has been, a strong entrepreneurial spirit throughout Falkirk. It also highlights that people value the support and advice that the Business Gateway service can give them, especially during these challenging times.

"Our experienced business advisors work across a wide range of sectors and with companies at varying stages of development to help them to grow and prosper, bringing economic benefits to the area. The team also works closely with representatives from Falkirk Council's economic development team, through the My Future's in Falkirk initiative, to ensure that the ever evolving needs of small to medium-sized businesses are catered for."

Councillor Adrian Mahoney, Falkirk Council's convener of economic strategy and development, said: "We wish Charles and his team at Décor World well. It's good to see a new retail business opening on Falkirk High Street – and it's great that a new store has become the 3000 business to start up in the past decade. That said, we can't rest on our laurels and want to help more and more people start-up and successfully run their own businesses in the future."

He added: "One of our main objectives in the current economic climate is to boost employment prospects wherever we can. Helping businesses set up and flourish is a key driver to increasing jobs and boosting the local economy.

“There’s great support out there from Falkirk for Business, the Council, and other partner organisations. If you are thinking of setting up your own firm, visit www.falkirkforbusiness.org.uk or call the team on 01324 665500.

You can also find useful factsheets and advice on the main Business Gateway website www.bgateway.com.”

The Business Gateway service provides an expert business advice service to thousands of existing and new-start companies across Scotland.

As well as comprehensive advice, it also offers events and training workshops to support local businesses.

Since October 2007 the business start-up market has shown great resilience in Falkirk, with a 73 per cent survival rate being recognised. This has provided approximately 1,470 jobs in the area and delivered projected turnover of £65million for the local economy, which has been crucial over the economic downturn.

Falkirk is recognised as a key business hub in Scotland, as one of the best connected areas reached in less than an hour by over 3 million people. It continues to attract a large number of start up businesses, and is currently 42 per cent ahead of its target for the year.

Across Scotland, in the first two quarters of the year, Business Gateway has seen an increase of 13.8 per cent in the number (5,832) of new businesses started, with its assistance. For the same period, the number of existing businesses (2,038) contacting Scotland’s national business advice service for the first time, increased 13.6 per cent.