

## REVIEW C: LOCAL COMMERCE, EMPLOYMENT, SKILLS & JOB CREATION

<b>Committee name</b>	Corporate Services, Commerce & Communities Policy Overview Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	Nigel Cramb, Partnerships & Business Engagement Manager
<b>Papers with report</b>	None.

### HEADLINES

This item will discuss the findings from the Committee's review into Local Commerce, Employment, Skills and Job Creation.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That the Committee:**

- 1. Agree the proposed draft recommendations of the review on Local Commerce, Employment, Skills and Job Creation; and,**
- 2. Delegate authority to the Democratic Services Officer, in consultation with the Chairman and Labour Lead Member, to make any further changes to the recommendations that are deemed necessary.**

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1. At the Committee meeting held on 18 June 2019, Members agreed that the Committee's next review topic was to be Local Commerce, Employment, Skills and Job Creation. Since then, three witness sessions and a site visit to the Central Research Laboratory have taken place, to help the Committee better understand the local economy, its strengths and the challenges it faces, in addition to opportunities that the Council may be able to take advantage of.
2. Following these witness sessions, officers have discussed the findings from the review, and are now working to produce a series of draft recommendations from the review. These draft recommendations were presented to the Committee at its last meeting on 14 January 2020, and, following further conversations between the Chairman, Labour Lead Member and relevant officers, a set of draft recommendations have now been proposed.
3. Comments made at the previous meeting have been incorporated into Recommendation 4, to reflect the aim of the Council to encourage residents to attend Uxbridge College and its Institute of Technology.
4. Members are asked to discuss the findings and draft recommendations, and comment or suggest changes to these proposed recommendations, which are detailed as below:

<b>Recommendation 1</b>	Recognise the good work undertaken by officers to date to identify and work alongside appropriate partners and provide the type of development that is required in Hillingdon, and request that, where practical, new developments also provide small employment units on the edges of the site, and developers of logistic sites are encouraged to provide small units.
<b>Recommendation 2</b>	Ensure the Council takes advantage of the unique opportunity it has to work with companies developing cutting edge technology at the Central Research Laboratory, Hayes, and, on a case-by-case basis, consider trialling these technologies if they can be used to assist the Council or its residents in day-to-day life.
<b>Recommendation 3</b>	Continue to support the Town Centre Regeneration / Shop Front Grant Scheme, and promote the supply chain initiative to be delivered by Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce.
<b>Recommendation 4</b>	Support Uxbridge College and promote its new Institute of Technology and T-Level flag bearer status, and the opportunities that it provides for residents, as well as looking to maximise the possibilities for Hillingdon residents to attend courses.
<b>Recommendation 5</b>	Recommend officers explore what local business support provisions are available to local residents, and report back on whether the Council has a role in supporting residents who are looking to establish businesses in the Borough, as well as provide online information to detail current initiatives that help over 50s secure employment or retraining, similar to the approach the Council have adopted for apprenticeships.
<b>Recommendation 6</b>	Provide information online to highlight best “green business” practice in the Borough, and advise residents and businesses on the opportunities that can be available to environmentally-friendly businesses.

## Terms of Reference

The following Terms of Reference were agreed for the review:

1. *To consider the current local economic environment, and better understand the implications of new developments and initiatives in Hillingdon;*

2. *To examine where Hillingdon Council is currently performing within the regional economic picture and identify any gaps or weaknesses or areas for improvement;*
3. *To consider the future of the Council's economy and its local residents, with a focus on education, skills and youth employment to understand their impact on the Borough's economy and identify any gaps or weaknesses;*
4. *To explore the work that is being taken alongside partners, the Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses, to ensure the local economy remains strong and identify areas for action or improvement; and,*
5. *Subject to the Committee's findings, to make any conclusions and/or recommendations to the Cabinet to strengthen the local economy, that are cost-effective and through existing partnership arrangements.*

### **Implications on related Council policies**

A role of the Policy Overview Committees is to monitor the performance of Council services and make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

### **Financial Implications**

None at this stage.

### **Legal Implications**

None at this stage.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL.