





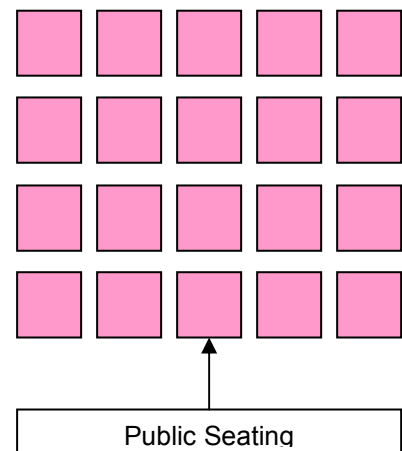
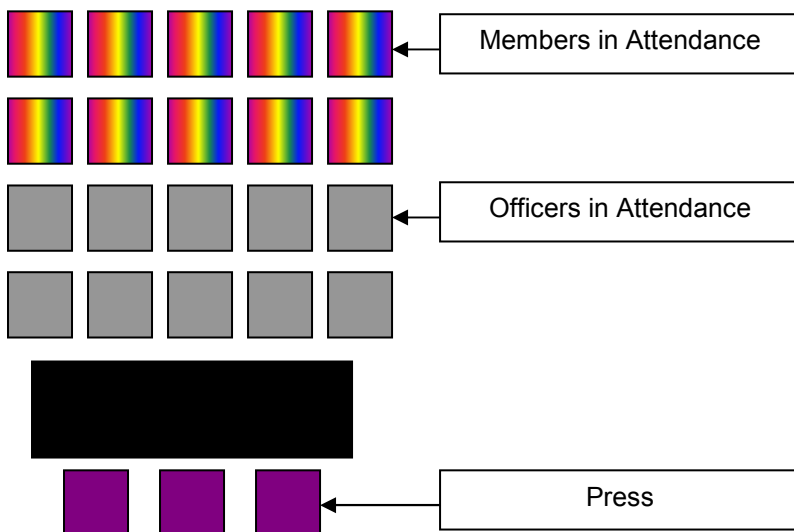
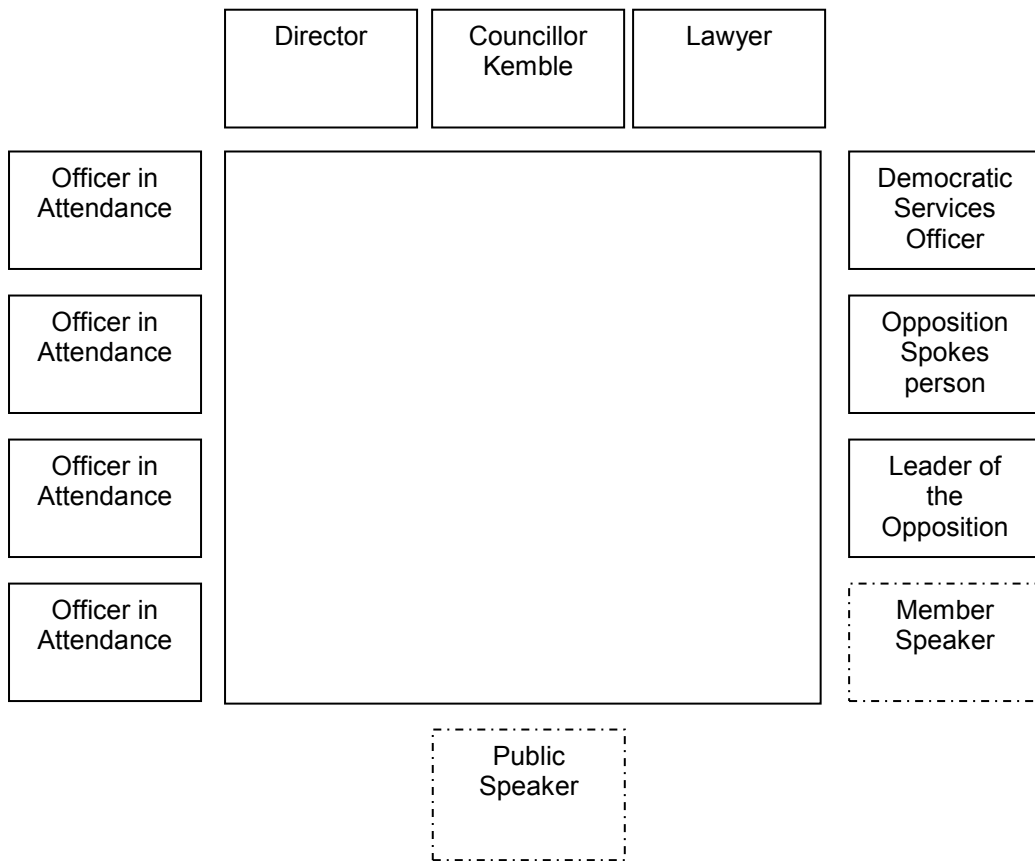
Brighton & Hove  
City Council

