



### **Better support for new and growing businesses as two business support organisations merge**

Welland Enterprise Agency (WEA) recently announced that it will shortly be merging with fellow business support organisation, NWES, Britain's largest enterprise agency.

WEA, formed in 2004, delivers business support services across the Welland, South Lincolnshire and South Leicestershire. It will become part of the NWES group with immediate effect but will continue to deliver an enhanced range of services from the principal site at Stoke Rochford in Lincolnshire.

NWES, operating since 1982, has its head office in Norwich city centre, with sites across Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Essex – promoting and encouraging business enterprise across the region [www.nwes.org.uk](http://www.nwes.org.uk). Both WEA and NWES were set up to help new, small and growing businesses. The package of support available to those wishing to set up in business includes the provision of managed workspace, comprehensive effective training on business planning and developmental courses on running a business, for example, in marketing, finance and HR.

Emma Chapman, who is the current CEO of WEA, will be starting her new role as Head of Enterprise for NWES next month. She said of the merger: "The decision by WEA's Board to become a division of NWES was a strategic one based on current and anticipated changes in the business support environment. The merger will enhance Welland's capacity and resources for delivering help to new and growing businesses in the area".

NWES Chief executive Kevin Horne said: " We are delighted to be merging with such a well-respected industry partner. The merger will extend our market reach beyond the East of England and is another step to streamlining business support across the country. Residents of the Welland area will receive access to enhanced support and we are pleased to announce that all jobs at WEA are secure".

As part of her new role at NWES, Emma Chapman will continue to have responsibility for enterprise services in the area presently served by WEA and will, in addition, be looking for opportunities to extend and enhance support provided to local businesses.