

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 17 July 2012	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Employment & Unemployment in Southwark – Final Scrutiny Report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Overview & Scrutiny Committee	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cabinet notes the recommendations of the review of Employment & Unemployment in Southwark, and asks Councillor Claire Hickson, cabinet member for communities & economic development to bring back a report to the September 2012 cabinet meeting, in order to respond to the overview and scrutiny committee.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. This is the final report on the scrutiny review of Employment & Unemployment in Southwark, undertaken by the Regeneration & Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
3. The review considers what the council can do to help retain existing jobs and employment in the borough and to create the conditions for new businesses and jobs to locate to Southwark.
4. This review seeks to identify recommendations that could build on the council's leadership role in the borough in order to develop new employment opportunities and to improve the number of Southwark residents securing employment.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

5. The sub-committee's recommendations are listed below.
 1. That the council works with the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) regarding their Employ SE1 project to evaluate the success of the project and whether with a small amount of council funding this project could be extended to work with businesses across the borough to help Southwark residents to secure local jobs
 2. That the council evaluates the incubator pod project that is being put in place on the old garage site on the Walworth Road with the aim of extending the model to other locations in the centre and south of the borough to support small start up businesses.
 3. That the council reviews its retail, business estates and light industrial estates portfolio to ensure the estate is not only maximising income but is also providing a diverse and appropriate portfolio to support small local businesses in the borough.

4. That the council acts as an enabler regarding the creation of a generic borough-wide careers advice service across school, academies and further education providers in Southwark and encourages the greater involvement of local employers in these educational providers in order to help young people secure jobs and careers when they leave school, including how to set up and run a business.
5. That the council conducts a comprehensive review of council policies that could impact on the success or failure of businesses to flourish and grow in Southwark such as parking policies and the way the public realm is managed and maintained.
6. That the council investigates examples of best practice around securing local jobs for local people using section 106 monies such as Colchester Council who worked with a new Sainsbury's store on training and recruitment, which resulted in 95% of all the new permanent jobs being filled by local unemployed people.
7. That the council considers the use of schemes such as purple flag to boost local high streets and town centres by getting key partners around the table to increase the diversity of the night-time offer and address issues of concern that are restricting the potential of our high streets and town centre night time economies.
8. That the council seeks to engage the Mayor and TfL to ensure a borough-wide comprehensive review of bus service provision in Southwark takes place, rather than piecemeal route by route reviews, to ensure that existing bus routes, frequency and capacity is meeting the changing demands of workers and residents in Southwark.
9. That the council should support and facilitate the setting up of local business associations to represent clusters of businesses in the borough, that are not represented by existing BIDs, and consider how best to this.
10. That the council representatives on the shadow Health and Wellbeing Board have regard to the fact that 47% of those claiming Incapacity Benefit in Southwark give the reason as being mental ill health and seek to identify strategies, interventions and support that will help those residents who can or wish to get back into work.
11. That the council considers how best to build on our existing employment strengths and characteristics in the borough such as the "Cultural Quarter" in the north-west corner of the borough and develop new employment opportunities and themes in areas such as the Elephant and Castle, Camberwell, Peckham, the Old Kent Road and Lordship Lane. Ideas could include promoting the history, diverse communities and existing business strengths in different parts of the borough.
12. That the council consider working with partners to support the creation of job clubs in the borough to support unemployed people back into work in Southwark.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Regeneration & Leisure/Overview & Scrutiny Committees - Agendas	Scrutiny Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Peter Roberts 020 7525 4350

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Report of the Regeneration & Leisure Scrutiny Sub-Committee Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Appendix 2	Southwark Local Authority Area Labour Market Bulletin (January 2012)

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny	
Report Author	Peter Roberts, Scrutiny Project Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	3 July 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	N/a	N/a
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	N/a	N/a
Chief Officers	N/a	N/a
Cabinet Member	N/a	N/a
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	3 July 2012	