# Cabinet Member Meeting

Title:	<b>Enterprise, Employment &amp; Major Projects Cabinet Member Meeting</b>
Date:	<b>9 December 2008</b>
Time:	<b>5.00pm or at the conclusion of the CMM – Culture, Recreation &amp; Tourism, plus 15 minutes break (will not meet earlier than 5.00pm)</b>
Venue	<b>Committee Room 1, Hove Town Hall</b>
Members:	<b>Councillor: Kemble (Cabinet Member)</b>
Contact:	<b>Caroline De Marco</b> Democratic Services Officer 01273 291063 caroline.demarco@brighton-hove.gov.uk

	<b>The Town Hall has facilities for wheelchair users, including lifts and toilets</b>
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# Democratic Services: Meeting Layout



## AGENDA

### 32. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) Declarations of Interest by all Members present of any personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- (b) Exclusion of Press and Public - To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

*NOTE: Any item appearing in Part 2 of the Agenda states in its heading either that it is confidential or the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.*

*A list and description of the categories of exempt information is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.*

### 33. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1 - 6

Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 September 2008 (copy attached).

### 34. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS

### 35. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION

- (a) Items reserved by the Cabinet Member
- (b) Items reserved by the Opposition Spokesperson
- (c) Items reserved by Members, with the agreement of the Cabinet Member.

*NOTE: Public Questions, Written Questions from Councillors, Petitions, Deputations, Letters from Councillors and Notices of Motion will be reserved automatically.*

### 36. PETITIONS

No petitions were received by date of publication.

### 37. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(The closing date for receipt of public questions is 12 noon on 2

# ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & MAJOR PROJECTS CABINET MEMBER MEETING

December 2008)

No public questions have been received by the date of publication.

## 38. DEPUTATIONS

(The closing date for receipt of deputations is 12 noon on 2 December 2008)

No deputations have been received by the date of publication.

## 39. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS

No letters have been received.

## 40. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

No written questions have been received.

## 41. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

No Notices of Motion have been received by the date of publication.

## 42. SUPPORTING BUSINESS THROUGH THE ECONOMIC CLIMATE 7 - 12

Report of Director of Cultural Services (copy attached).

Contact Officer: Adam Bates

Tel: 29-2600

Ward Affected: All Wards

## PART TWO

## 43. PART 2 MINUTES OF 16 SEPTEMBER 2008 - EXEMPT CATEGORIES 13 - 14 1, 3, 5 & 6

The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fifth working day before the meeting.

Agendas and minutes are published on the council's website [www.brighton-hove.gov.uk](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk). Agendas are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

Meeting papers can be provided, on request, in large print, in Braille, on audio tape or on disc, or translated into any other language as requested.

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Caroline De Marco,

## ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & MAJOR PROJECTS CABINET MEMBER MEETING

(01273 291063, email [caroline.demarco@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.demarco@brighton-hove.gov.uk)) or email [democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

Date of Publication - Monday, 1 December 2008



# **ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & MAJOR PROJECTS**

## **Agenda Item 33**

Brighton & Hove City Council

### **BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

#### **ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & MAJOR PROJECTS CABINET MEMBER MEETING**

**5.00pm 16 SEPTEMBER 2008**

**COMMITTEE ROOM 3, HOVE TOWN HALL**

#### **MINUTES**

**Present:** Councillor Kemble (Cabinet Member)

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Turton (Opposition Spokesperson)

#### **PART ONE**

#### **17. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

##### **17a Declarations of Interests**

17.1 There were none

##### **17b Exclusion of Press and Public**

17.2 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act ("the Act"), the Cabinet Member considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in Section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 1001(1) of the Act).

17.3 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

#### **18. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 18.1 Councillor Turton referred to resolution (3) of Item 15, “That it be agreed that each of the four main political groups be requested to nominate representatives to join the identified Project Boards.” He asked for details of the nominations. The Assistant Director, Major Projects & Venues undertook to circulate the nominations.
- 18.2 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes held on 10 June 2008 be agreed and signed by the Cabinet Member.

