

**Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy
Overview Committee**

12 November 2009

Minutes



HILLINGDON
LONDON

	<p>Members Present: Councillors Richard Lewis (Chairman), Ann Banks, Sid Garg, Judith Kelly, Liz Kemp and Robin Sansarpuri.</p> <p>Apologies: Councillor Carol Melvin (Councillor Ann Banks substituting) and Councillor Michael White (Councillor Judith Kelly substituting).</p> <p>Officers: Kevin Byrne (Head of Policy, Deputy Chief Executive's Office) and Khalid Ahmed (Democratic Services Manager).</p>	
<p>34.</p>	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>35.</p>	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 14 October 2009</p> <p>Agreed as an accurate record.</p>	
<p>36.</p>	<p>Exclusion of the press and public</p> <p>It was agreed that all items of business were considered in public.</p>	
<p>37.</p>	<p>Major Review: Impact of a Pandemic in Hillingdon and the Effects on Council Services and Residents – Draft Final Report</p> <p>Members were informed that at the last Cabinet meeting on 15 October 2009 an interim report of this Committee was considered which recommended three initial recommendations of this Committee's Pandemic review. Cabinet agreed the following:</p> <p>“That Cabinet ask officers to consider, if feasible, the following initial recommendations of the Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee which relate to their review into the effects of a pandemic in Hillingdon and the effects on Council services:</p> <p>a) That a skills and knowledge audit be undertaken of the Council's workforce to build up a computerised database. This</p>	<p>Action By:</p>

	<p>an extra meeting for early January to enable Members to commence their second review. Subsequent to the meeting this had been arranged for 6 January 2010.</p> <p>Resolved –</p> <p>1. That the Work Programme be noted.</p>	Action By:
39.	<p>Consideration of Topic for Second Major Review</p> <p>The Head of Policy attended the meeting and provided Members with details of the work being carried out by the Council and its partners in the Local Strategic Partnership on responding to the economic downturn in relation to businesses and residents in the Borough.</p> <p>Members were provided with an action plan which had been devised and grouped under the four key LSP themes; supporting residents, protecting the vulnerable, supporting businesses and preparing for the up-turn.</p> <p>Members were informed that an event had taken place in the Middlesex Suite, hosted by Google which had provided businesses with guidance on how to identify customers. This event had proved very successful and had attracted 230 people.</p> <p>A general discussion took place on potential areas for the Committee to look at and areas raised included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plight of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the present economic climate and the measures the Council could take to help them • What could the Council do to support town centres, particularly in relation to the closure of small shops • The role of Chambers of Commerce and what the Council could do to support them. The possible use of Ward Budgets? • What could be done in terms of planning policies to improve the Borough's high streets • The support the Council is giving to the Borough's residents during the economic recession to minimise the impact on the local economy and local businesses • The impact of the recession on higher education establishments in the Borough, in terms of the numbers of students who were leaving education and not finding work • Looking at the use of Industrial Units and what could the Council be doing to help these businesses • The staging of conferences to help businesses, with 	

