

## NEWS RELEASE

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### ECF WELCOMES NEW VICE PRESIDENT

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Joe Greenwell, Chairman of Ford of Britain, has become a Vice President of Essex Community Foundation (ECF), the leading independent grant making trust in Essex.

The Ford Motor Company has its UK head office in Brentwood and its European Research and Development HQ in Basildon. The company has a long record of incorporating socially responsible policies into its core values and supporting staff to play an active role in their local communities.

"I am delighted to join the Foundation's team of Vice Presidents and help ECF promote the benefits of corporate responsibility to local businesses" said Mr Greenwell. He added, "ECF reaches right into the heart of local communities and Ford shares the same commitment to give practical support where it can most benefit local people".

Mr Greenwell is President of the UK automotive industry's trade organisation the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders and he is President of BEN, the Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund.

"Ford of Britain has been very supportive of the work of Essex Community Foundation since the charity was set up in 1996." says Laura Warren, Chief Executive of ECF. "Mr Greenwell's personal interest in supporting community activities is well known so we are thrilled that he has agreed to be an ambassador for the Foundation."

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For further information contact

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## **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

**Essex Community Foundation** was set up in 1996 and has established a grants programme which has seen more than 4,000 grants totalling over £15 million awarded to Essex based charities and community groups. Funds are distributed on behalf of a wide range of donors who want their charitable giving to be accessible to local charities. [www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk](http://www.essexcommunityfoundation.org.uk)

Community Foundations are independent charities committed to supporting projects that engage local people. Since the 1980s, a nationwide network of Community Foundations has developed, endorsed by many major public figures and leading companies.

There are 1000's of charities and voluntary groups working for the community to create a richer society for all. Community Foundations build endowed funds and make grants to these organisations.

- There are 57 local Community Foundations in the UK covering 94% of the population
- Collectively they manage endowed funds values at circa £220 million
- In 2007/08 Community Foundations distributed grants totalling £66 million and funded 20,500 voluntary organisations and community groups