## **19. CABINET MEMBER'S COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Economic Development update**

- 19.1 The Cabinet Member was pleased to report that a planning application had been received and registered by the local planning authority for the former flexer sacks factory in South Portslade for a commercially led mixed use employment scheme.
- 19.2 The proposal would bring the redundant factory back into operational use providing a range of uses including new and refurbished offices to assist in meeting the needs of the employment land study, recording studios and performing space to assist in meeting the needs of the creative workspace study and a leisure facility which was much needed in this part of the city.
- 19.3 The Cabinet Member was also pleased to say that the number of commercially led planning applications received by the local planning authority had not dropped in numbers compared to previous years and there was still developer interest in commercial development proposals in the city despite the credit crunch.
- 19.4 Economic development officers were also monitoring the number of enquiries to the commercial property database which detailed the available space in the city and had informed the Cabinet Member that the number of visits to the web site was comparable to the same time in previous years, however July and August tended to be quiet months for businesses looking for space to move to. A more detailed analysis would be carried out at the end of the year when the figures would be more meaningful.

### **American Express and Edward Street**

- 19.5 The Cabinet Member was pleased to report that American Express had committed the future of its European customer services headquarters to Brighton, as was reported recently in the Argus. American Express was the city's largest private sector employer and they had announced that



they would be seeking planning permission for a new building next to the existing Amex House.

- 19.6 This excellent news for the city showed that Brighton & Hove was a location that offered large employers a great deal in terms of the skills and qualifications of the workforce, whilst the quality of life here helped them to retain those staff. This news was the result of considerable hard work by officers and members working closely with American Express and the Cabinet Member would ensure that officers from Capital Projects and City Planning continued to engage with American Express to bring this new development forward.

### **City College Brighton and Hove**

- 19.7 The Cabinet Member reported that City College Brighton and Hove had now submitted a planning application for the proposed redevelopment of their Pelham Street campus. This application included a detailed application for a new teaching facility to replace the existing Pelham Tower as well as seeking outline consent for ancillary residential, office and youth hostel accommodation. Again, the college had been working closely with the city council to realise this vision, in particular with the city council offering in-principle support to the college's bid to the Learning and Skills Council for capital funding to bring investment into the city.
- 19.8 Councillor Turton passed his congratulations to officers, particularly with reference to the news about American Express. He agreed that the planning application at the former flexer sacks factory in South Portslade was good news.

### **20. ITEMS RESERVED FOR DISCUSSION**

- 20.1 All items were reserved for discussion.

### **21. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

- 21.1 There were none.

### **22. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- 22.1 There were none.

### **23. PETITIONS**

- 23.1 There were none.

### **24. DEPUTATIONS**

24.1 There were none.

**25. LETTERS FROM COUNCILLORS**

25.1 There were none.

**26. NOTICES OF MOTION REFERRED FROM COUNCIL**

26.1 There were none.

**27. MATTERS REFERRED FOR RECONSIDERATION**

27.1 There were none.

**28. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

28.1 There were none.

**29. COMMUNITY STADIUM - LANDOWNER APPROVAL TO NEW PLANNING APPLICATION**

The special circumstances for non-compliance with Council Procedure Rule 23 and Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act as amended (items not considered unless the agenda is open to inspection at least five days in advance of the meeting) are that the report was reliant on information provided by a third party and it was not possible to review such information and include the necessary information and date within the despatch deadline.

29.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Environment which sought the council's approval as landowner of the major part of the site for the Community Stadium to the form of the proposed new planning application for the development (for copy see minute book.)

29.2 Councillor Turton asked officers to explain BREEAM in paragraph 5.4. The Architecture & Design Manager explained that this stood for The Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method. This was a method of assessing the environmental impact of new buildings.

29.3 Councillor Turton asked when the Cabinet Member would receive the report addressing the Club's business case. The Project Officer replied that the report would be submitted to the Cabinet Member Meeting in November.

29.4 Councillor Turton referred to paragraph 7.4 and expressed concern about the rising cost of steel. This was another matter to consider when the club made their business case. The Cabinet Member replied that he was fully aware of the increase in costs and he and his cabinet colleagues would keep this under review.

