

**MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (HSP)
FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2009**

Present: Dr Ita O'Donovan, Leo Atkins, Yolande Burgess, Sean Burke, Rod Cullen, John Egbo, Phil Gowan, Gary Ince, Claire Kowalska, Naeem Sheikh, Wally Steel.

In Attendance: Juneed Asad, Xanthe Barker, Ambrose Quashie, Martin Tucker.

LC85. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Paul Head -Phil Gowan substituted
Martha Osamor
Michael Thompson

LC86. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

LC87. ENTERPRISE COMMISSIONING PROSPECTUS

The Board received the draft Enterprise Commissioning Prospectus, which set out the priorities, objectives and outcomes for the Board's Area Based Grant (ABG) allocation for 2009/19 and 2010/11.

The Board was reminded that at the previous meeting it had been agreed that an Enterprise Commissioning Prospectus should be developed in order to deliver partnership priorities and LAA outcomes. The Prospectus also set out the process by which people would apply for funding from the ABG.

The Enterprise Commissioning Prospectus would also be used a model for Commissioning across the Partnership Boards.

As part of the assessment process a panel, consisting of members of the Board, would be convened to consider applications for funding.

In response to concern that the document did not make sufficient reference to the early intervention measures in relation to improve literacy and numeracy, or how people were being equipped with 'soft' skills, the Board was advised that there were a number of initiatives that were being undertaken with schools in terms of early interventions. As part of the North London Pledge workshops were being held to support people who had recently entered employment. At present mentoring schemes were also being considered.

There was agreement that the document should be amended to reflect the initiatives above.

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It was noted that organisations within the Community and Voluntary Sector also required support to remain in operation and the business support priorities in the Prospectus should take account of this.

In response to a query, the Board was advised the Compact Proofing tool, which had been developed by the Corporate Voluntary Sector team, was in draft form at present. However, officers had been advised that it was fit for purpose and would be applied to the Prospectus.

The Board discussed how new initiatives, aimed at addressing the needs of people recently made unemployed, may have an impact upon the long term unemployed. Concern was raised that people who had been unemployed on a long term basis may be further pushed out of the job market with the influx of 'white collar' workers who had been affected by the current economic down turn.

The Board was advised that eighty per cent of the measures aimed at helping people into employment were still targeted at the long term unemployed and there was agreement that this should be highlighted in the Prospectus.

In response to concerns that the contingency fund, which had been established to fund initiatives to address issues arising from the current economic climate, the Board was advised that work was already being carried out to determine how this could be used most effectively.

The Chair noted concerns around the need to ensure that the Partnership responded to the recession promptly. However, as the information emerging at present suggested that areas of the Borough, usually considered to be more affluent were the most affected by changes to the economic climate, there was a need to weigh up how the Partnership should respond and direct its funding. It was envisaged that there may be a significant number of people who had no experience of accessing job centres or the benefits system that would need assistance. Obviously meeting this requirement would have to be balanced against continuing to support the long term unemployed.

In response to concerns, the Board was advised that representatives from Job Centre Plus (JCP), the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and the Local Authority, had met to discuss the actions that each respective organisation was taking to meet the new needs emerging. This would ensure that there was no duplication and that combined resources were used as effectively as possible.

The Board was advised that North London Business was receiving feedback from local employers that suggested that businesses in the East of the Borough were now feeling the impact of the recession. This was primarily due to the decrease in public spending following significant job losses and the impact of this upon retail and manufacturing businesses.

The Chair advised that a Haringey 'Kite Mark' was being established to recognise good local businesses. It was hoped that local businesses would see this as being an advantageous asset and encourage them to participate in schemes such as Getting People into Work.

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The Board was advised that CONEL had undertaken sessions to assist people who found themselves unemployed. Work was also being undertaken with the LSC and JCP to equip volunteers with new skills.

The Chair noted that the next Government spending review was likely to result in a significant reduction in the levels of funding available to Local Authorities and consequently it was important that new and existing projects and initiatives under the Boards responsibility were sustainable. The Board noted that placements under the Haringey Guarantee cost approximately £2,000 and that this figure was low in comparison to other programmes across the country. This would mean that Haringey was well placed to continue this and other projects as good value for money outcomes were being delivered.

In conclusion the Board was asked to contact officers if there were any areas that they considered required further discussion, prior to the next meeting in March, when the final document would be presented for adoption.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

LC88. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No items of AOB were raised.

LC89. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Board was due to be held on 9 March 2009.

Dr Ita O'Donovan

Chair

The meeting closed at 3.50pm.