

Agenda item:

**[No.]**

**Cabinet**

**On 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Report Title. Response To Scrutiny Review Of Support To Small Businesses

Report of **Niall Bolger (Director of Urban Environment)**

Signed :

Contact Officer : Marc Dorfman (Assistant Director Planning and Regeneration)

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Non key**

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

- 1.1. To respond to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Review Of Support To Small Businesses and to provide an Action Plan.

**2. Introduction by Cabinet Members**

- 2.1. I am grateful to the members of the Overview and Scrutiny panel who undertook this review and for producing a thorough and helpful piece of work. My responses to the recommendations are set out in the attached Action Plan.
- 2.2. I am happy to agree almost all the recommendations in full. Where this is not possible we have explained why this is not possible.

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

- 3.1. A strong and diverse business community is a key priority in Haringey's Regeneration Strategy, creating vibrant High Streets and employment opportunities and nurturing latent entrepreneurial talent. This review looked at the current level support available to businesses in the borough and what needs to be done to ensure that we continue to meet our strategic priorities.

**4. Recommendations**

- 4.1. The Cabinet agree the response to the recommendations and agree the attached

action plan.

**5. Reason for recommendation(s)**

- The action plan sets out the process and actions required to implement those recommendations agreed from the Scrutiny Review Report.

**6. Other options considered**

6.1. n/a

**7. Summary**

7.1. See the responses to the recommendations and the actions required.

**8. Chief Financial Officer Comments**

8.1. Although many of the recommendations within the review report have no financial implications, the action plan shows that there is a cost attached to some actions. In some cases funding can be agreed by the HSP Enterprise Board, but where this is not the case, it will be necessary to identify funding and have this agreed by Members before the action can commence.

**9. Head of Legal Services Comments**

9.1. There are various recommendations set out in the Action Plan attached which will require individual legal advice as the plan is implemented. Where it is agreed that any services should be procured, contract standing orders should be complied with. Where there is a review of lettings policy Corporate Property must have regard to the statutory requirements in respect of the properties involved.

9.2. Further legal advice will be given as and when necessary as the recommendations are being implemented and when further reports are produced.

**10. Head of Procurement Comments – [Required for Procurement Committee]**

10.1. n/a

**11. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments**

11.1. Access to Finance for BAME businesses was raised as an issue by witnesses attending the evidence gathering sessions. It was also commented that capacity within the BAME community to engage with formal business support programmes needed to be developed. Further work is required to understand BAME and other equalities needs within the borough's business community.

## **12. Consultation**

- 12.1. Throughout the scrutiny review process, views and evidence were considered from relevant stakeholders including businesses, business support providers and council departments.
- 12.2. The scrutiny report was circulated to all those involved in the review for consideration.

## **13. Service Financial Comments**

- 13.1. The costs associated with recommendations 2 and 6 of the action plan (appendix 1) have funding provision through the Area Based Grant. Where other actions have a potential financial implication it will be necessary to identify funding and have this agreed by Members before the action can commence.

## **14. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs**

- 14.1. Appendix 1 – action plan

## **15. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

n/a