29.5 **RESOLVED** - (1) That the Council as landowner approves the form of the planning application for stadium changes and chalk re-profiling which is proposed to be submitted by The Community Stadium Ltd for consideration by the council as Local Planning Authority.

### 30. SOCIAL ENTERPRISE STRATEGY

30.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services which requested approval and endorsement for the Brighton & Hove Social Enterprise Strategy. The strategy aimed to harness the energies of key Individuals and organisations to encourage and support the development of trading with a social purpose. Implementation of the strategy would result in economic, social and environmental benefits for Brighton & Hove (for copy see minute book).

30.2 The Head of Arts and Creative Industries introduced Thea Allison from the Brighton & Hove Business Community Partnership (BCP). Ms Allison presented the strategy.

30.3 The Cabinet Member thanked Ms Allison and passed on thanks to staff at the Brighton & Hove Business Community Partnership and staff within Arts and Creative Industries at the council.

30.4 Councillor Turton considered the strategy to be excellent. He referred to priority 6 (Maximise local economic impact). He asked how robust this would be in winning contracts in the light of the credit crunch.

30.5 Ms Allison replied that business clients all indicated that they put more energy into community engagement in hard times. Meanwhile businesses that saw community engagement as core to their being would continue to support the partnership. The Director of Cultural Services reported that 48% of all council contracts went to social enterprise businesses.

30.6 The Head of Arts and Creative Industries informed the Cabinet Member that there would be an update report in six months.

30.7 **RESOLVED** - (1) That the strategy be formally endorsed and adopted for the contribution it can make to the economic, social and environmental life of Brighton & Hove.

**31. OPEN MARKET PROJECT UPDATE - PROPOSALS FOR  
SUPPORTING THE RELOCATION OF FIELD TYRES - EXEMPT  
CATEGORIES 1, 3, 5 & 6**

**PART TWO SUMMARY**

- 31.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Cultural Services which explained that the current redevelopment proposals for the Open Market site were incompatible with the continued presence of Field Tyres on site. The report, in line with previous decisions to proceed on the basis of the current proposals, therefore sought Cabinet Member approval to provide a package of support to Field Tyres to facilitate relocation of the business in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the Open Market.
- 31.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the council be authorised to provide appropriate support to Field Garage (Brighton) Ltd to facilitate the relocation of its tyre supplying and fitting business to alternative premises in advance of the proposed redevelopment of the Open Market.

The meeting concluded at 5.50pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

# **ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYMENT & MAJOR PROJECTS CABINET MEMBER MEETING**

## **Agenda Item 42**

Brighton & Hove City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Supporting Business Through The Current Economic Climate</b>		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>9 December 2008</b>		
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Director of Cultural Services</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Adam Bates</b>	<b>Tel:</b> 292600
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:adam.bates@brighton-hove.gov.uk">adam.bates@brighton-hove.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All		

### **FOR GENERAL RELEASE**

#### **1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 To consider the impact of wider economic changes on business in the City and review the actions that the Authority is taking in response.
- 1.2 This activity relates to the Corporate Priority of 'Protecting the environment while growing the economy'.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 2.1 Note the effects on business in the City and the work underway
- 2.2 Agree to the Actions outlined in section 3.8 of this report
- 2.3 Request a review of this activity to be brought to a Cabinet Member Meeting in the spring of 2009.

#### **3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**

- 3.1 Members across all parties have been openly concerned by the effects of the current economic climate on businesses in the City.
- 3.2 It remains difficult to predict the scale of the economic crisis at a local level and the extent to which it will result in further unemployment and business failure into the future.
- 3.3 However there are already a number of national indicators which give cause for concern and include:
  - Rising unemployment reached 1.82m at the end of September
  - Announcement of significant job losses by major organisations

