



**Economic Development and Enterprise Partnership  
2009/10 Report**

# Introduction

## Terms of Reference

These are the agreed terms of reference for the Economic Development and Enterprise Partnership.

- To provide a strategic oversight on issues of employment, skills, business and enterprise and to lead progress against the outcomes of Shaping our future.
- To ensure delivery against the relevant targets within Opportunity and Well-being for All - Lewisham's Local Area Agreement and to provide effective performance management of the indicators and programmes.
- To provide strategic direction to the allocation of resources to support employment, skills, business and enterprise development in Lewisham.
- To provide a link between the LSP Board and the partner agencies involved across the areas of employment, skills, business and enterprise.
- To provide strategic leadership in responding to relevant national and regional policies and to represent the views of the LSP in responding to policy consultation.
- To identify opportunities for increased partnership and joint actions to address gaps in provision and to commission effectively in line with the LSP's forthcoming commissioning framework.
- To identify opportunities for links with other strategies and capitalise on areas of joint-working with the other LSP thematic partnerships.
- To maximise the involvement of citizens and Lewisham's diverse communities in the employment, skills, business and enterprise initiatives and opportunities in the borough and in London as a whole.

- Act as the main conduit for discussions with agencies such as the LDA, Thames Gateway and other sub-regional and regional agencies on employment, skills and enterprise related subjects.
- To monitor the impact of the recession and review delivery accordingly.

### Partnership Goals

- Improved outcomes for local people
- Meeting the ambitions of Shaping our future - Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy and achieving its priority outcomes
- Performing strongly against the targets set out in Opportunity and Well-being for All - Lewisham's Local Area Agreement - in particular:
  - NI 151 - Overall employment rate
  - NI 153 - Working age people claiming out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods
  - NI 161 - Learners achieving a level 1 qualification in literacy
  - NI 162 - Number of entry level qualifications in numeracy achieved
  - NI 163 - Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 2
  - NI 164 - Proportion aged 19-64 for males and 19-59 for females qualified to at least Level 3
  - NI 172 - % of small businesses in an area showing employment growth
- Adding value to organisations and sectors represented on the LSP and the Economic Development and Enterprise Partnership

### Membership

There are a range of key strategic stakeholders drawn together through this partnership which act as the umbrella for the sector in Lewisham. The membership aims to make decisions regarding the setting of policy, the allocation of resources to support strategic priorities and the ability to influence their own organisational direction. The memberships currently includes:

Chair

- Councillor Alan Smith, Deputy Mayor

## Members

- Fergus Grant, Jobcentre Plus
- Stewart Goldring, Voluntary Action Lewisham, Voluntary sector representative
- Second Third sector representative - Vacant
- Elizabeth Adongo - Chair, New Cross Gate, New Deal for Communities Trust
- Mark Cook, Director for Business Development, Lewisham College
- Jacqui Fox, Director, Twin UK
- Caroline Fox, Director, Twin UK
- Stephen Nelson, Director, South East London Chamber of Commerce
- Pauline Forester, Director, SE Enterprise
- David Boyer, South London Business
- Mike Oliver, Federation of Small Businesses

## Council Officers

- Malcolm Smith, Acting Executive Director for Regeneration, LB Lewisham
- John Miller, Head of Planning and Economic Development, LB Lewisham
- Liz Dart, Head of Community Services, LB Lewisham
- Lesley Lee, Head of Strategy and Performance, Regeneration, LB Lewisham

## Secretariat

Officers within the Planning and Economic Development Group will provide secretariat support for the Partnership, organising agendas and minutes with the approval of the Chair. The LAA Lead Officer will take responsibility for providing information on the performance and activities of projects funded through the LAA and for disseminating information to the LAA Economic Development and Enterprise Group on behalf of the Partnership.

## Summary of progress

The work of the ED&E Partnership has contributed to a number of *Shaping our future* priority outcomes over the last year in a variety of ways.

These are:

*Ambitious and achieving - where people are inspired and supported to fulfil their potential.*

- The six WNF projects have provided employment related support to over 437 residents.
- WNF projects, council services and New Horizons assisted 330 residents into employment.

