

**London Borough of Islington  
Regeneration and Employment Review Committee  
20 March 2014**

Minutes of an additional meeting of **REGENERATION AND EMPLOYMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE** held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on Thursday 20 March 2014 at 7.30pm.

**Present Councillors:** Councillor George Allan, Councillor Wally Burgess, Councillor Tracy Ismail and Charlyne Pullen.

**Councillor Tracy Ismail in the Chair**

**269 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)**

Apologies were received from Councillors Debono, Fletcher and Spall.

**270 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)**

None.

**271 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (Item A3)**

None.

**272 BUSINESS START UP SCRUTINY REVIEW – NOTES OF VISIT TO CLERKENWELL WORKSHOPS (Item B1)**

In the discussion the following points were made:

- Councillor Ismail apologised for not attending the visit but she had had a family emergency.
- Councillor Allan reported details of the visit to the committee and stated that Workspace Group were willing to look at the Council's disused garages, provide advice and possibly consider a joint venture with the Council.
- Councillor Allan had visited Google which had a similar area to the Club workspace at Clerkenwell Workshops. However at Google, the area was a café and there was no charge to use the space; people just had to register. There were also networking opportunities.

**RESOLVED:** That the notes from the visit be noted.

**273 BUSINESS START UP SCRUTINY REVIEW – FINAL REPORT (Item B2)**

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the following sentence be added to the end of Recommendation 8: "In particular, the Housing Service should liaise with organisations such as Workspace Group to investigate opportunities for the use of surplus space for shared workspaces suitable for start-up businesses."
- 2) That the circulated suggested amendments to the report following the visit be added to the report.
- 3) That the report be agreed as the final report subject to the above amendments.
- 4) That Karen Sullivan, Service Director, Planning and Development send details of the planning advice given in relation to Paragraph 2.56 of the report to Councillor Allan.

**274 PLANNING POLICY AND SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES SCRUTINY REVIEW – 12 MONTH REPORT BACK**

Karen Sullivan, Service Director, Planning and Development provided a 12 month report back on the implementation of the recommendations from the Planning Policy and Small and Medium Enterprises Scrutiny Review.

In the discussion the following points were made:

- The Development Management Policies document was in place, had been tested at appeal and had been successful.

- The permitted development rights meant small shops could change use for a two year period without planning permission. The Council was implementing an Article 4 Direction to reintroduce the requirement for planning permission where a change of use of small shops was proposed.
- From 6 April 2014, small shops could convert to change to residential use without planning permission. There were concerns that this could impact upon local shops and standards of accommodation and the Council was considering how to deal with this potential problem.
- The Business Employment Support Team, Town Centre Managers and Planning Officers were working together on a range of projects to support small and medium enterprises. These included improving shop fronts and working with shops to improve their visual merchandising. There was a new website for Archway shops as well as a loyalty scheme.
- Islington had a relatively low level of vacant shops and resources were allocated proportionately. Initiatives to encourage landlords of vacant shops to engage with the Council had so far had limited success. Town Centre Managers were now using a personal approach.
- The Council had adopted the Islington Shop Front Design Guide and provided pre-application advice. The Shop Front Design Guide had been incorporated into the Supplementary Planning Document for Caledonian Road. Resources were spent as effectively as possible.
- Consultation about methods of communication with businesses had taken place and work was being undertaken to address points raised in feedback.
- Town Centre Managers worked to keep each town centre's database up to date.
- Shop front improvements were being made to Blackstock Road and Seven Sisters Road.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That feedback from the Shop Front scheme be circulated to members.
- 2) That the report be noted.

**275 ANY URGENT BUSINESS (Item B3)**  
None.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

**CHAIR.**