

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 October 2020

<b>Title:</b> Getting Barking and Dagenham Back to Work: Local Unemployment Response after Lockdown	
<b>Report of the Inclusive Growth Team</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Graeme Cook, Director of Inclusive Growth	
<b>Summary</b>  This report covers the Council's plans into supporting residents back into work. Appendix 1 to this report provides a summary of the current landscape and also the Council's response to local unemployment for those who have been affected as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions and lockdown.  It sets out our plans to; <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Provide core back to work support</li><li>2. Launch a local jobs campaign</li><li>3. Maximise external funding options</li><li>4. Mobilise a Green Jobs creation programme</li><li>5. Kick off a project to tackle long term unemployment</li></ol> The presenter will endeavour to provide the latest figures, in relation this area, to the Committee at the meeting.	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>  The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note this report.	
<b>Reason(s)</b>  This report and appendix provides information on the support to the local economy in the Borough by providing more jobs, maximising funding opportunities and links in with our plans for Inclusive Growth.	

### 1. Financial Implications

Implications completed by Sandra Pillinger Group Accountant

- 1.1 This report sets out the plans to support residents back to work and sets out a number of initiatives to achieve this aim. Many of these initiatives can be delivered within existing resources and for others funding bids are pending. There are a number of new government funding streams which will support delivery of these

plans – further clarity is awaited. There are no proposals which will require revenue budget growth.

## **2. Legal Implications**

Implications completed by Dr Paul Feild Senior Governance Lawyer

- 2.1 The Council has the power to support getting residents back to work post lock down and promoting economic activity. The thrust of the action aligns with the key themes of the Borough Manifesto of regeneration, employment, skills and enterprise.
- 2.2 This is by virtue of the general power of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, which provides the Council with the power to do anything that individuals generally may do. Section 1(5) of the Localism Act provides that the general power of competence under section 1 is not limited by the existence of any other power of the authority which (to any extent) overlaps with the general power of competence. The use of the power in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 is, akin to the use of any other powers, subject to Wednesbury reasonableness constraints and must be used for a proper purpose.
- 2.3 Furthermore in dealing with the post lock-down effects, the Government has made it clear with Procurement Policy Notes and guidance that the public sector should operate in a way that while ensuring value for money does not put additional pressures on its suppliers who may also be facing difficulties due to the effect of the Covid 19 virus and the measures taken to stop its spread.

## **3. Corporate Policy and Equality Impact**

- 3.1 This proposal specifically focusses on meeting economic outcomes in line with our Inclusive Growth Strategy, to deliver good quality employment opportunities and grow a diverse and resilience business base in the borough.
- 3.2 In particular this proposal is concerned with mitigating the negative economic impacts of Covid19 on residents experiencing loss of employment or increased barriers to employment.
- 3.3 The proposal highlights the continuing needs of those furthest from the labour market in a context of increased pressure on a reduced number of jobs available, ensuring that we continue to focus our resources and strategy on these more disadvantaged groups whilst at the same time seeking to tackle increased employment barriers for newly unemployed residents.
- 3.4 In addition to setting out overall plans to tackle economic impacts and continue supporting priority groups of residents further from the labour market, this proposal also sets out a new focus on stimulating the creation of new good quality jobs for young people, who in the current economic context will be facing unprecedented challenges to entering the labour market.

### **List of appendices:**

- Appendix 1 Presentation titled Getting Barking and Dagenham back to work: local unemployment response after lockdown