

Item no: 23	Classification: OPEN	Committee: Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee	Date: 8 May 2003
Report title:		Employment Strategy & Draft Enterprise Strategy	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Head of Corporate Strategy	

Recommendations

1. That Members consider the Draft Enterprise Strategy attached at Appendix A.
2. That Members note the comments at paragraphs () of the Economic Development Team in response to the Sub-Committee's interim report.
3. That Members agree any comments on the Enterprise Strategy to be passed to officers for inclusion in the final Enterprise Strategy document due to be considered by the Executive in June 2003.
4. That Members agree recommendations for inclusion in the Sub-Committee's final report arising from scrutiny of the Employment Strategy and Enterprise Strategy.

Background

3. Between September and December 2002 the Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee undertook a four session scrutiny of the Council's Enterprise Strategy and the Local Strategic Partnership's (Southwark Alliance) Employment Strategy, looking in particular at:
 - Draft Southwark Alliance Employment Strategy
 - Key Worker Housing
 - Draft Enterprise Strategy
5. On 3 December 2002 the Employment Strategy was endorsed by the Executive having been formally endorsed by the Southwark Alliance [formerly the Local Strategic Partnership] on 23 November 2002.

5. On 11 December 2002 Members considered the draft final scrutiny report for the scrutiny of the Enterprise Strategy and the Southwark Alliance Employment Strategy. However, Members resolved that report be noted as an interim report and officers were asked to ensure that the final Draft Enterprise Strategy be brought back to the Sub-Committee prior to its consideration by the Executive.

6. Since its presentation to this Sub-Committee in December 2002 the Draft Enterprise Strategy has undergone considerable development and consultation. The strategy now comprises three elements: (1) the overall strategy document; (2) Appendix A – Action Plan; and (3) Appendix B – Background Analysis. It is hoped that, following consideration of the current strategy document by scrutiny and external consultation taking place on the final draft version, the strategy will be endorsed by the Executive in June 2003 and Southwark Alliance soon after.

Economic Development Team Response to Interim Recommendations of the Sub-Committee

7. The Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee met on 11 November 2002 and made recommendations in respect of the draft Enterprise and Employment strategies, recognising the need for the Enterprise Strategy to address certain key points.

8. Table 1 [below] sets out how the key points raised by Members have been addressed in the draft Enterprise Strategy Action Plan.

9. Details of the range of activity proposed to deliver the Enterprise Strategy is included in Enterprise Strategy Action Plan.

Table 1

Key issues identified by Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee: <i>“Scrutiny recognises the need for...</i>	Action Taken/Priority in the Enterprise Strategy Action Plan:
A strong business support agency for the borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development and implementation of Business Extra by Elephant Links SRB in partnership with One London
Means of fostering business growth in key sectors and locations i.e.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop Action Plan to take forward LSP Incubator units/Managed Workspace

Key issues identified by Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee: <i>“Scrutiny recognises the need for...”</i>	Action Taken/Priority in the Enterprise Strategy Action Plan:
business incubators	feasibility study Promote existing incubator units eg London Institute Enterprise centre for the Creative Arts units in Camberwell and other satellite units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support for growth sectors, inc creative industries, tourism/ hospitality, music/fashion, leisure
Establishment of strong links between education and training and the enterprise and employment strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment & training contracted by Southwark directly links to Employment Strategy ▪ Enterprise Strategy Action Plan directly references key actions to the Employment Strategy Action Plan
Improved information and intelligence on the local economy, especially if this is to form a central part of the Council’s ‘strategic role’ in supporting the local economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide business research and intelligence
Evidence of the value and effectiveness of current and planned initiatives within the emerging strategy to promote enterprise and income/wealth generation (lessons learned elsewhere can assist this process), e.g. consideration of alternatives to Business Improvement Districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Explore benefits from BIDS and alternative approaches ▪ Improve communication inter-agency, business to business and agency to business (including an option to expand the Enterprise Task Group as an inclusive Steering Body for the Strategy)
Consideration of whether Special Planning Guidance is required for enterprise (in relation to zones or the borough as a whole)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be considered through the Unitary Development Plan
Addressing use of Section 106 planning gain to support local enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To be considered through the Unitary Development Plan
Better marketing of Southwark as a desirable place to invest or run a business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Objective 2: Support and Develop Existing Businesses and Promote Inward Investment includes a range of actions to encourage Inward Investment and sustain existing businesses
Better co-ordination of cross borough efforts to access central government and European funding streams for business support and development (possibly a dedicated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve communication inter-agency, business to business and agency to business ▪ Working relationships already established with Cross River Partnership and with Lambeth and Wandsworth through the

Key issues identified by Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee: <i>“Scrutiny recognises the need for...</i>	Action Taken/Priority in the Enterprise Strategy Action Plan:
officer)	Employment and Training Strategic Board for LSW (Jobcentre Plus) and proposed for London South Central
Effective cross-departmental focus, and joined-up working on enterprise issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The implementation of the Strategy will clearly require effective inter/ intra departmental communication & working. Southwark Council will establish mechanisms to respond to this need, eg internal working parties lead by the Economic Development Team
Consideration of whether sufficient resources are available to implement the enterprise Strategy, were it to be agreed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommendations regarding the resourcing and budgetary implications of implementation will be submitted to Executive Committee with the Final Enterprise Strategy

9. Further to paragraph 3.4 above, following further consultation through focus groups (February 2003) and a stakeholder conference/workshop event (11 March 2003), the Enterprise Strategy was revised to incorporate the feedback received to date. This draft version is now being submitted to scrutiny and to all stakeholders for comment and feedback. Feedback received will be incorporated in to the Final Draft Enterprise Strategy for submission to the Executive in June 2003 and to the Southwark Alliance shortly after.

Concurrent of the Borough Solicitor & Secretary

10. There are no specific legal issues raised by this report. Legal advice to the Sub-Committee is provided by the Borough Solicitor & Secretary as required during individual scrutiny reviews.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Overview & Scrutiny Committee - agendas, reports & minutes	Constitutional Support Unit Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lucas Lundgren T: 0207 525 7224
Housing & Regeneration Scrutiny Sub-Committee - agendas, report & minutes	As above	As above

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Draft Enterprise Strategy		

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	<i>Ian Hughes, Head of Corporate Strategy</i>	
Report Author	<i>Robert Bollen, Corporate Strategy</i>	
Version	<i>Final Draft</i>	
Dated	<i>29th April 2003</i>	
Key Decision?	<i>No</i>	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Chief Finance Officer	No	No
Executive Member	No	No