



Scrutiny Committee
3rd November 2014

**Report from the Operations Director,
Housing & Employment**

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Employment, Skills and Enterprise Strategy

1.0 Summary

1.1 This covering report accompanies the Employment, Skills and Enterprise Strategy consultation paper. The emerging Employment, Skills and Enterprise Strategy (2015 -2020) is a strategy for the borough, not just the council. This will be the first time a strategy for this area has been formed. The strategy is designed to be an active vision for the borough and will be accompanied by a live Action Plan, detailing how the vision and strategic objectives will be achieved.

1.2 In developing the strategy, analysis of labour market trend and the economic climate has been undertaken and input from all key stakeholders sought.

1.3 The consultation paper presents a summary of the emerging themes and objectives that will shape the Employment, Skills and Enterprise Strategy. It is not a full draft but draws on earlier discussions with a range of partners to highlight the main areas that the strategy will cover and, in particular, the strategic objectives and the outcomes linked to them.

1.4 The aim of the document is to provide a basis for further consultation that will help to refine and clarify the content of the strategy as a full draft document is prepared. It sets out a number of questions to which response is sought.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Feedback and views on the emerging themes of the strategy, as detailed in the consultation paper, is sought from the Scrutiny Committee.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1** We are currently in the consultation phase of developing the Employment, Skills and Enterprise strategy. This has been an ongoing phase, with a series of discussions having taken place over the last 12 months with a range of stakeholder to inform the emerging themes of the strategy. These emerging themes have been captured in the consultation paper. Further, targeted discussions on specific themes are continuing with specific stakeholders to refine the themes, particularly the emerging strategic objectives and outcome. The consultation paper supports these discussions.
- 3.2** Appendix 1 provides an overview of the targeted discussions being held.
- 3.3** The consultation paper has been shared with a range of partners including: employment, skills and enterprise related providers from the voluntary and community sector, Registered Providers, educational providers including College of North West London and Head Teachers of secondary and primary schools, relevant strategic partners including Department for Work & Pensions and Work Programme Providers, council colleagues including Children & Families and Planning & Regeneration, and specialist organisations including those who work with young people, people with disabilities including mental ill health, and people with offending history.
- 3.4** The consultation period comes to a conclusion at the end of October 2014. The final strategy will be presented to Cabinet in January 2015 for sign-off.

Contact Officers

Jon Lloyd-Owen
Operations Director, Housing and Employment
Jon.lloyd-own@brent.gov.uk

Shomsia Ali
Head of Employment & Enterprise
Shomsia.ali@brent.gov.uk

Appendix 1 - Consultation Plan

Group	Purpose	Key Objective(s)	Date
Brent Council Planning & Regeneration	Enterprise vision Growth areas and High Streets SME support survival and growth Workspace Inward investment	Strategic Objective 5	Continuous
Brent Council Children & Families	Improved links between education and business Careers advice Disadvantaged young people Childcare	Strategic Objective 1	Continuous
Brent Council Housing & Employment	Link with Housing Strategy (2015-19) Link with allocation policy Frontline integration of housing, benefits and employment services	Strategic Objectives 2 & 3	Continuous
Registered Providers (RP)	To share and test vision and objectives with RP representation. To understand the continual role and contribution of RPs. Individual conversations with RPs with significant housing stock in identified neighbourhoods including: Hyde Housing, Metropolitan Housing Association and Catalyst Housing	All, particularly Strategic Objectives 2 and 3	Continuous September – October 2014
Brent Housing Partnership	Largest provider of social housing in Brent. Commitment to neighbourhood approach	Strategic Objectives 2 and 3	Continuous
Brent CVS	To share and test vision and objectives with VCS representation	All	26 th August 2014
Prospects	Main deliverer of Youth Contracts and deliverer of Connexions services in Brent	Strategic Objective 1; Outcome 1	9 th September 2014
Voluntary Sector Liaison Forum	To share and test vision and objectives with key partners in the community and voluntary sector (VCS), particularly with those in the employment, skills and enterprise sectors. To gain the input of VCS partners. To understand the continual role and contribution of the VCS.	All, particularly Strategic Objectives 2 and 3	18 th September 2014
Strategic members of Employment Summit	Group that will be responsible for monitoring success of strategy. Test vision and key objectives,	All with particular focus as follows:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - College of North West London - DWP (including JCP) - Work Programme Primes - Employment Provider's Forum (operational/delivery partners) 	including partners commitment and role:		
	Skills	Strategic Objective 1	7 th October 2014
	Main national commissioner of employment provision	Strategic Objectives 2, 3 & 4	3 rd September 2014
	Delivers of national flagship employment provision	Strategic Objective 4	5 th September 2014
	Employment and skills related partners from VCS and other sectors, with particular focus on operational and delivery staff		20 th October 2014
Businesses and employers			
3 business engagement sessions with businesses including: start-ups, and High Street businesses	<p>To understand viewpoint of entrepreneurs and start-up</p> <p>To understand viewpoint of established businesses in terms of business survival and growth</p>	Strategic Objective 5	October 2014
Individual large businesses including: Segro and large public sector employers, including NHS	To understand viewpoint of large businesses particularly focused on investment, growth and job creation		October 2014
Residents	To share draft visions and strategic objectives. To understand residents' priorities	All	October – November 14
			Phase 2 (testing messages from phase 1). 8 focus groups of residents
Education			

