

Master Cutler's Press Release
First For Business, 08.01.2010

The past few months since my installation as Master Cutler have been a whirlwind of business meetings, civic events, award ceremonies and industry visits.

Everywhere I go the economy is the topic most frequently under discussion but it is clear that even the collective grey cells of the great and the good of Sheffield and South Yorkshire and beyond are unable to predict how the economy will pan out and the position we will be in 12 months from now.

There is no doubt that we have all the signs of a fragile recovery. The order books for South Yorkshire manufacturing are holding steady, as are house prices. The retail industry has yet to publish its figures but, if the shopping centres are anything to go by, people do seem to be spending this Christmas, although perhaps not as much as in previous years. So it would be a very wise – or a very foolish – person prepared to predict with any certainty what will happen in 2010.

For my part, I intend to stick to my original game plan – to promote Sheffield and South Yorkshire manufacturing at every opportunity and to put pressure on the financial institutions to assist local companies to kick-start some growth and investment in the future. Finally, I am beginning to work with many of the strategic groups and organisations in Sheffield and South Yorkshire to extend our collective influence across Yorkshire and Humber.

Having worked all over Yorkshire, it is clear to me that this region has one of the best-equipped manufacturing bases and supply chain infrastructures in the UK. Time has come to spread the word.

James Newman
Master Cutler
December 2009