

Meeting: Enterprise Partnership Board
Date: 10 December 2008
Report Title: Business and Enterprise Update
Report of: Karen Galey – Head of Economic Regeneration

Purpose

To update the Enterprise Board on Business and Enterprise activities funded through the Area Based Grant.

Summary

This report refers to some of the existing projects being supported by the Business and Enterprise Team, including Area Based Grant projects including Enterprise Week, Town Centres, The Wood Green Film Festival and the Olympics.

Legal/Financial Implications

N/A.

Recommendations

That the Enterprise Board notes the report.

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UPDATE

The following is an update on some of the work currently being undertaken by the Business and Enterprise Team.

1. Area Based Grant

1.1 The programme is currently on target to deliver all outputs and spend and current RAG status is green. Nine Business Support Initiatives are now running and being delivered by partner organisations across the borough. Initiatives are being delivered by Keeping it Simple Training, FinFutures, Growing Aspiring People, Haringey Education Business Partnership, Selby Trust, Exemplas, Ethiopian Community Centre in the United Kingdom, The Crouch End Project and The Open University.

1.2 These initiatives support our project objectives and will achieve the following outputs to support business sustainability and growth, encourage inward investment, and promote entrepreneurship and self employment among our residents.

- 155 existing businesses will receive support to encourage growth and sustainability
- 37 businesses will achieve VAT registration
- 78 residents will receive support and mentoring towards business start up.
- 10 residents will start their own businesses
- 150 young people at key stage 4 will benefit from an enterprise training programme
- 1 new traders association will be established in the west of the borough.
- 10 businesses will join existing traders associations

1.3 Last quarter's activity was largely focused on marketing business support programmes to residents and businesses to ensure that courses and workshops were fully subscribed with most of the delivery taking place over the next two quarters.

1.4 Haringey Education Business Partnership has delivered 4 enterprise workshops to 36 students at Moselle, Fortismere, Park View Academy and Woodside High. Business support programmes being delivered through Keeping it Simple Training, Exemplas, Growing Aspiring People, Selby Trust and Ethiopian Community Centre in The UK have so far provided support to 41 businesses and 26 residents. The programme has already achieved one target with 10 new businesses joining a traders association in Crouch End through work with the Crouch End Project. The Crouch End Project have also organised monthly late night shopping events to promote independent retailers in the area and increase footfall from residents who are at work during the day.

2. Enterprise Week

2.1 The Business and Enterprise Team supported a number of events during National Enterprise Week (17th-23rd November) with almost 400 residents, over 60 businesses and 350 young people receiving advice and support from business experts and entrepreneurs to help them start their own business, grow their existing business and save money during the Credit Crunch. One of the highlights of the week was the "Black Boys in Business Event" on the 17th of November at the Bernie Grant Centre where African and Caribbean entrepreneurs including Levi Roots, Eddie Nestor and Rodney Hinds shared their business secrets with an audience of over 300 residents and young people. Haringey Education and Business Partnership worked with Environmental Services to deliver a week long programme of enterprise and recycling workshops to all year 7 pupils at Woodside High School. The Ethiopian Community Centre in the UK provided a networking lunch for 46 budding local entrepreneurs, G.A.P Network put on the Black Boys in Business Event and a 'Beat the Credit Crunch' event and The Haringey Business Development Agency ran two workshops for Haringey Businesses on Employment Law and Procurement.

3. Single Business Account

3.1 Work continues with Customer Services to implement the Single Business Account. The identifiers on the Business Description Schema have been matched against data on existing systems and an officer has been employed, on a temporary basis, to aggregate this data. Once this data has been aggregated we will have the first stage of the SBA in place. This is scheduled to be delivered by April 09.

4. Olympics

4.1 Members have agreed to provide £180,000 in Growth Fund monies to support Olympic based activity in the borough. £60,000 will be available for three years from April 2009 and projects will be set up to ensure that Haringey residents, young people and businesses will reap the benefits of the Olympics and the Olympic legacy. We are currently working on an Olympics Action Plan with other council services and NLSA.

4.2 John Armit, Head of the Olympic Delivery Authority will be meeting with Cllr Amin, Nick Schlittner and Karen Galey on 19th December to discuss how Haringey can become involved in Olympic focused activities.

5. Town Centres

5.1 To deliver an action plan that delivers a borough wide and rationalised approach to town centre development. The document is aligned to the key themes of people, places and prosperity as set out in the borough's regeneration strategy; ensuring our main and district town centres remain competitive and sustainable.

5.2 The action plan will go forward through four workstreams:

- Planning and Environment
- Business, Culture and Events
- Safe and Clean
- Town Centre Management

5.3 The draft action plan has been circulated for review, is currently on the forward plan and is to be discussed by CAB on December 4th. The draft is due for review at Cabinet on December 16th.

5.4 After the town centre action plan agreed at Cabinet, work will commence to deliver against actions.

6. Business Pack

6.1 The Business and Enterprise team are currently in the process of compiling a business pack, which will be circulated around the borough's businesses in March 2009. The pack will form an easy to use guide for all of our businesses providing them with information on council services to business and signposting to other relevant external agencies. Copy is currently being circulated to the departments whose services are covered for their approval.

7. Credit Crunch

7.1 The current number of cases where Small Business Rates relief (SBR) is awarded is 2,372. Our property database currently lists 6,899 premises, many of which will have rateable values above £10,000 so will not qualify for the relief.

7.2 Benefits and Local Taxation intend to issue a mailshot in December targeted at all those ratepayers who have not applied for the reduction but may qualify, approximately 1,000 businesses. A copy of the application form is available on the website, together with some guidance notes.

7.3 A second mailshot, developed in collaboration between Benefits and Local Taxation and the Business and Enterprise Team, will be sent out in February with the annual rate demand outlining the support available for businesses located within the borough.

7.4 Further to this the government has announced in the Pre Budget Report that all commercial empty properties with a rateable value below £15k will be exempt from business rates.

7.5 Additional support for business includes the postponement of a 1p rise in small business corporation tax and the increase of National Insurance contribution for all employees and employers by 0.5% from April 2011 (an extra £1k a year for people earning £40k).

8. Wood Green Film Festival

8.1 The 7th Wood Green International Short Film Festival will take place 23-29 March 2009 at Cineworld Wood Green & selected local venues, showcasing the best new short films from around the world, as well as putting the spotlight on our own local talent.

8.2 We are pleased to continue our long running association with **Cineworld Wood Green** who once again will be our principal screening venue throughout the festival.

Fringe Events

8.3 In addition, we will be announcing a programme of one-off screenings, events, talks and workshops at selected local venues throughout the week, bringing together the best of our local creative communities.

9. Youth Film Festival

9.1 We are delighted that Tottenham's **Fast Forward** organisation will be returning to run their ever-popular Youth Film Festival for the 3rd successive year. The event will take place at Cineworld Wood Green on Saturday 28th March. For more information on the Youth Film Festival visit: www.fastforwardyouth.com

10. Business Engagement

10.1 We plan to get the local Wood Green businesses involved with the Film Festival as much as possible. We will be approaching businesses to offer them the chance to participate in the festival and to benefit from advertising and promotional opportunities.