

“Must try harder”

The government is being urged to take more action to stem rising unemployment and help businesses through the economic downturn.

Although ministers have unveiled a £500m package to support the long-term unemployed more help is urgently needed to protect key sectors and their supply chains.

“It has already been established that the current downturn will be much longer and deeper than originally expected. The time for talking is over and action is needed to introduce a national loan guarantee scheme to guarantee bank lending to struggling businesses,” said Gerald Irwin of Sutton Coldfield based licensed insolvency practitioners, Irwin & Company.

Whilst the reduction in interest rates will kick in at some stage over the coming months, the quite unprecedented speed of the downturn since last autumn continues to hamper companies’ ability to adjust.

“What is urgently needed is the removal of barriers to trade, simplification of business regulation and identification of problematic areas of taxation and red tape. British companies need all the help they can get right now to give them at least a fighting chance of getting through the worst of the recession,” added Gerald.