

# **ENTERPRISE EMPLOYMENT & MAJOR PROJECTS CABINET MEMBER MEETING**

## **Agenda Item 12**

Brighton & Hove City  
Council

**Subject:** Interim Work & Skills Plan  
**Date of Meeting:** 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010,  
**REPORT OF:** Scott Marshall Director for Housing Culture & Enterprise  
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**Key Decision:** No Forward Plan No. 7 *Digit Ref:*  
**Wards Affected:** All

### **FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

#### **1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act (LDEDC) 2009 places a new duty on county councils and unitary district councils to prepare an assessment of the economic conditions of their area. Included within the Act is a requirement for local authorities in receipt of a Future Jobs Fund grant from central government to produce an Interim Work & Skills plan for 2010/11. This report provides a summary of the Interim Work and Skills plan for Brighton & Hove and outlines the work required to produce a three-year work and skills plan for the city by March 2011.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 The Cabinet Members is recommended to note the content of the report and the proposed actions

#### **3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The act states that a Work & Skills plan must set out how a local authority, together with its partners, will develop and agree their response to the local employment and skills needs identified in their Local Economic Assessment (LEA) and worklessness assessment.
- 3.2 An Interim plan is required for authorities in receipt of a Futures Job Fund grant in order to demonstrate that a viable exit strategy has been developed for the programme.

- 3.3 The Brighton & Hove Interim Work & Skills plan describes the work that has already been undertaken by the City Employment & Skills Steering group (CESSG) in driving forward the City Employment & Skills Plan (CESP).
- 3.4 The structure of the CESSG is in line with the recommendations of the guidance that followed the Act in that it brings together the key influencers and funders of services along with business representatives and key stakeholders.
- 3.5 The creation of the CESP and the annual Action plans that followed have pre-empted the current guidance in that priorities were developed as a direct result of a comprehensive socio-economic analysis of local conditions. The CESP highlighted a number of challenges for the city which became the focus for collective action through the partnership. These challenges are detailed within the report along with supporting and updated data sets.

### **3 WORKLESSNESS ASSESSMENT**

- 3.1 The Act includes a requirement to produce a worklessness assessment to inform decision making. In September 2009 a review of services tackling worklessness in the city was produced by the city council's Policy Team, (once again pre-empting the Act). The report highlighted the role of the CESSG and the range of activities already in place to address worklessness in the city. This report along with the ongoing review of relevant data has helped to inform the strategic direction of the partnership.
- 3.2 The Interim plan lists a number of CESSG achievements and describes how the work of the CESSG links to the Local Area Agreement Targets and connects to wider activities and networks through the Local Strategic Partnership

### **4 NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 The current CESP comes to an end in March 2011 so the requirement to produce a three-year work and skills plan for the city is timely. During the course of 2010/11 the CESSG will undertake a review of local economic conditions, key policy drivers and wider spatial issues in order to set the short, medium and long term goals within the plan. Included within this work will be a more detailed worklessness assessment and an update on the legacy plans for the Future Jobs Fund.
- 4.2 Work is already underway through the CESSG to update the 2010/11 action plan and finalise the timetable.

### **5 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The CESP and all subsequent action plans are a result of extensive consultation and input from CESSG members and wider stakeholders. The original plan was endorsed by the Local Strategic Partnership in December

2007. The Interim Plan was approved for submission to Government Office for the South East by the Chair of the CESSG, Scott Marshall, Director of Housing, Culture & Enterprise

## **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

The Interim plan is primarily a review of existing activity and does not therefore have cost implications.

### **5.1 Legal Implications**

The Interim Work & Skills plan complies with the terms of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The completed report has been sent to Government Office for the South East in compliance with the stipulation within the act that local authorities in receipt of Future Job Fund grant must complete an Interim plan for 2010/11.

The recommendations in this report are consistent with the council's economic development and well-being powers and duties and there are no adverse implications arising

### **5.2 Equalities Implications**

The Interim work & skills plan is primarily a review of existing activity in support of employment and skills in the city; there are therefore no equalities implications at this time.

### **5.3 Sustainability Implications**

The Interim Work & Skills plan is a review of current and past activities; there are no sustainability implications arising from the review document

### **5.4 Crime & Disorder Implications**

There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report

### **5.5 Risk and Opportunity Management Implications**

The Interim Work & Skills plan is a review of current activity; there are no risk and opportunity issues arising from this report

### **5.6 Corporate / Citywide Implications:**

Relevant local, regional and national policy guidance were considered in developing the City Employment & Skills plan. The interim plan draws on the original document and compliments it with more current data; the document demonstrates the reach of the plan in bringing together the multi faceted elements that must be considered in order to develop effective strategies for local economic prosperity.

**6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

6.1 Not applicable in this instance

**7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 The Interim Work & Skills plan is a statutory requirement within the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. The Cabinet is asked to note the contents as a statutory document and as a precursor to the full work and skills plan due for completion by March 2011

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

1. Interim Work & Skills Plan 2010/11

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

**Background Documents**

*[List any background / supporting documents referred to or used in the compilation of the report. The documents must be made available to the public upon request for four years after the decision has been taken]*

1. City Employment & Skills Plan 2008/9 – 2010/11
2. City Employment & Skills Action Plan – 2009/10