

**Meeting:** Enterprise Partnership Board

**Date:** 5 May 2009

**Report Title:** Business and Enterprise Update

**Report of:** Juneed Asad – Business and Enterprise Manager

**Purpose**

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

**Summary**

This report refers to existing projects being supported by the Business and Enterprise Team, including Area Based Grant projects, Town Centres, The Wood Green Film Festival, Single Business Account, The Olympics and updates on the Economic Downturn.

**Legal/Financial Implications**

NA.

**Recommendations**

That the Enterprise Board notes the report.

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## **1. Area Based Grant 09/10**

A new programme for 2009-2011 was commissioned in April/May 2009. 11 business support initiatives were funded from the overall allocation of £600,000 over two years.

The programme will support:

- 600 businesses, residents and young people towards business sustainability and growth, encourage inward investment and promote entrepreneurship and self employment
- 30 businesses to access Olympic opportunities
- 30 businesses to achieve VAT/PAYE registration
- 300 businesses to benefit from town centre project interventions
- 100 businesses supported toward consortia building to access procurement opportunities

## **2. Single Business Account**

Records for 7,300 Haringey now exist within SAP CRM to create the first stage of the Single Business Account.

The Business Description Schema contains a number of identifiers for Businesses including full business name and address, postcode, contact name and contact details. Each business also has a Unique Business Identification number in line with the recommendations of the national pilot. Information from the SBA has been used for targeted mail outs to businesses by the Business and Enterprise Team and once information is refined it can be shared with all council directorates.

The Business and Enterprise Team are meeting with Customer Services in early September to consider options for further development. Work will start in the autumn to further populate the Business Description Schema to include information on business by sector, number of employees and turnover.

## **3. Olympics**

£180,000 is available over the next three years to deliver a council programme of Olympic Activity. Funding will be used to promote and support existing projects and initiatives that have a broad Olympic theme and to support new projects across directorates.

These projects will focus on Sports Participation and Health, Elite athletes, Tourism, Citizenship, Employment, Business, Volunteering, Culture, Education, Physical Regeneration and Community involvement.

A funding prospectus and template are currently being prepared and will be available in the autumn. Funding will be available to directorates, community groups and external partners

The Economic Regeneration team will manage the fund and will make recommendations to a committee who will make a final decision on the funding allocation.

- The Business and Enterprise Team have funded two projects through the ABG to capacity build local businesses to compete for Olympics Contracts.  
Both projects are funded for two years until March 2011. Between January and June 2009 there has been a 35% increase in the number of Haringey businesses registering on the CompeteFor 2012 procurement portal.
- White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre is outlined as a possible “In Games Venue” Recreation Services have hosted a number of visits and are hoping that the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) will be taking decisions on short listed sites/centres in October 09.
- The Upper Lea Valley 2012 and Visitor Economy working group has been set up to support the boroughs to maximise the tourism benefits of 2012. This a group for members and officers and chaired by Councillor Terry Wheeler, Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Investment at Waltham Forest Council. Next meeting at the Olympic Park, September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2.30.
- LOCOG are planning to produce a set of Olympic Pin Badges that feature an iconic landmark in each London Borough. They are planning a public vote to decide which landmark features for each borough. We have nominated Alexandra Palace, Hornsey Town Hall and Bruce Castle which were all keen to be involved. This initiative is planned to take place in September and will generate positive press coverage for Haringey.
- Audit of primary & secondary schools strategy team will take place next term to see what schools are already doing around the Olympics and how they see their future role.

#### **4. Town Centres**

The Haringey Business Board has been formally established and it is being facilitated by North London Business. The first meeting was held on June 10<sup>th</sup>. As part of the overarching business engagement structure a Business forum has been established in Wood Green with other town centres forums being established with existing traders associations in Crouch End, Harringay Green Lanes and Muswell Hill. Tottenham already has an established forum, attended by Council officers. The Wood Green forum is being chaired by the manager of Morrisons supermarket in Wood Green and two meetings have been held – on 4<sup>th</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> August.

The Business and Enterprise team have worked with officers from Sustainable Transport to develop a voucher scheme to offer free stop-and-

shop parking for visitors to shops in Crouch End. This project is now being developed following our input into business engagement and will go live on...

## **5. Responding to the Recession**

The Business and Enterprise Team are leading on two projects.

Empty Shops – Urban Space Management (USM) were engaged by the Business and Enterprise Team to develop a pilot project to utilise vacant retail units in Haringey's town centres. Vacant retail units have become a significant issue nationally during the recession, although Haringey's key town centres have proven to be more resilient than other areas. At this stage there are advanced discussions pertaining to one property on Stroud Green Road, owned by the Council, and two premises in the Mall: Wood Green.

The Council will manage the process and Libraries and Arts service in ACCS will project manage the pilot scheme, handling the selection of users and controlling access to the sites. Corporate Property and Legal Services are engaged with the project providing support and advice on short term usage of spaces.

Credit Unions – A stakeholder event held and vocal support given to the idea of a Credit Union for the borough – especially from CAB and Housing Associations. The next steps are to bring Corporate Finance into discussions and there is confirmation that they will send a representative to the second stakeholder event on September 14th. The Association of British Credit Unions Ltd (ABCUL) are producing an options appraisal, which will be completed by the end of September 2009. Councillor Bob Harris has been briefed as the cabinet member for resources and depending on the early recommendations a report to CAB for approval of the recommended option could be submitted in October 2009. The planning of a second phase (delivery), would then begin.

## **6. Film Office**

### **North London Film Fund**

For 2009/10 the film fund is being run in collaboration with Enfield and Camden. A project co-ordinator has been appointed to manage the fund of which further details can be found at [www.nlff.org.uk](http://www.nlff.org.uk). A total of four films will be funded across the three participating boroughs, with at least one film being funded from Haringey.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Wood Green International Short Film Festival - 2010**

Following on from the success of the 2009 festival, which expanded to a week-long event (previously 3 days) in order to increase the focus on Wood Green town centre, and engage and involve the local businesses, work has started on the 8<sup>th</sup> running of the festival.

The organisation of the 2010 festival will take into account lessons learned from 2009 to ensure that this year is even more effective at drawing in a

diverse audience and identifying high quality films to be screened. Last year was a success with increased numbers of visitors from across the UK and Europe.