

APPENDIX 2

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE NEW ECONOMIC WELLBEING STRATEGY

The references in brackets show which outcome of the proposed strategy will address each recommendation.

Scrutiny recommendation	Response
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	(Employment – narrowing the gap with the London employment rate) Commissioning plans will be reviewed in light of the new strategy being agreed. All options will be considered as part of a procurement process in line with corporate standards.
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.	(Southwark – the place of choice to start and grow a business) The council has selected a partner to develop the site to provide workshop and retail space for creative micro-businesses. Evaluation of this model and related business network development supported by the Community Restoration Fund will offer recommendations for further roll-out.
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.	(Southwark – the place of choice to start and grow a business) (Thriving town centres and high streets) The Council's asset management plan currently determines policy. Wherever possible, advantage is taken of investment opportunities to improve properties to enhance their suitability for business, such as the through Investing in Local Retail Environments programme of shop front improvements.
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	(Employment – narrowing the gap with the London employment rate) The proposed strategy commits the Council to helping residents find the right advice, support and skills to overcome barriers to

Scrutiny recommendation	Response
<p>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.</p>	<p>work – ensuring the right access points and progressive pathways, which continue through age 19 and beyond; and get more employers engaged, helping more young people with work experience, tasters and getting the soft skills essential for the workplace, and mentoring towards careers and business ambitions. We will work with partners to indentify the most effective way that this can be achieved.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>(Southwark – the place of choice to start and grow a business) (Thriving town centres and high streets)</p> <p>The proposed strategy commits the council to consider the impact on and opportunities for business in council decision-making, investment and procurement, balancing the needs of differing businesses, their customers, local communities and residents more widely</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Employment – narrowing the gap with the London employment rate</p> <p>Provisions of S106 are determined by existing planning policy. Future allocations will also be determined by the introduction of Community Infrastructure Levy, and determination of tariffs is an ongoing piece of work. Southwark is a leading council in best practice in the use of s106, however we continue to look at best practice elsewhere when developing local plans.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Thriving town centres and high streets</p> <p>Schemes such as Purple Flag offer options for boosting high streets and town centres, but the delivery of such schemes requires clear business leadership to succeed. Following investment through Community Restoration Fund to help businesses develop their own business networks and leadership in localities, the Council anticipates working with partners in these localities to find a tailor-made local solution to these problems in each case.</p>

Scrutiny recommendation	Response
<p>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.</p>	<p>Not covered by the economic wellbeing strategy.</p> <p>Through the central London sub-regional transport group, the borough has commissioned a study to review borough bus issues on a sub-regional basis to identify areas for improvement and engagement with TfL. The group agreed to move ahead with the study as it considered that the review and operation of bus services focused too heavily on bus operational matters and omitted some 'external' factors which required greater consideration. Recommendations from this study are due to be published later in 2012 for further discussion with Transport for London.</p>
<p>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 do this.</p>	<p>(Thriving town centres and high streets)</p> <p>The Council is already helping businesses to develop their own networks and establish a voice in localities through the Community Restoration Fund in Camberwell, Peckham, Walworth, Bermondsey, Rotherhithe. The CRF model was designed to allow a combination of projects developed by businesses proposing what works best in each locality, and bringing expertise in running BIDs into areas where networks were not well developed. Additional opportunities have been pursued as they arise to support the development of business networks and associations, such as support for a Nunhead Traders Association through the area renewal and Outer London Fund programmes.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>(Promoting financial wellbeing and independence) (Employment – narrowing the gap with the London employment rate)</p> <p>The shadow health and wellbeing board will provide focus for responding to key health and wellbeing challenges for local people. The shadow Board is currently developing the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.</p>

Scrutiny recommendation	Response
<p>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.</p>	<p>(Employment – narrowing the gap with the London employment rate) (Southwark – the place of choice to start and grow a business) (Thriving town centres and high streets)</p> <p>The new strategy proposes concentration on employment sectors and specialisms and matching the skills of residents with employer needs.</p> <p>Regeneration at Elephant & Castle, London Bridge Quarter and other developments are supported through S106 funding, which helps with construction employment as well as preparing residents for jobs with employers in the completed development.</p> <p>Strong employment sectors in Southwark are closely related to those of Central London, and we will work with regional partners and employers to access to these jobs in London as a whole.</p> <p>Peckham Rye station’s redevelopment and the Town Centre Heritage Initiative are examples of playing to our local strengths in combining making the best of townscapes with an approach to generating and safeguarding employment.</p> <p>Community Restoration Fund projects also add to the strength of localities by supporting business networks that will strengthen the identity of their own patch and promote it.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Employment – narrowing the gap with the London employment rate</p> <p>Commissioning plans will be reviewed in light of the new strategy being agreed. All options will be considered as part of a procurement process.</p>