

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PLACE SHAPING AND ENTERPRISE
SCRUTINY PANEL
HELD ON THURSDAY, 28 JANUARY 2010**

COUNCILLORS

PRESENT Pamela Adams, Del Goddard (Vice Chairman), Jonas Hall (Chairman), Donald McGowan and Ann Zinkin

ABSENT Adrian Croshaw, Christiana During, Denise Headley and Andrew Stafford

OFFICERS: Linda Leith (Scrutiny Support Officer), Stephen Tapper (Assistant Director (Place Shaping)) and Clive Tritton (Place Shaping and Enterprise) Penelope Williams (Secretary)

Also Attending: Three members of the public

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WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councillors Adrian Croshaw, Andrew Stafford and Christiana During and Mike Ahuja, Head of Corporate Scrutiny sent their apologies for absence.

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DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

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RECESSION ACTION PLAN

The panel received a report on the Economic Recovery Plan which was an update on the measures being taken to mitigate the effects of the recession in Enfield.

Clive Tritton, Interim Programme Manager Place Shaping and Enterprise, introduced the report highlighting the following.

- The report presented to the panel was an update on the economic place shaping aspects of the recession action plan discussed at Council in September 2009.
- Quarterly updates on the Economic Recovery Plan were being provided and were available on the council's website under the From Recession to Growth button.

Comments/Questions/Issues raised

1. Website

1.1 Members felt that it would be helpful if all documents mentioned in reports could include web links as it was often difficult to find things in the website.

1.2 From recession to growth was on the front page of the website, but has recently been removed.

2. Report on Recession Action Plan

2.1 The original recession action plan was launched at Council in September and had been referred to the scrutiny panel for examination and scrutiny and to enable the panel to consider whether there were other issues that should be included.

2.2 Members were confused about the status of the different documents and how they linked together.

2.3 The recession action plan informed the work that is being carried out and is being monitored through quarterly monitoring reports. The report presented to the panel dealt with approximately two thirds of the issues in the original action plan.

2.4 The issues highlighted in the recession action plan are on top of other work that it is going on as usual; a set of new actions. Many other Council initiatives, such as the investment in quality design on the streets will have an impact on the recession.

2.5 Sue Foster is the director with responsibility for co-ordinating all the actions in the plan; those within the place shaping department and elsewhere in the council.

3. Apprenticeships

3.1 The council is planning to take on 45 apprentices across the next 2 years, but this has to be considered along with a package of measures being to help young people obtain jobs, such as the Backing Young Britain scheme, internships and other voluntary schemes.

3.2 The projects funded through the working neighbourhoods fund enable the council to pilot new ways of working, which if successful, can be later rolled out across the borough.

4. Support for Disabled People

4.1 There were several measures in place to support disabled people, old and young, into work, including disability employment officers working

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within Job Centre Plus and a partnership scheme with the Reed Employment Agency.

- 4.2 The Council, together with Job Centre Plus, had recently made a bid for Right to Control funding to enable disabled people to have more influence over the support services available to them.

5. Business Forum – Working with local businesses

5.1 The first meeting of the new business forum would be chaired by the Chief Executive with an introduction from Cabinet Member for Place Shaping. Around 45 businesses from both the public and private sector had been invited and 26 had indicated that they would attend. This would be round table breakfast meeting. Members were concerned to ensure that the meeting would be business led.

5.2 The long term role of the business forum cannot be established until the initial meeting has taken place and business views ascertained. Clive Tritton said that business forums were often difficult to keep going and it was essential that the forum was set up in a form that business wanted. It may be that specific forums centred around specific themes would be appropriate.

5.3 Stephen Tapper said that this was not the only way that the Council was engaging with business and that as part of the proposals for Meridian Park, for example, there had been extensive discussions about business needs. One of the key issues was transport. Lunches and breakfasts had also been held with individual businesses.

5.4 Councillor Jonas Hall and scrutiny support officer asked to be invited to the first meeting of the business forum.

6. Jobsnet Contract

The Jobsnet contract cannot start earlier than April 2010 for contractual reasons.

7. Place Shaping Strategy

7.1 The vision behind the recession action plan is the Place Shaping Strategy but this does not yet have a delivery plan. It is unlikely that the plan will be ready in time for the March panel meeting.

8. Working Neighbourhoods Fund – Pathways to Prosperity

8.1 Pathways to prosperity can be paraphrased as “something more than getting people into work”. Failure of projects finding work for the long term unemployed is often due to people not being ready for work; this aspect is often neglected. These people generally have other barriers to work which need to be addressed before they can work.

