

Meeting: Haringey Strategic Partnership

Date: 23 June 2009

Report Title: HSP Recession Taskforce

Report of: Patrick Jones, Business and Enterprise Policy Officer, Planning and Regeneration

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update the HSP board on the first meeting of the Recession Taskforce and the actions forthcoming.

Summary

The first meeting of the recession taskforce took place on 3rd June 2009. Representatives attended from the Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus, the Metropolitan Police, North London Business and Haringey Council. Apologies were received from Haringey PCT and HAVCO. The meeting was chaired by Councillor Kober, Leader of Haringey Council.

The agenda for the meeting set out the purpose of the group and outlined the work undertaken to understand the impact of the recession. Discussion mainly focussed on the collection and analysis of statistics relating to the recession. Attending organisations also submitted brief updates on their respective actions to tackle the recession (appendix 1).

The Recession Dashboard

The Council has produced a recession dashboard (attached), which contains statistics across all the Community Strategy themes – ranging from unemployment data to county court records on housing repossessions. Representatives around the table were asked to consider whether any more information and statistics were available or necessary from within their organisations.

The following areas are to be followed up:

- Crime statistics (additional to the indicators on serious acquisitive crime and domestic violence)
- Data on applications made to the social fund
- Data on 18 year old NEETs to be included

The Future Jobs Fund

Government has made £30m available to public authorities to bid for job creation programmes. Successful bids must create a minimum of 30 jobs and sustain those jobs for at least 6 months. The group discussed potential approaches towards an application and agreed that a partnership bid would be appropriate. The metropolitan police are have indicated that there may be opportunities for PCSOs. Separate updates will be submitted to the HSP on the progress of a bid. It was clear that the Future Jobs Fund will be a good opportunity to provide apprenticeships throughout the HSP membership.

Credit Unions

The group were provided with an update on work being commissioned to develop coverage of Credit Union services in the borough. Overall the project will conclude at the end of September. Work elements will cover the following:

- Common Bond
- Local Community Stakeholders
- Key Employers
- Resources and Financial options
- Establishment of a Steering Group
- Developing an Action Plan

It is suggested that the consultants ABCUL present to the group.

Legal/Financial Implications

There are no direct legal and financial implications arising.

Recommendations

The board are recommended to note the contents of this report.

For more information contact:

Patrick Jones, Business & Enterprise Policy Officer, Planning & Regeneration
Patrick.jones@haringey.gov.uk
Tel: 020 8489 2670

APPENDIX 1 – EXISTING ACTIONS

COUNCILWIDE ACTION PLAN

Supporting Residents:

1. Maintaining Haringey Guarantee (HG), Families in Work and North London Pledge Programmes
2. Extend HG to support newly unemployed and new access from up to 40 additional community locations in the Borough
3. Closer working relationship/SLA with JCP and Reed Partnership – in preparation for new national £3bn (April Budget) Future Jobs Fund
4. Expansion of the Haringey Apprenticeship scheme to include the Council; Building Schools for the Future and Decent Homes (jobs fair), and other members of Haringey Strategic Partnership
5. Promotion of Fuel Poverty programme to help those on low incomes pay for adequate heating and energy
6. Promotion of “Claim it” and “Reaping the Benefit” campaigns to ensure people get what they are entitled to
7. Promotion of “Free Schools Meals” information

Supporting Enterprise

8. Extend HG to include an “Employer Zone” – where businesses can post vacancies and can access staff training
9. Business advice/support information in the Council’s annual business rates demand
10. Maintain advice and support on Business Rate Relief – this has been growing each year
11. Programme to move from 21 days guaranteed payment of invoices – to 10 days in 09-10
12. Business Guide to Council Services
13. More active advice for local businesses to bid for public and Olympic contracts
14. Quarterly Meetings with local banks and business representatives
15. Regular business advice and networking meetings, (thru North London Business) to advise businesses on managing the recession
16. Establish a Haringey Business Board and supporting and meeting Main and District Centre Town Centre Business Groups (Wood Green; Tottenham; Green Lanes; Crouch End; Muswell Hill) – to find out what the Council might do to help
17. Housing and Communities Agency – Haringey Investment Plan, to support and bid for funding for housing and infrastructure schemes
18. “Recession Dashboard”

OTHER PARTNERS

JobCentre Plus

JobCentre Plus have seen a massive increase in demand for their services and in response to this have suspended previous plans to close a number of JobCentres nationally (although not in this borough) in order to provide the

capacity to deliver services to newly unemployed people. Further capacity has been added at the front line to give the newly unemployed flexible and relevant support, this includes giving rapid briefings to provide individuals with key techniques and information enabling them to become self-sufficient in finding and applying for appropriate vacancies. In addition to this JCP are working with bodies such as the LSC around work focused training.

The Learning and Skills Council

The LSC have been given responsibility by government to deliver responsive adult learning services that support job-seekers in finding work. This is in addition to other main programmes such as Train to Gain (supporting businesses as employers) and the Apprenticeships agenda.

Haringey Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations

HAVCO are incorporating recession action planning into the emerging Volunteer Development Plan. Volunteering has been identified as a key part of the welfare to work agenda.

London Fire Brigade

Aware of the rising costs of service delivery and monitoring key stats on arson, but despite managing budget savings within the organisation (imposed by the GLA) there has been no significant rise in specific call outs or on the services capacity to deliver.

LBH Adult & Community Care Services

Recruitment and retention remains the key issue to maintaining service delivery standards regardless of whether they rise or fall in response to the recession.

Homes for Haringey

H4H are a key part of the borough's provision of apprenticeships places, through the Decent Homes programme. Outside of this, there is concerted partnership working with tenants, leaseholders and the CAB to support vulnerable households in matters of debt and the ability to pay rent.