



HARROW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD
27 October 2009

Update on the Recession Busting Group

Introduction
<p>The Report updates HSP on the activities to mitigate the effect of the Recession. These have been undertaken by The Recession Busting Group (RBG). A group which meets every 6 weeks, and includes cross-council senior officers and external partners, and is chaired by the Corporate Director Place Shaping. External organisations that are involved include Job Centre Plus, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Harrow in Business, the Primary Care Trust and Harrow Association of Voluntary Services.</p> <p>The Group agreed an Economic Recovery Plan in July, to focus work across three core work streams, supporting residents, supporting businesses and communicating the support available.</p>
Key Elements
<i>Key Information/Background to your report/presentation</i>
<p>Unemployment (measured by Jobseeker allowance claimants) and empty commercial property has risen in the last 12 months. Harrow has not been more adversely affected than comparator boroughs. However, the percentage increase in Jobseekers allowance has been greater because of the low base the borough started at.</p> <p>The Recession Busting Group (RBG) was set up to reduce the impact of the recession in Harrow. It meets every 6 weeks, and includes cross-council senior officers and external partners, and is chaired by the Corporate Director Place Shaping. External organisations that are involved include Job Centre Plus, Citizen's Advice Bureau, Harrow in Business, the Primary Care Trust and Harrow Association of Voluntary Services.</p> <p>The key initiatives to support businesses and residents include Business Support - Local Procurement, Business Directory, Love Harrow Shop Local, Prompt Payment, Rate Defaulters Project, Business Start Up, Sector Support - Tourism Advice and Guidance - Recession Survival Guide, funding to CAB & HAVS workshops, more housing benefit advisors Employment - Slivers of Time, Harrow Pledge, Outreach (Xcite), Response to Redundancy (Colleges)</p>
Actions for the HSP Board
<p>The HSP Board is asked to note the actions and members are asked to ensure their organisations continue to contribute to the Recession Busting Group</p>
Recommendations
<p>As above.</p>