*Empowered and responsible - where people can be actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities.*

- The New Horizons project has supported 40 people into volunteering

*Healthy, active and enjoyable - where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being*

- The New Horizons project has provided employment support to over 474 residents with long term health conditions
- The ED&E Partnership has worked in partnership with the Adults Partnership board to improve employment pathways for residents with Learning difficulties. The Camden Society has now been commissioned to carry out this work.
- The ED&E Partnership is providing support to the IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) Pilot with the PCT, exploring appropriate employment pathways. This project was successful in receiving WNF funding for one year.

*Dynamic and prosperous - where people are part of vibrant localities and town centres well-connected to London and beyond*

- The Council's Economic Development Service has helped 119 new businesses start up.
- A total of 553 businesses have been advised.
- Over 80 businesses attend regular business networking events

## Update on delivery

The impact of the economic downturn is being felt in Lewisham in both the areas of individual employment and businesses. This has a direct impact on the ability to meet existing LAA targets. The additional allocation of Working Neighbourhood Funds have been used to respond to the emerging needs and impacts of the recession. Details of the WNF projects are given below.

The partnership had a number of areas of focus in 2010/2011, considering the following topics at meetings:

- Revision of the Partnership Terms of Reference
- Considering the allocation of Working Neighbourhood Funds
- Considering the impacts and challenges of key DWP programmes, Pathways to Work and Flexible New Deal
- In December, focussing on Business Support, including the work of Town Centre Managers and the New WNF allocation 'Fresh Start' which focuses on self-employment.
- Considering the partnerships role in supporting Future Jobs Fund and Apprenticeships in the borough.

There continues to be a strong base of employment and enterprise delivery in the borough of Lewisham. An update on the key areas and partners providing employment and enterprise delivery is outlined below.

### The Business Advisory Service

The Business Advisory Service delivered support to help businesses which had been effected by the economic downturn. In 2009/2010 247 business received free information, advice, mentoring and training. This included free:

- Financial health checks
- Assessment of the clients present strategy and business plan in light of recessionary trading conditions
- Best practice advice and guidance on the development of a recession proof business plan.
- Seminars and workshops on improving sales, marketing, finance and market diversification,

New quarterly business networking events were very popular attracting in excess of 100 businesses. Support continued to be provided to help local small businesses access local business opportunities. A total of £1.134M was secured for local businesses in 2009/10 making a total of £3.284M secured for local businesses since September 2008. 115 companies were registered as interested in accessing local procurement opportunities.

45 local residents were helped to start up in business or to become self employed and new Fresh Start Programmes were delivered in close liaison with Job Centre Plus to provide enterprise support to local residents who had been made redundant.

### Jobcentre Plus

#### Jobs and Employment Support

- During the year 2830 customers were placed into work through Local Employment Partnerships in the Borough of Lewisham
- To support the outcome performance over 2300 Lewisham customers received training and support through Gateway Programmes, Programme centres and the Support Contract. 910 customers started the Gateway Programme, 776 Customers started the Pathways to Work Programme. 1543 Customers attended Programmes Centres including 194 Lone Parents plus additional referrals and starts to the new Launch pad Programme
- JCP have implemented all other elements of the Young Persons Guarantee, working in Partnership with Lewisham College and local Employers to deliver Routes into work courses providing skills to young people which match the needs of Employers. There have been 141 customers placed into work through the Future Jobs Fund, 68 Routes into Work Starts Job Starts with an additional 27 Sector Specific Pre Employment Training Starts.
- JCP have worked with local providers to provide new services for newly unemployed customers under the Response to Redundancy Programmes Including services to professionals and CV workshops. 151 Professional and Executive customers completed training under our Day 1 Offer.
- JCP have placed 443 Lewisham customers into Work Trials.

#### Engagement

- JCP have worked with NextStep services (including Opening Doors) to provide an integrated Employment and Skills service within Jobcentres, with Skills Advisers now present in Jobcentres.
- JCP have worked in concert with The Extended Services team to introduce the School Gates Initiative which is now live and achieving outcomes at Rushey Green School, and are working to extend that to neighbouring schools.
- JCP are engaging with connexions and youth Services to provide transitional support for customers aged 18-19 and address the issues of Youth Unemployment at age 18.
- JCP have developed support within the Borough to address drug addiction, mental health issues and supports for those with caring responsibilities, putting in place mechanisms to refer customers for additional support.

