

**MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (HSP)
MONDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2007**

Present: Karen Galey (Chairing), Leo Atkins, Yolande Burgess, Paul Head, Michael Thompson,

In Attendance: Jon Clubb, Steve Jefferys, Sharon Kemp, Anna Parosleropoulou, Ambrose Quashie.

LC12. APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from the following people:

Councillor Kaushika Amin
Linda Banton
Colin Compton
David Hennings
Ita O'Donovan
Martin Tucker

-Karen Galey substituted and Chaired the meeting

LC13. URGENT BUSINESS

No items of urgent business were raised.

LC14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

LC15. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2007, confirmed as a correct record.

LC16. REGENERATION STRATEGY UPDATE

The Board received a verbal update on the Regeneration Strategy.

It was noted that a conference had been held on 29 November, which had been well attended and that the draft Strategy was now being consulted upon. Following feedback from delegates suggested that the Strategy should be redrafted to make it more ambitious. Following the consultation period the Strategy would be considered by CEMB and Cabinet before being finalised in February 2008.

RESOLVED:

To note the update.

LC17. FAMILIES INTO WORK - PROGRESS REPORT

The Board received a report setting out progress that has been made in relation to the Families into Work Programme since the Steering Group had met on 8 October 2007. An outline was also provided on the background and scope of the initiative and proposals for taking the work forward.

**MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (HSP)
MONDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2007**

Northumberland Park had been selected following a meeting of key partners in July, who had met to discuss how a joined up approach to addressing problem areas could be formed and how the gap could be closed. As an area social deprivation and exclusion Northumberland Park had been selected.

It had been agreed that feasibility work should be carried out with a view to carrying out targeted, holistic intervention in the Ward, which would contribute to the objectives of the Local Area Agreement and provide a template for good practice in further neighbourhood level interventions, both in the Borough and elsewhere. The primary focus of the project would be to address Worklessness and to provide an interface with other service providers across all of the Thematic Areas.

It was noted that a Business Plan had recently been commissioned and would be submitted to GoL by 10 January 2008 for approval.

The Board was advised that Job Centre Plus was currently carrying out work to identify their most at risk benefit claimants and that these people would be monitored and receive specific support.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

LC18. HARINGEY'S GREENEST BOROUGH STRATEGY CONSULTATION DRAFT

The Board received a presentation on the Greenest Borough Strategy.

The Board was advised of the national and regional context within which the Strategy had been formed. It was noted that the Strategy would address Government targets in relation to the reduction of emissions and the targets within the Mayor's London Plan and supporting strategies.

In addition to the broader national and regional targets, the Strategy also informed the local context, including the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Haringey Council Plan.

In order to develop the Strategy, a Better Haringey Working Group and Stream Board had been formed and an Away Day was being held in the New Year. It was noted that the consultation period would end on 31 January 2008.

The Council's Cabinet would consider the Strategy in April 2008 and it would be submitted to Council in July 2008. The HSP would also consider the Strategy in July 2008.

RESOLVED:

To note the Greenest Borough Strategy.

**MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (HSP)
MONDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2007**

LC19. EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS AND TRAINING NEEDS OF REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND RECENT MIGRANTS IN HARINGEY

The Board received a presentation from Steve Jefferys and Anna Parosleropoulou, on a study that had been commissioned by the Working Lives Institute of London Metropolitan University on the Employment, Skills and Training Needs of Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Recent Migrants in Haringey.

The Board was advised that the research had been undertaken in order to obtain a better understanding of the movements of migrants and their experience of integrating their skills into the existing labour market.

It was noted that it was difficult to obtain an accurate picture of the number of migrants living in the Borough at any given time. However, a rough estimate, based on the information available, showed that approximately 30,000 people in this group were living in the Borough at any one time.

As part of the study interviews had been conducted with eighty people who fell within the category.

The research indicated that many migrants and refugees were working at a level far below their qualification and skills levels. In order to address this it was recommended that work was required to create a long term shift towards higher quality employment in the Borough.

One of the most common barriers faced by migrants seeking employment was the lack of recognition of foreign qualifications. The report proposed that a London wide accreditation scheme should be formed in order assist migrants who experienced difficulties associated with this.

In terms of the needs specific to this group, the research showed that one of the major barriers to work was a lack of language skills. By improving language skills amongst this group it would be easier for individuals to access employment opportunities and this would also assist people with higher qualifications achieve their full potential. The report recommended that a more coordinated approach should be taken to the provision of language classes.

Other recommendations set within the report included public sector bodies encouraging contractors to adopt the London Living Wage and approaching the private sector with a view to obtaining additional volunteer places.

The Board was advised that Refugees and Asylum Seekers faced stereotyping and discrimination and that employers often had concerns regarding the legal implications of employing migrants. The report suggested that this was an area where the Council may be able to provide assistance. It was also suggested that front line Council staff may benefit from training in relation to the needs of migrants.

In response to a query as to whether different groups experienced different problems, the Board was advised that migrants from Eastern Europe were more likely to be working at level below their skills base; conversely Asylum Seekers often had a lower

**MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (HSP)
MONDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2007**

skills base and were more likely to require assistance to improve their IT skills to enable them to access jobs advertised online.

The Board discussed the report and the recommendations put forward. It was noted that the accreditation of foreign qualifications by Council's would be a large project and would need to be considered as a London wide initiative.

In response to queries as to whether there were any areas of employment where migrant workers had effected the employment opportunities of the existing population, the Board was advised that although migrants generally filled positions where there was a gap in the labour market, there were some areas such as the construction industry, where the employment of migrants had lead to the number of apprentices available to young people in the Borough being reduced.

The Chair thanked the Steve Jefferys and Anna Parosleropoulou for the presentation.

RESOLVED:

To note the presentation.

LC20. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Board considered a report that set out the Statement of Grant use for the Local Area Agreement for the first half of the financial year. An overview was also given of the progress made against the delivery of outcomes and indicators within in the LAA Outcomes Framework.

It was noted that the information contained within the report in relation to the Economic Development and Benefit Claimants was no longer accurate and that the baseline figures had also changed. A supplementary paper setting out the current information was distributed to the Board.

There was agreement that work should be undertaken to examine how the level of people drawing incapacity benefit could be reduced and that a report on this should be brought to the Boards next meeting.

RESOLVED:

- i) To note the report.
- ii) That a report should be brought to the next meeting of the Board on ways of reducing the number of people claiming incapacity benefit.

LC21. NEW PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITY PARTNERSHIPS

**MINUTES OF THE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (HSP)
MONDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2007**

The Board considered the new set of National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships, which had been received from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

It was noted that each Local Strategic Partnership was required to select thirty-five targets from the list of 198 targets issued. These would be selected on the basis of need and a 'Story of Place' was being compiled to provide a narrative to demonstrate this.

It was noted that a response on behalf of the Board was currently being compiled and that this would form part of the Council's over all response to the consultation exercise, which closed on 21 December.

RESOLVED:

To note the new Performance Framework for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships and the process for forming the new LAA.

LC22. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

No new items of Urgent Business were received.

LC23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Board was advised that the first Haringey Business Guarantee Newsletter had been published. In addition to this a video was available; if any members of the Board wished to obtain a copy they should contact Ambrose Quashie.

Dr Ita O'Donovan

Chair