

REPORT TO: Employment Learning and Skills and Community
PPB

DATE: 17 September 2012

REPORTING OFFICER: Enterprise Officers, Halton People into Jobs

PORTFOLIO: Economic Development

SUBJECT: Enterprise provision in Halton

WARDS: All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to advise Members that Enterprise Officers will provide a presentation on the Enterprising Halton Service and the wider provision available to local residents that are considering starting up their own business or becoming self-employed.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- (1) The proposal to provide a presentation is noted

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Halton People into Jobs has successfully delivered the Enterprising Halton service since 2007. The service provides one to one business start-up advice and financial support to individuals considering starting up their own business or becoming self-employed. Up to 31st March 2012 the service was entirely funded via WNF and EDRF monies until the closure of the NWDA's Intensive Start-Up Support (ISUS) programme.
- 3.2 On 5 October 2010 the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions announced that the Government would give extra help to unemployed people who want to start their own business, through the New Enterprise Allowance scheme (NEA). New contracts were issued October 2011 – Blue Orchid was successful in securing the funding for the Greater Mersey district (including Halton). NEA is only available to customers who are in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA), aged 18+ and have been claiming benefits for 26-weeks or more – EXCLUDING customers that are being supported through the Governments Work Programme.
- 3.3 In April 2012 resources were increased to meet the growing demand for one to one business start-up advice in Halton, particularly for long term unemployed residents (participating in the Work Programme) or for other

residents that that aren't currently eligible to access provision delivered by partner organisations i.e. NEA.

- 3.4 HPIJ offers a 2-day bespoke '*Kick Start*' course which provides participants with a more detailed overview and understanding of what is involved in running their own business or becoming self-employed. The course is delivered on a monthly basis in venues across both Runcorn and Widnes. On average between 12 and 15 participants complete the course each month.
- 3.5 Post start support is provided for a period of up to 12 months to support and increase the sustainability of new businesses in the area, therefore increasing opportunities for job creation for other Halton residents.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The report recognises the role that Enterprise Officers play in increasing the number of new business starts ups in the Borough, thereby improving the Borough's overall employment offer.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None

6.4 A Safer Halton

None

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

Reductions in funding could impact on the number of business being created in Halton post March 2013. Therefore, it is a major boost to continue to work in partnership to access and secure other rounds of funding to continue to encourage and support new businesses to start up in the area.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

Enterprise Officers ensure equality of access for all wanting to receive flexible one to one business advice in Halton.

Enterprise Officers are targeting and supporting customers to increase the number of business start-ups from minority groups i.e. BME, females and individuals with a health condition or disability.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.