## Opening Doors

Opening Doors is part of the Economic Development section of the Regeneration Directorate. The Service currently operates from two sites. The two core services Opening Doors provides are:

- Information, advice and guidance which provides independent careers advice, information and advice on learning and work, work-related IT support, assistance with job applications and interview practice, help and advice on writing a CV and jobsearch facilities including access to the internet.
- Job brokerage through the Jobnet service. This is part of a five- borough network providing free services to employers including skills and abilities assessments, access to a database of vetted candidates, support from a professional recruitment team, free promotion of vacancies and a dedicated follow-up service. Services to job seekers include job matching and liaison with the employer and interview preparation and practice.

The Service works in partnership with Jobcentre Plus and a range of third sector providers to support Lewisham residents to work. It is the Nextstep I.A.G. provider for the borough and currently is also running a two year LDA/ESF project, providing intensive support for disadvantaged residents to gain employment. The service supports economically inactive residents, those who are both long-term and recently unemployed as well as residents who are under employed and need support to improve their careers.

## Town Centre Management Team

The Council's Town Centre Management team works to help a number of town centres survive and thrive. They work closely with local businesses and town centre stakeholders in the regeneration of the town centre areas they cover and also, to raise the profile of each town centre. Each team member has a broad local remit with the overall aim of promoting and improving the economic viability of the town centres. Specifically, the Town Centre Manager will help:

- Provide advice and support to town centre businesses;
- Tackle vacant units and engage with commercial property owners
- Engage with local developers
- Promote business support
- Manage tourism and place making events
- Assist with environmental improvements

- Assist with community safety initiatives

The service has been adapted to help businesses meet the challenges of the recession. They also have an important role as the "honest broker" between the Council and local businesses. So, for example, while the Town Centre Manager does not have responsibility for highways or environmental issues, they will liaise closely with relevant council departments when issues arise. It is important to remember that the Town Centre Manager does not have the authority or remit to action services such as street cleansing or road maintenance. The best way to report environmental crime is at [www.lovelewisham.org](http://www.lovelewisham.org)

The service has been successful in securing Working Neighbourhood fund to provide an additional Town Centre Manager to support smaller town centres including, Ladywell, Leegate and Crofton Park.

### New Horizons

New Horizons creates a new approach to helping people on Incapacity Benefit and lone parents, develop skills and confidence to re-enter the labour market. New Horizons began delivery in April 2008 with a delivery end date of March 2010. The project is being led by SLaM (South London and Maudsley NHS Trust). The project is delivered with a core team of 'guides' who support, advise and mentor people as they make their personal journeys into work. Partners include Lewisham Council, Lewisham College and Job Centre Plus. Outreach is carried out in a range of venues with a particular focus on Doctor's surgeries and Children Centres.

This project will continue for a further year through WNF support to continue this vital work. This will encourage easier referrals along the referral pathway and allow more time for the intensive long-term support these client groups require to achieve employment.

### Pathways to Work

Pathways to work was introduced nationally to support 1 million Incapacity Benefit (IB) recipients into work and off IB by 2015. South London and Lewisham is delivering the Provider led Pathways to Work model and is being delivered by Reed in Partnership. Pathways to Work went live on 28th April 2008. Jobcentre Plus continue to deliver initial IB Work Focussed Interviews (WFI) with Reed in Partnership deliver a further 5 mandatory WFIs and provide work/training related support to all IB recipients. In work support offered by Reed. The delivery model provided by Reed offers four main stages:

1. Engagement
2. Diagnostics and Orientation
3. Employability and Personal Development

#### 4. Placement and In-work support

This work links closely to other employability support in the borough, in particular the New Horizons project

##### New Cross Gate New Deal for Communities

As the NDC in Lewisham comes to an end and the NDC Trust takes over, the chair of the Trust joined the ED&E partnership in the last year. The partnership was also able to offer financial support to a key NDC project, 170 Works, through the WNF allocation to the Training Consortium.

##### *170 Works*

170 Works delivers a core one stop shop local employment and training service for New Cross Gate residents.

- Careers Guidance Service
- Entry to employment Programmes
- Job-brokerage and Job-search Facilities
- Information and support on accessing volunteering opportunities and work placements
- Back to work benefit/debt advice with access to a Beneficiary Fund

170 Works links into local, LBL and London wide initiatives to reduce worklessness, for example working closely with Opening Doors Lewisham and New Horizons.

##### Lewisham College of Further Education

As well as providing a wide range of training and education, Lewisham College has an extremely successful business development arm, called 'The Skills People'. This section take a key lead in developing employer skills needs in Lewisham and across London.

##### *Skills for Jobs*

Lewisham College is one of three contracted providers of Skills for Jobs in the Jocentre Plus South London District. This offers pre-employment training and information, advice and guidance to get people into work, and once in employment they progress onto Train to Gain training or apprenticeships. This is a joint initiative with Jobcentre Plus.

##### *Train to Gain*

The Skills People are one of the most successful providers of Train to Gain programmes in the region, with achievement rates of over 90%. Train to Gain helps employers to improve their business performance and raise the skills levels of their workforce. It can pay for

training at level 2 and level 3. Lewisham College is the preferred provider of Train to Gain and the Business Advice Service, the Town Centre Management team and the Opening Doors service share business referrals, directing businesses to the college when staff training needs are identified.

Working Neighbourhood (WNF) Fund - 2008-2010

There were six WNF projects that ran from 2009-2010. Some of these projects have received continuation funding under the latest allocation of WNF. All projects have delivered to target and achieved agreed outputs and delivery. These six projects were:

Project	Lead Agency	Allocation (2008-10)	Project Outline	Link to LAA Outcomes/Indicators
FOCUS	North Downham Training Project	£114,000	This is a long standing provider in a key ward of the borough which has high levels of worklessness. The outputs of the organisation are directly related to increasing employment and improving educational achievements. The project delivered the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 gained qualifications</li> <li>• 44 people received non-accredited training</li> <li>• 115 people received information, advice and guidance</li> <li>• 18 people gained employment</li> <li>• 11 people into further education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> <li>• Working age people claiming out of work benefits</li> </ul>
Local Labour scheme	London Borough of Lewisham	95,000	This is a key initiative in the borough. The project delivered the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 77 people received information, advice and guidance</li> <li>• 138 people received CSCS card training and assessment</li> <li>• 27 people gained employment</li> </ul> <p>This project has been reviewed and enhanced for 2010-2011</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> <li>• Working age people claiming out of work benefits</li> </ul>
Access to Work	REETA / Fast Track	£80,000	This linked the REETA project with the social enterprise recruitment agency Fast Track to provide a three step programme for refugee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> </ul>

Project	Lead Agency	Allocation (2008-10)	Project Outline	Link to LAA Outcomes/Indicators
	recruitment		<p>communities.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engagement of refugees</li> <li>2. Information, advice and guidance</li> <li>3. Up skilling for job opportunities</li> </ol> <p>The project delivered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 169 people received information, advice and guidance</li> <li>• 38 people gained qualifications</li> <li>• 77 people received non-accredited training</li> <li>• 40 people gained employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working age people claiming out of work benefits</li> </ul>
Opening Doors	Opening Doors	£90,000	<p>This project provided Information, Advice and Guidance services the over 50s, lone parents and other disadvantaged groups, to access employment. The project delivered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 61 people received information, advice and guidance</li> <li>• 41 people received non-accredited training</li> <li>• 15 people gained employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> <li>• Working age people claiming out of work benefits</li> </ul>
Capitalising on Enterprise project	Simple Business Solutions	£70,000	<p>The project aimed to identify businesses operating (whole or in part) in the informal economy and support them towards formalisation. The project adopted a relationship building/ mentoring approach with businesses to move them into the formal economy. The project delivered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 56 Business advice sessions</li> <li>• 10 Business starts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcomes around fostering thriving local businesses</li> <li>• Overall employment Rate</li> </ul>
The Enterprising Communities	Lewisham Community Business	£80,000	<p>This project built on the successful community engagement mechanism set-up through the Lewisham Equal 2 Project. This project provided business and employment support to refugee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcomes around fostering thriving local businesses</li> </ul>

Project	Lead Agency	Allocation (2008-10)	Project Outline	Link to LAA Outcomes/Indicators
project	Support Service		communities. The project delivered the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85 Business advice sessions</li> <li>• 8 Business starts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall employment Rate</li> </ul>

A particular strength of the above projects is the strong links there are between them ensuring residents access the right individual support required, dependent on location, educational and employment background and particular support needs, such as child care. The Working Neighbourhood projects have achieved a number of outputs, supporting residents on their journey to employment.

Overall this has resulted in:

- 437 residents have received information, advice and guidance.
- 141 businesses have received advice.
- 63 residents have gained qualifications
- 300 residents have received non-accredited work-related training.
- 100 residents have gained employment.
- 18 new businesses have started

#### Working Neighbourhood (WNF) Fund - 2009-2011

Lewisham's Working Neighbourhood Fund allocation has been revised and increased significantly. The previous WNF allocation was £1,648,084 and the revised WNF allocation is £4,939,746, an increase of £3,291,662. The LSP board allocated the difference with a particular focus on addressing employment, business and social cohesion LAA indicators and this was agreed at Mayor and Cabinet in September 2009. A total of £1,255,000 was allocated through the Economic Development and Enterprise Partnership for delivery running from 2009 to 2011.

Project	Lead Agency	Allocation (2009-11)	Project Outline	Link to LAA Outcomes/Indicators
Employment	North	£330,000	A partnership between REETA, NDTP and 170 Works has been	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall</li> </ul>

Project	Lead Agency	Allocation (2009-11)	Project Outline	Link to LAA Outcomes/Indicators
Training Consortium	Downham Training Project		<p>developed to share areas of expertise and resources to deliver a range of employability support. This project will provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 116 people receiving information, advice and guidance</li> <li>• 40 people gaining qualifications</li> <li>• 20 people receiving non-accredited training</li> <li>• 60 people gaining employment</li> <li>• 30 people progressing to further education</li> </ul>	<p>employment rate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working age people claiming out of work benefits</li> </ul>
Opening Doors	Opening Doors	£340,000	<p>This is an information, advice and guidance project, working with a range of client groups, including the recently unemployed to gain employment. It will provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 130 people receiving information, advice and guidance</li> <li>• 70 people gaining employment</li> <li>• 40 people progressing to further education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> <li>• Working age people claiming out of work benefits</li> </ul>
Economic Development - referral pathways	London Borough of Lewisham	£20,000	<p>This allocation will provide a development fund to expand the employment referral pathway, providing staff training and awareness. It will develop a forum so partners can come together to review best practice, create referral routes and ensure better value from individual contracts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> <li>• Working age people claiming out of work benefits</li> </ul>
Fresh Start (Self-Employment)	South East Enterprise	£120,000	<p>This project will provide workshops, training and guidance services for residents who want to return to work as self-employed. This was in direct response to the increase in enquiries as residents became unemployed due to the recession. This project will provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 180 people receiving information, advice and guidance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Business</li> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> <li>• Working age people claiming</li> </ul>

Project	Lead Agency	Allocation (2009-11)	Project Outline	Link to LAA Outcomes/Indicators
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80 people receiving non-accredited training</li> <li>• 40 business / self employment starts</li> </ul>	out of work benefits
Town Centre Management	London Borough of Lewisham	£120,000	<p>This project provides an additional town centre manager to respond to recession impacts on the Lewisham Town Centres who do not currently have their own TCM. These include Ladywell, Leegate and Crofton park. The project will run to Sept 2011 and provide the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60 Businesses receiving advice</li> <li>• 40 people receiving non-accredited training</li> </ul> <p>The post will also create a number of marketing events, promote and develop the town centres, assist with targeting vacant units and manage a grants programme funded by the Mayors Fund and CLG.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting business</li> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> </ul>
Local Labour Scheme	London Borough of Lewisham	£40,000	<p>This is third year continuation funding to continue to provide CSCS card training and employment opportunities. The post will not focus on both business procurement opportunities as well as direct local labour roles. It will provide the following in 2010/2011:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 40 people receiving information, advice and guidance</li> <li>• 10 people gaining qualifications</li> <li>• 25 people receiving non-accredited training</li> <li>• 20 people gaining employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Business</li> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> <li>• Working age people claiming out of work benefits</li> </ul>
Capitalising on Enterprise	Simple Business Solutions	£30,000	<p>This is third year continuation funding to support businesses and individuals operating in the informal economy to formalisation and compliance. In 2010/2011 it will provide the following:</p> <p>20 business receiving advice 6 people gaining employment 4 business starts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Business</li> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> <li>• Working age people claiming</li> </ul>