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8.2 Concern was expressed that the action plan and the projects in the working neighbourhood fund (WNF) bid were a rag bag of miscellaneous projects, which were not linked together with an overall strategic direction. Clear objectives were needed to ensure that the required outcomes were achieved and that the council has a sustainable strategy for getting people into work. Officers clarified that projects funded through WNF need to add value to the work done by the large statutory providers (JCP, LSC for example) with significant budgets. Projects are identified which can reach those most excluded who may not have access to mainstream provision or to test new ways of working.

8.3 The working neighbourhood fund provided funding for new pilot activities, which if successful could be rolled out across the council as well as some short term projects which can have an impact on the immediate situation.

8.4 Long term work was also taking place, including the investment in Meridian Water and on the Ladderswood Estate, encouraging industrial renaissance. Infrastructure programmes such as projects to improve transport will take a long time to implement.

8.5 Recently there has been much more focus on business and employment particularly in the Enfield Strategic Partnership.

8.6 Any working neighbourhood fund money that was not spent would be at risk of being taken back, but there would be a certain amount of over programming to ensure that this did not happen.

9. Resources

9.1 Members wanted more information about how the council used the available resources and how it works with other organisations. It was felt that most of the information provided at this meeting was too council focussed.

9.2 Enfield had obtained funds through the Future Jobs Fund, other organisations within the borough had made similar applications but these were not being co-ordinated. Information on who had received funds had been requested.

10. Enterprise and Investment Strategies

10.1 The council needed to consider its strategic role in dealing with the recession. Work was taking place on developing an Enterprise Strategy and an Investment Strategy following detailed discussions with local business with a view to consultation in September and implementation in March 2011. The local economic assessment would be a component of the strategies

10.2 Discussions are underway as to what elements of the local economic assessment should take place at a sub regional level. There was a good level of consensus amongst the members of the North London Strategic Alliance (NLSA) on issues such as infrastructure, travel to work patterns and green

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issues. NLSA were in the process of producing a Gant chart showing who is doing what, in what order.

AGREED

1. A further report on the recession action plan would be produced for the next meeting of the panel, elaborating on the actions already in the plan, with explanations as to how they link in to place shaping strategy as well as those actions which have been added and those no longer being pursued. **Action: Clive Tritton**
2. Further information on the measures to revitalise town centres would be provided to members. **Action: Clive Tritton**
3. An update on the work carried out by the panel on the recession action plan would be produced for Council in March 2010. **Action: Mike Ahuja**
4. A copy of the NELSA Gant chart would be provided for members, when complete. **Action: Clive Tritton**

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2009

1. Minutes of the last meeting

- 1.1 The document referred to as the Area Action Plan for Edmonton was actually the Edmonton Master Plan. (Minute 575 Item 3).
- 1.2 The minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2010 were agreed as a correct record with the above amendment.

2. Matters Arising

- 2.1 **Place Shaping Reserve** – a copy of the Cabinet Update Report on Place Shaping, dated 23 October 2010, was circulated to members and to the Scrutiny Budget Commission.

AGREED that a more detailed report on the Place Shaping Reserve would be provided for the next meeting, focussing on the 5 place shaping areas and containing information on how the funds are being used and what is and is not being funded.

2.2 Local Development Framework (LDF) – Update

- 2.1 Stephen Tapper, Assistant Director Place Shaping, reported that the Greater London Authority had agreed that the LDF was in conformity with the London Plan. The framework was now out for public

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consultation but so far there had been no major objections and few comments.

- 2.2 Two members of the New Southgate Tenant Association raised concern about proposals contained within the Framework for the removal of the industrial area on the Ladderswood Estate. The types of suitable affordable properties within the area would not be easy to replace. Councillor Goddard felt that this was a general principle which should be addressed within the LDF; he had in sent comments setting out his concerns. All proposals had been consulted on. Those with an interest, should have received notification of the proposals and had had an opportunity to comment. Stephen Tapper assured residents that all comments would be taken into account and that tenants that had to move would be given help to continue trading.

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WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10

The panel noted the changes to the work programme.

At the next meeting the panel will receive reports on the Council's Section 106 Strategy, a further report on the recession action plan, on the development of council's investment and enterprise strategies, the place shaping reserve, Local Area Agreement targets and the place shaping activities in Ponders End.

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ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no items referred to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO CABINET

There were no items referred to Cabinet.

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DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The panel noted that the final meeting of the municipal year will be held on Monday 8 March 2010.

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EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC