

## **CORPORATE SERVICES & PARTNERSHIPS POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE:**

### ***REVIEW OF NEW BUSINESS START UPS WITHIN HILLINGDON AND BUSINESS SUPPORT ON INDUSTRIAL ESTATES***

<b>Cabinet Members</b>	Councillor Jonathan Bianco Councillor Douglas Mills
<b>Cabinet Portfolios</b>	Finance & Business Services Improvement, Partnerships & Community Safety
<b>Officer Contact</b>	Khalid Ahmed, Democratic Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Corporate Services and Partnerships Policy Overview Committee review report.

#### **HEADLINE INFORMATION**

<b>Purpose of report</b>	To receive the Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee's report which provides recommendations on initiatives for new business start ups at Hayes Business Studios together with proposals to improve business to business support on North Uxbridge Industrial Estate.
<b>Contribution to our plans and strategies</b>	The report contributes to the Council Plan in relation to "A prosperous Borough" where enterprise is encouraged, Business supported and new jobs created for local people. It is also consistent with the Council core value of "Working in Partnership".
<b>Financial Cost</b>	There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Corporate Services and Partnerships
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	All

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That Cabinet:**

- 1. Welcomes the review's final report from the Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee and be asked to give consideration to the following recommendations:**
  - a) That the London Development Agency when reviewing business support funding be asked to give consideration to how business networks can be facilitated at local level.**

- b) **That consideration be given to providing a core central service facility, possibly located at the Studios, which would provide finance and administrative support to the new business start ups.**
- c) **That Uxbridge College be asked to look at providing business networking events at the Studios which would facilitate greater interaction between businesses and lead to business to business support.**
- d) **That the Hillingdon 4 Business website, on-line Hillingdon Business Guide and Business Link be used for wider promotion of business support and grants available from UK Trade and Investment.**
- e) **That officers investigate with Further Education and Higher Education establishments, measures to replicate the Hayes Business Studios model on other sites within the Borough as well as other initiatives based around entrepreneurship.**
- f) **That officers be asked to explore a partnership with SEGRO on the North Uxbridge Industrial Estate looking at introducing initiatives which would provide support to the businesses on the estate.**

### **Reasons for recommendations**

The Council and its key strategic partners have undertaken a wide range of measures aimed at supporting residents and businesses with a focus on town centre improvements and this review looked at the support and funding which is provided to new businesses in the Borough, particularly in relation to Hayes Business Studios.

In relation to Industrial Estates, the Council does not have regular engagement with businesses on the Borough's Industrial Estates, so examining the support given to businesses on North Uxbridge Industrial Estate would provide an insight into the issues and problems which affect businesses on these estates and provide an opportunity for the Council to work in partnership with SEGRO (Slough Estates Group) to facilitate support to businesses.

### **Alternative options considered / risk management**

The Cabinet could decide to reject or amend the Committee's recommendations.

### **Supporting Information**

1. The Committee agreed to undertake this review at its meeting held on 10 February 2010. The review was timely because of the economic downturn which has affected businesses, particularly small businesses. The Council and its partners provide a range of measures which support businesses and the particular focus was on the micro-businesses located at Hayes Business Studios.
2. The studios are funded from the London Development Agency, Hillingdon Community Trust and the Council. The funding from the Council came from Section 106 monies. Uxbridge College provides ongoing services and facilities support, which includes an on-site manager of the facility.
3. A second area of the review was looking at businesses on Industrial Estates. The review focused on North Uxbridge Industrial Estate which has over 2,000 employees and is part

owned by SEGRO (Slough Estates Group). The Council in partnership with SEGRO wants to facilitate more business to business support on the estate which will support these businesses during this difficult economic period.

4. The Committee's final report which is attached to this report provides full details of the review.
5. SEGRO and Uxbridge College have indicated that they are supportive of the Committee's recommendations.

### **Officer Comments on Recommendations**

**Recommendation a)** - The review heard from the Business Link for London representative that the London Development Agency (LDA) commissioned Business Link's work and Members agreed that the LDA should be asked to give consideration to how business networks can be facilitated at local level. The review considered that the formation of local trade associations would be beneficial to small and medium enterprises and promote business networks. Subject to Cabinet endorsement, officers would write to the LDA requesting that they give consideration to this.

Members should note that the Decentralisation Bill and the Localism Bill proposed by the Government would allow the creation of Local Enterprise partnerships (joint Council -Business Bodies). This was brought forward by local authorities to promote local economic development and may be a tool the Council could find useful in the future, when the Legislation has been passed.

**Recommendation b)** - During the review, Uxbridge College, who provide on-going services, management and facilities support to Hayes Business Studios agreed to give consideration to providing a core central service facility, possibly located at the Studios. This would provide finance and administrative support to the new business start ups and would give the proprietors of new businesses more time to focus on developing their business.

**Recommendation c)** – Uxbridge College during the review gave their support to providing more business networking events at Hayes Business Studios, which would help the businesses at the Business Studios.

**Recommendation d)** – The use of the Council's website to provide information on the business support and grants available, including information on UK Trade Investment (UKTI) would provide a wider promotion of the financial support which is available for businesses.

**Recommendation e)** – An update report will be provided for the Corporate Services & Partnerships Policy Overview Committee on the feasibility of this.

**Recommendation f)** – Officers have already had discussions with SEGRO (Slough Estates Group) who are very keen on working in partnership with the Council on helping to promote businesses on Industrial estates, and to focus on North Uxbridge Industrial Estate as a pilot scheme.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

### **What will be the effect of the recommendation?**

The Committee's recommendations will provide more support to micro-businesses situated at Hayes Business Studios and provide an opportunity for the Council to work with SEGRO (Slough Estates Group) on introducing initiatives, initially on North Uxbridge Industrial Estate to help business to business support on the estate.

### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

The review has taken evidence from Council officers and a number of key stakeholders who have all contributed greatly to this review and this has formed the consultation.

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Finance**

Corporate Finance has reviewed this report and is satisfied that there are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### **Legal**

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL