

**MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (HSP)
MONDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2008**

Present: Dr Ita O'Donovan (Chair), Councillor Kaushika Amin, Leo Atkins, Juneed Asad, Linda Banton, Yolande Burgess, Sean Burke, Rod Cullen, John Egbo, Gary Ince, Sylvia Long, Sharmila Mitra, Naeem Sheikh, Michael Thompson.

In Attendance: Xanthe Barker, LaShanta Beaton, Mamy Mwando, Ambrose Quashie, Martin Tucker.

LC58. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Councillor Pat Egan
Paul Head -Sharmila Mitra substituted
David Hennings
Isobel Rawlinson
Walter Steel

LC59. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the addition of Martha Osmor to the people listed as being present, the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

LC60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

LC61. URGENT BUSINESS

No items of Urgent Business were raised.

LC62. ENTERPRISE BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE 2008/09

The Board considered a report presenting amendments to its Terms of Reference.

It was noted that amendments had been made to the Terms of Reference to reflect the objectives of the new Local Area Agreement (LAA) and to develop links between the Enterprise Board and the groups beneath it.

RESOLVED:

That the Terms of Reference, as set out, be approved.

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LC63. DISCUSSION ITEM -WELFARE REFORM GREEN PAPER: 'NO ONE WRITTEN OFF: REFORMING WELFARE TO REWARD RESPONSIBILITY

The Board received, for discussion, the recently published Green Paper: 'No One Written Off: Reforming Welfare to Reward Responsibility'.

It was noted that this built on an earlier Green Paper entitled 'In Work, Better Off: Next Steps to Full Employment'. This contained proposals that the Government believed would be crucial in achieving an employment rate of 80 per cent.

A presentation was given setting out the key proposals contained within the Green Paper. These included:

- Reducing the number of Incapacity Benefit (IB) Claimants by 1M
- Reforming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)
- Introducing a new Employment Support Allowance (ESA) that would replace IB for new claimants from October 2008
- Targeting of drug users and new measures to support drug users into work
- Allowing people over sixty to access Work Focussed Interviews
- A pilot for mandating JSA claimants to undergo a skills 'Health Check'
- Simplifying and streamlining the Benefit system

Following the presentation the Board discussed the proposals contained within the Green Paper, the likely implications for the Partnership, and how individual organisations should address these.

Concern was raised at the range of proposals contained within the Green Paper and the pressure this would place upon organisations; particularly those that would need to train their staff to reflect changes to the legislation.

The Chair noted that individual organisations would need to put in place measures to respond to the proposals contained within the Green Paper. Although the consultation process had not yet concluded it was likely that the majority of the proposals contained within the Green Paper would be accepted. Therefore it was important that organisations began to plan how they would respond to this prior to changes to legislation.

The Board discussed the proposed requirement for drug users to declare their addiction in order to obtain further support in gaining employment. In response to concerns that this may further marginalise this group, the Board was advised that drug users were already offered a different level of support to other Job Seekers.

In response to concerns that smaller organisations, particularly from the Voluntary and Community Sector, would be placed at a disadvantaged in terms of bidding for contracts, the Chair noted that there was an opportunity for individual organisations to develop new and more collaborative ways of working.

The Board was advised the draft response already made reference to the current economic climate and how this would impact upon the proposals contained within the Green Paper. Reference had also been made to the need for flexibility around working arrangements with neighbouring Authorities on regional initiatives.

**MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (HSP)
MONDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2008**

The Board discussed the possibility of forming a sub-group to look at how the proposals contained within the report should be addressed and it was agreed that individual organisations should discuss this outside the meeting and bring back proposals to the next meeting of the Board.

Responses to the Green Paper should be sent to Ambrose Quashie by 26 September.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the Green Paper be noted.
- ii. That the comments made by the Board be incorporated within the response to the Green Paper.

LC64. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT: UPDATE

The Board received a report setting out information in relation to Performance for Quarter 1 (April-June) and the Risk Management Strategy adopted by the HSP on 3 July.

Performance Highlight Report: 1st Quarter (April-June) 2008/09

Included within the report were details of performance during the first quarter and it was noted that there were no areas of under performance during this period. At present there were several areas where targets had not yet been determined. Information would be included within the report for the 2nd Quarter once these had been finalised.

Good progress had been made against NEET targets with the proportion of young people classified as NEET now at 8.4%, which was lower than the 2008/09 target of 11% and the 2010 Stretch Target of 10.4%.

The Board was advised that a delay in processing invoices had led to a distorted picture of spending against the Haringey Guarantee project. This would be rectified during the 2nd Quarter.

Risk Management Strategy and Framework for the HSP

The Board was advised that the HSP had approved the Risk Management Strategy (appended to the report) and as part of this Risk Registers were being introduced across the HSP and Thematic Boards.

The Risk Management Strategy had been introduced in order to ensure that a uniform approach was adopted across the HSP and Thematic Boards in terms of risk management and identifying risks appropriately.

RESOLVED:

That the Performance Highlight Report and Risk Management Strategy be noted.

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MONDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2008**

LC65. TACKLING WORKLESSNESS UPDATE

The Board considered a report setting out the progress that had been made against the main programmes aimed at addressing Worklessness in the Borough.

Haringey Guarantee

The Board was provided with an update on the Evaluation of the Haringey Guarantee originally received on 11 June. It was noted that the final Evaluation showed that the overall target had been achieved in terms of the number of people being assisted by the Haringey Guarantee. Targets in relation to the engagement of local businesses and volunteering had also been met.

Concern was raised that there was little emphasis on the role of employers within the Evaluation. It was also noted that there was no reference to some of the largest employer groups within the Borough and it was suggested that this was indicative of either the lack of engagement with these groups, or the lack of knowledge amongst those conducting the survey.

In response to concerns that there was not sufficient engagement with employers outside the Borough, the Board was advised that ways of developing links with employers outside the Borough were currently being considered.

Northumberland Park: Families into Work

The Families into Work project had now been successfully set up and would be formally launched in October 2008.

The Board was advised that the project would aim to work with approximately one hundred families to remove 'barriers' to work. The project would address a broad range of issues affecting families and there would be involvement from a range of agencies.

In response to a query from Job Centre Plus (JCP) it was agreed that there would be discussion between officers and the organisation outside the meeting regarding how they could refer families to this project.

North London Pledge

It was noted that a total of £600K had been allocated to the delivery of the programme during the current financial year. A further £910K had been allocated for 2009/10.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the developments and progress in relation to each of the programmes be noted.
- ii. That the development of a Strategic Partnership on Employer Engagement be approved as part of the Haringey Guarantee.

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LC66. REGENERATION DELIVERY PLAN

The Board received the full Regeneration Strategy Delivery Plan 2008/11.

It was noted that the Regeneration Strategy Delivery Plan 2008/11 had been agreed by the Council's Cabinet on July. Reports updating the Board on progress would be presented at future meetings.

The Vice-Chair noted the need to ensure that the Voluntary and Community Sector was fully engaged in terms of employment proposals.

In response to a query it was noted that Risk Management would be built in via the Boards new Risk Management assessment.

RESOLVED:

That the Regeneration Strategy Delivery Plan 2008/11 be noted.

LC67. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

No new items of Urgent Business were raised.

LC68. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Board was advised that the Council's new Child Poverty Strategy was out for consultation until the end of November. As there were no Board meetings scheduled before the deadline for responses, it had been agreed that the document should be circulated via email.

There was agreement that in light of the new performance scorecard there was no longer a need for the Board to receive the Key Performance Indicators report.

LC69. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board was asked to note the following dates of future meetings:

- 10 December 2008, 2pm.
- 9 March 2009, 2pm.

The meeting closed at 3.20pm.

Dr Ita O'Donovan

Chair

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