

Report Title. SCRUTINY REVIEW – SUPPORT TO SMALL BUSINESSES

Report of Councillor Adje, Chair of Review Panel

Contact Officer : Carolyn Banks , Principal Scrutiny Support Officer Tel: 0208 489 2965

Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Non Key Decision

1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)

That Members approve the report and recommendations of the Review, as outlined in the Scrutiny Review report.

2. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

2.1 This review links with the Sustainable Community strategy Outcomes – Economic vitality shared by all, specifically through business and inward investment.

2.2 It also links with the Council Plan priority of a thriving Haringey and to the Local Area Agreement NI 171 – number of business registrations for VAT and PAYE per 10,000 resident population aged 16 and above.

3. Recommendations

To consider the report and agree the recommendations.

4. Reasons for recommendations

Please refer to the scrutiny review report (attached)

5. Other options considered

N/A

6. Chief Financial Officer Comments

- 6.1 The recommendation of £25,000 for a business turnaround service is not presently included within the Council budget for 2010-11 and would therefore require Cabinet approval to make an allocation from Council balances or to allocate from Area Based Grant funding.
- 6.2 Additionally the recommendation around offering loan schemes would expose the Council to the financial risk of meeting the cost of loans in default.
- 6.3 Other recommendations within the report whilst having no immediately apparent cost to the Council would need to be examined further to see if the work involved can be contained within existing resources, an example being the additional audit work requested.

7. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 7.1. This review links with the Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes. It also links with the Council Plan priority of a thriving Haringey and to the Local Area Agreement NI 171.
- 7.2. There would appear to be no legal implications for the Council at this stage. However if the Council allocates any funding or enters in any partnerships in the future it may be necessary to enter into legal agreements and advice should be sought from Corporate Legal Services at the appropriate time.
- 7.3. Subject to paragraph 7.2 above the Head of Legal Services sees no legal reasons to prevent Members from approving the recommendations in the attached report.

8. Head of Procurement Comments

The Head of Procurement gave evidence to the review and his contributions form part of the main report.

9. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

- 9.1 Haringey is an extremely diverse borough which can make effective communication, engagement and inclusion challenging. It is important that the council is able to evidence equality of access to the support, information and services available to SME's. The Equalities service would recommend the development of appropriate equalities and diversity performance indicators, in order to assist the council and the

Enterprise Partnership Board to ensure equality and diversity issues are considered and fed into policy and practice.

9.2 Equal opportunities monitoring of the access and use of available services, information, support and resources is also recommended. This will assist with the identification of any issues of non, under and over –representation and the need for targeting of priority groups and areas.

10. Consultation

10.1 Throughout the scrutiny review process views and evidence was considered from relevant Council departments and service providers.

10.2 The attached report was circulated to all those involved in the review for consideration of the technical accuracy and feasibility of the recommendations.

11. Service Financial Comments

There are no revenue budget implications in the main report, as there is scope from within the Area Based grant to cover the proposed £25k for an external provider to assist with business turnaround.

12. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

The background papers relating to this report are:

Report to O & S on 29 June 2009- Overview and Scrutiny work programme
Council Plan
Sustainable Community Strategy
Haringey Local Area Agreement
Chancellor's Pre Budget report 2010

These can be obtained from Carolyn Banks- Principal Scrutiny Support Officer on 0208 489 2965, 7th Floor, River Park House,
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