

Cabinet

23 JULY 2012

**LEADER (+
REGENERATION,
ASSET
MANAGEMENT AND
IT)**

*Councillor Nicholas
Botterill*

**EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE
H&F MEANS BUSINESS SCRUTINY REPORT**

**Wards:
All**

This provides the Cabinet's Executive Response to the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, which was agreed 25 April 2012. The scrutiny report contains 6 recommendations to the Cabinet. The draft Executive Response is attached at Appendix 1.

The scrutiny report *H&F Means Business* (attached at Appendix 2) summarises the findings of a short scrutiny inquiry carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Board, which included consultation with a range of local business leaders and a wider online consultation.

The scrutiny recommendations are focused upon improving information sharing, and strategic networking and working arrangements with local businesses and the appointment of a Business Champion to take the agenda forward.

The Executive Response provides the executive decisions in respect of the scrutiny recommendations, whereby the Cabinet is invited to either agree, reject or amend each recommendation.

CONTRIBUTORS

EDH&R

**HAS A EIA BEEN
COMPLETED?**
N/A

**HAS THE REPORT
CONTENT BEEN
RISK ASSESSED?**
N/A

Recommendations:

- 1. That approval be given to the Executive Response to the H&F Means Business Scrutiny Report recommendations, as set out at Appendix 1.**
- 2. That Councillor Robert Iggulden be appointed as Borough Business Champion.**
- 3. That the appointed Business Champion considers how best to take forward the agreed Scrutiny recommendations and reports back thereon to the Cabinet.**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The H&F Means Business scrutiny inquiry was undertaken by the Overview and Scrutiny Board between 6 March and 25 April 2012 to explore how businesses and the Council currently work together to bolster economic growth and what additional actions could be taken to improve joint working.
- 1.2. The inquiry included a dedicated meeting on 6 March 2012 to hear from local businesses and other local stakeholders and a wider consultation with the local business community in March and April 2012. The meeting on 6 March included workshop discussions and feedback, which sought to actively engage and consult local business representatives.

2. H&F MEANS BUSINESS SCRUTINY REPORT

- 2.1. The H&F Means Business scrutiny report and recommendations were agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 25 April 2012 and referred to the Cabinet for an Executive Response and executive decisions in respect of each of the scrutiny recommendations. The H&F Means Business scrutiny report is attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.2. The scrutiny recommendations are focused upon improving information sharing, and strategic networking and working arrangements with local businesses and the appointment of a Business Champion to take the agenda forward.
- 2.3. The scrutiny report contains 6 recommendations to the Cabinet:
 - ▶ Recommendation One: The Economic Development, Learning and Skills Work Programme
 - ▶ Recommendation Two: A Businesses Strategy Group
 - ▶ Recommendation Three: A Borough Business Champion
 - ▶ Recommendation Four: A H&F Business Support Network
 - ▶ Recommendation Five: An Annual Borough Business Partnership
 - ▶ Recommendation Six: Businesses Networking.

3. THE EXECUTIVE RESPONSE

- 3.1. The Executive Response provides the response to the report and executive decisions in respect of the scrutiny recommendations, whereby the Cabinet is invited to either agree, reject or amend each recommendation. The Cabinet's Executive Response to the H&F Means Business scrutiny report is provided at Appendix 1.
- 3.2. The Executive Response has been drawn up in consultation with Councillor Nicholas Botterill, Leader of the Council and Councillor Mark Loveday, Cabinet Member for Communications and the relevant departmental officers.

- 3.3. The recommendation for a Borough Business Champion is welcomed and the appointed Business Champion is asked to consider how best to take forward the Scrutiny recommendations.
- 3.4. The draft Executive Response agrees the recommendation to appoint a Borough Business Champion (Councillor Robert Iggulden) and refers the other Scrutiny recommendations to him to consider and report back to the Cabinet on how best to take them forward. The Cabinet is now asked to agree the draft Executive Response to the Scrutiny recommendations as set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.5. For the purposes of illustration, Appendix 3 comprises an indicative work programme in response to the Scrutiny Report recommendations which are subject to review by the Business Champion, and a report back to Cabinet.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. COMMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

- 6.1 There are no significant financial or resource implications. £2,500 has been identified as a cost implication for the scrutiny Recommendation Five: An Annual Business Partnership, to be met from within existing resources.

7. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR FOR LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 7.1. The process for consideration of the scrutiny report and Executive Response are consistent with the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 paragraph 13 of the Council Constitution.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	The H&F Means Business scrutiny report	Michael Carr X2076	Governance & Scrutiny
CONTACT OFFICER:		NAME: Michael Carr – Scrutiny Development Officer EXT. 2076	



Hammersmith & Fulham Council

Executive Response to the H&F Means Business Scrutiny Report

By The Cabinet, 23 July 2012

Introduction

The recommendation (Recommendation 3) for a Borough Business Champion is welcomed. The Cabinet appoints Councillor Robert Iggulden as the Business Champion, and requests that he consider and report back on how best to take forward the remaining Scrutiny recommendations below.

Recommendation One: The Economic Development, Learning and Skills Work Programme

It is recommended that the Economic Development, Learning and Skills team incorporate key discussion points and actions arising from the scrutiny consultation in its 2012/13 work programme.

Recommendation Two: A Businesses Strategy Group

It is recommended that a Business Strategy Group is formed within the council, made up of council officers from across departments, with the aim of providing enhanced communications and greater harmony of council policy development and services which affect the local business community.

Recommendation Three: A Borough Business Champion

It is recommended that an elected councillor be nominated as a Borough Business Champion.

Recommendation Four: A H&F Business Support Network

It is recommended that the council establishes an H&F Business Support Network.

Recommendation Five: An Annual Borough Business Partnership

It is recommended that an annual Borough Business Partnership meeting be held, with an open invitation to all borough businesses.

Recommendation Six: Businesses Networking

The establishment of corporate council mechanisms to ensure timely and appropriate networking, liaison and consultation with local businesses both in written form and face to face.

Councillor Nicholas Botterill – Leader of the Council

Signed _____

The London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham