

## **Committee: Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2014**

Agenda item: 7

Wards: All Wards

## **Subject: Executive Response and Action Plan - Adult Skills and Employability**

Lead officer: Chris Lee, Director of Environment & Regeneration

Lead member: Councillor Andrew Judge, Cabinet Member for Environmental Sustainability and Regeneration

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### **Recommendations:**

- A. That the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel note the recommendations endorsed by Cabinet in relation to their task group review of Adult Skills and Employability – Appendix 1;
- B. That the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel note the progress report shown in the Action Plan since the last presentation to Scrutiny on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 as Appendix 1.
- C. That the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel note the agreed business rates discount scheme attached as Appendix 2.

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To provide a progress report to the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel on the recommendations made by the Adult Skills and Employability Task Group.
- 1.2 At the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting of the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 it was resolved that the Panel noted the report and asked that:

- 1.2.1 The notes of the meetings of the Economic Wellbeing Sub Group be circulated to all Panel members when available by the E&R Department (every 6 weeks);
- 1.2.2 Councillor James Holmes is appointed Member Champion overseeing implementation of the agreed review recommendations.
- 1.2.3 A progress report on implementation is brought to the Panel every three months.
- 1.2.4 The timescales for reporting to Cabinet on business rates be shared with the Panel when available.

## **2. DETAILS**

- 2.1 The Council's Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel agreed to the Action Plan which aims to increase economic viability and prosperity of the borough by reducing unemployment and attracting inward investment.
- 2.2 Cabinet considered the findings and recommendations of the Adult Skills and Employability Task Group at its meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The recommendations were presented to the Panel on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and it was agreed that the panel would receive regular updates on the action plan recommendations.
- 2.3 The accompanying Action Plan (Appendix 1) details how the agreed recommendations will be implemented and shows the progress since November 2013.
- 2.4 Councillor Holmes was appointed member Champion and is now included in the circulation of the minutes of the Economic Well Being who meet every 6 weeks.
- 2.5 The business rates local discount policy was agreed in the end by CMT on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2014 and did not need to go to Cabinet. The scheme detail is attached as Appendix 2.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 3.1 None for the purpose of this report

## **4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

- 4.1 None for the purposes of this report.

## **5. TIMETABLE**

- 5.1 The Action Plan will be delivered according to the timescales outlined in Appendix 1.

## **6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 None for the purposes of this report - financial, resource and property implications of implementing the agreed recommendations have been accounted for in the Final Report of the Adult Skills and Employability Task Group submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

## **7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 None for the purposes of this report – legal and statutory implications of implementing the agreed recommendations have been accounted for in the Final Report of the Adult Skills and Employability Task Group submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

## **8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 None for the purposes of this report – human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications of implementing the agreed recommendations have been accounted for in the Final Report of the Adult Skills and Employability Task Group submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

## **9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 None for the purposes of this report – crime and disorder implications of implementing the agreed recommendations have been accounted for in the Final Report of the Adult Skills and Employability Task Group submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

## **10. RISK AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 None for the purposes of this report – risk management and health and safety implications of implementing the agreed recommendations have been accounted for in the Final Report of the Adult Skills and Employability Task Group submitted to Cabinet for consideration.

## **11. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THIS REPORT**

- 11.1 Appendix 1 –Adult Skills and Employability Task Group Action Plan and Progress report  
Appendix 2 - Merton Council Local Business Rates Discount Policy

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 12.1 Minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2013.  
Minutes of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel of 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

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