

<b>Item No.</b> 20.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 14 June 2022	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Report of the Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission: Town Centre Action Plan – Southwark Pioneers Fund	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That cabinet note the recommendation from the education and local economy scrutiny commission arising from the scrutiny review of town centre action plan: Southwark Pioneers Fund, paragraph 6.
2. That cabinet request that the relevant cabinet member reports back to cabinet on the recommendation within eight weeks.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. At its meeting on 8 March 2022 the education and local economy scrutiny commission received a detailed report from the Cabinet member for Jobs, Business and Town Centres, and the Principal Strategy Officer on the town centre action plan which is the overarching strategy in revitalising Southwark's town centres and high streets. The report discussed regeneration projects under the High Street Challenge Initiatives previously known as the High Street Recovery Fund. The report also covered sustainable transport businesses, night time economy plan and improvements to public safety.
4. At the same meeting the commission also heard in detail on the Southwark Pioneers Fund and its different programmes, start-up programme, growth programme, green programme and social and community programme. The commission also learnt about the impact these programmes will have in revitalising the local economy over a four year period.
5. The commission considered and agreed the recommendation at its meeting on 8 March 2022. The rationale and commission recommendation is set out in paragraph 6.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Set out below is the recommendation of the education and local economy

scrutiny commission.

6. Local businesses and entrepreneurs in the start-up and growth programmes would need a diverse range of support elements, from office spaces to online visibility and marketing. It is important for the council to ensure that the framework developed to support these business is diverse enough to meet their needs in different business sectors and at various levels of its development, it is unlikely that such needs could be met by a single provider. The council needs to develop a framework that doesn't follow a one-size fits all approach also considering the diverse needs of social businesses and green initiatives.

Recommendation 1 - The Commission recommends that the Council develops a framework of business support providers for both the Start-up and Growth programme to best serve the diversity of need amongst Southwark's entrepreneurs and social businesses. A single provider for either programme is likely to struggle to effectively serve entrepreneurs at different stages, from very diverse backgrounds and in very different sectors.

7. It is for the cabinet to decide whether or not to accept the scrutiny commission's recommendation.
8. Overview and scrutiny procedure rule 15.3 requires the cabinet to consider and provide a written response to the report within two months.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission agenda and minutes- 8 March 2022	Southwark Council Website	Amit Alva <a href="mailto:Amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk">Amit.alva@southwark.gov.uk</a>
<b>Link (please copy and paste into browser):</b> <a href="https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=550&amp;MId=7012&amp;Ver=4">https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=550&amp;MId=7012&amp;Ver=4</a> (see item 6)		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Member</b>	Councillor Peter Babudu, Chair, Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny	
<b>Report Author</b>	Amit Alva, Scrutiny Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	30 May 2022	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	30 May 2022	