Project	Lead Agency	Allocation (2009-11)	Project Outline	Link to LAA Outcomes/Indicators
				out of work benefits
The Enterprising Refugee Communities	Simple Business Solutions	£35,000	This is third year continuation funding to provide business and employment support to refugee communities. IN 2010/2011 it will provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 businesses receiving advice</li> <li>• 7 people gaining employment</li> <li>• 5 business starts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Business</li> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> <li>• Working age people claiming out of work benefits</li> </ul>
New Horizons	South London and Maudsley NHS Mental Health Trust	£150,000	This is a one year allocation to continue this project for a third year (currently funded via LDA & Mayor) to provide employment support to lone parents and those on health related benefits. In 2010/2011 it will provide the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 140 people receiving information, advice and guidance</li> <li>• 40 people gaining employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> <li>• Working age people claiming out of work benefits</li> </ul>
Business Grants for Growth Programme	South East Enterprise	£70,000	This allocation supports a minimum of 8 local businesses up to a maximum grant of £10,000 per business to invest in capital equipment and 20 entrepreneurs who will receive small grants of up to £1000 to support test trading and market research. The funding will lever in a minimum of £70,000 investment from the beneficiary businesses and would safeguard jobs in businesses supported, lead to an increase in sales and in time lead to new jobs being created.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting Business</li> <li>• Overall employment rate</li> <li>• Working age people claiming out of work benefits</li> </ul>

## LAA Performance

The economic downturn has had a significant impact on the achievement of the LAA targets that sit under this partnership. Delivery plans are being reviewed and on-going discussions with key delivery partners such as Jobcentre Plus are continuing to seek creative ways to increase support for residents and businesses. A particular challenge is working to data that is unavailable nationally without a considerable time lag. This is mitigated through using the board membership to seek local knowledge on trends and patterns, such as increases in new JSA claimants.

Please see performance reports circulated separately to Members or on the LSP website

## Key Activities for 2010/2011

Activity over the next year will be focussed on supporting residents and businesses to deal with the economic downturn. Key activities already being developed include the below:

- The partnership will have a new chair in 2010 and a key area of activity will be to induct the chair into the work of the partnership and agree areas of focus and activity over the coming year.
- The partnership will be considering the priorities for the new LAA required from April 2011.
- The Mayor of Lewisham committed additional funding to combat the impact of the recession in January 2010. This included:
  - An allocation of £152k for improvements to high streets and shopping areas, which includes a grant of £52k from Communities and Local Government;
  - An allocation of £100k for the “Head for Business” organisation;
  - An allocation of £60k for the Business Recovery Service;

Updates on delivery will be brought to the partnership to review how this additional resource is being used and the benefits received by Lewisham’s business community.

- The business advisory service has been reconfigured to provide services which responds to the needs of businesses in the new economic climate. This will continue to focus on ‘Recession proofing’ existing businesses in the borough.
- Regular networking events are being held for businesses by the council’s economic development service.
- The South East London Chamber of Commerce is holding networking meetings in the borough every two months and works closely with the economic development service to support Lewisham businesses.
- The Federation of Small Businesses will continue to participate in the partnership providing an important link to the SME business community.
- The partnership will continue to oversee the delivery of the Working Neighbourhood Fund allocation.
- A key area of activity for the partnership in 2010/2011 will be to consider how to support the future of business and employment delivery in the borough in future years as funding streams such as WNF come to an end.
- The partnership has highlighted the new Flexible New Deal programme as a key priority and will be seeking representation on the partnership from a representative from the South London Flexible New Deal delivery partner.
- Additional funding opportunities are being explored with the LDA on a sub-regional basis to increase the support for residents to gain sustainable employment.
- The partnership will also contribute to the consultation on the draft of Lewisham’s first Local Economic Assessment.

## Contributions from the LSP

The LSP board and partnership boards can and do support the work of the Economic Development and Enterprise Partnership in a number of ways.

- Continue the LSP Board commitment as employers to increasing apprenticeships and access routes to employment.
- Children and Young People sub group on Child poverty to continue the link with the ED&E Partnership to ensure worklessness is embedded in the child poverty agenda.
- The Adult Strategic Partnership board work on employment routes for residents with learning disabilities, has clear links with the work of ED&E Partnership.
- The Sustainable Development Partnership is managing three WNF projects and these have a particular focus on looking at the role of social housing in addressing social exclusion including worklessness.
- The LSP board and partnership boards can contribute further to employment and business development in the borough by encouraging cross partnership working further and sharing networking links.
- A commitment from LSP employer partners to turn invoicing around swiftly for SMEs and seek local procurement where possible will support the borough's businesses.
- The LSP board to consider the wider impacts of the end of WNF and work with the partnership on the exit strategy for this programme

These initiatives and commitments across the LSP partnership contribute to greater joint-working, sharing of resources and clearer pathways to employment for Lewisham residents.