- Share price falls
  - House price falls of 2.8% in the last year.
  - Declining retail sales
  - Rising cost of sales including energy costs
  - Repossessions rising by 3% in the third quarter to end of September.
- 3.4 In addition to these indicators it is also worth noting that the pound has weakened against most currencies which should help our competitiveness in export markets and also interest rates have been dropping more recently.
- 3.5 The outcome of all of these is that some businesses are undoubtedly struggling and for some the prospects do not look good. Company liquidations in England Wales increased by 25% in the period July-September compared to last year. Even local indicators give cause for concern including information that Hotel Revpar (revenue per available room) has fallen by 6.5% since January compared to last year.
- 3.6 In October the Leader and Cabinet Member Enterprise agreed to work towards identifying a number of initiatives that the Authority could take to mitigate the impact on local business to help improve the chances of Brighton & Hove businesses overcoming this climate.
- 3.7 Cabinet/TMT also considered a report at their meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> November which considered the wider impacts of the economic climate on the City and the Council beyond those simply affecting business.
- 3.8 As a result of decisiveness by the authority a number of actions are proposed as follows:
- 3.8.1 Establish an Economy Task Force, chaired by the Leader and involving organisations that can support actions to improve the situation such as JobCentre Plus, SEEDA, Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce, Brighton & Hove Business Forum and the Federation of Small Businesses.
  - 3.8.2 The Leader, Cabinet Member, Chief Executive and Economic Partnership to jointly write to the major banks requesting their co-operation in supporting flexible lending arrangements that try to ensure businesses which can survive the economic climate are given every opportunity to do so.
  - 3.8.3 The Council, as landlord, to offer monthly rent payments to small business on a case by case basis.
  - 3.8.4 The Council to work towards payment of invoices from local business in 10 days rather than the current 30 day terms.
  - 3.8.5 The Council to offer small businesses the opportunity to pay business rates in 12 annual instalments, on a case by case basis, as opposed to 10.
  - 3.8.6 Run a 'Buy Local' campaign urging local people to support local business in this difficult trading climate and which acknowledges the increased targets that the authority has set for itself to increase local procurement.
  - 3.8.7 To fund additional business support clinics and sectoral business advice sessions working through the Brighton & Hove Chamber of Commerce and Business Link.

- 3.9 On the 19<sup>th</sup> November an initial meeting of the Economy Task Force was held where business organisations offered their support for the above initiatives and further joint actions were explored.
- 3.10 On the 20<sup>th</sup> November Cabinet agreed to allocate £142,000 towards local employment and business support initiatives. It is anticipated that these sums will fund the actions highlighted in 3.8. While final allocations are yet to be agreed, it is expected that the following sums will be made available for specific activities and the outputs they will generate are as follows:
- 3.10.1 £24,000 for Business Support which will generate around 500 business interventions through 1:1 business clinics, sector specific workshops, a professional service ‘speed networking’ event and other industry business support events.
- 3.10.2 £15,000 for the ‘Buy Local’ campaign which will produce a ‘buy-local’ website, window stickers, radio advertising and a launch event. It is intended that we get at least 1000 residents to formally pledge and sign-up to buying locally and at least 100 businesses to directly support the scheme.
- 3.11 In addition the Council will ensure that all of this activity is co-ordinated with other Business Support and Trade Associations to include:
- 3.11.1 Ensuring the ‘Buy-Local’ campaign aligns with the Business Improvement District’s Christmas Advertising campaign.
- 3.11.2 That the major Business Support organisations including Business Link and the Chamber and others work together on the provision of local business support.
- 3.11.3 That we lever in any additional funding that regional organisations may be able to apply in support of a co-ordinated response to this economic situation.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Early consultation took place with key business organisations including the Chamber of Commerce, Business Link, Brighton & Hove Business Forum and SEEDA.
- 4.2 One of the proposals includes the formation of an Economy Task Group to continue to provide input and monitoring on this work and which includes the organisations named in 4.1 and the Federation of Small Businesses and JobCentre Plus.

#### **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

The proposed actions of revised payment terms to small and local businesses (outlined in paragraphs 3.8.3 to 3.8.5) will result in a small interest loss. With interest rates reducing and the Council’s significant cash balances the impact on cash flow will be negligible. An allocation of LABGI funding has been made to contribute to the ‘Buy Local’ campaign and the additional business support (outlined in paragraphs 3.8.6 and 3.8.7).

The impact of the wider economic changes will be kept under review by the Economy Task Force and reported back to members.

*Finance Officer Consulted: Anne Silley*

*Date: 19/11/08*

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 There are no generic legal implications arising from the actions proposed. As each particular proposal moves forward specific legal issues may arise ( eg direct assistance to small businesses) that would need consideration on a case by case basis. Significant legal hurdles are not considered likely.

*Layer Consulted: Jonathan Vernon-Hunt*

*Date: 19/11/08*

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The action proposed is intended to support all local businesses that require extra help to continue to operate during this economic climate. These activities will be made available to all businesses that fall into this category equally. Attempts will be made to monitor impacts which may have a particular impact on businesses in relation to one of the equality strands e.g. from the BME community and monitoring will be strengthened.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Many of the actions proposed attempt to improve the viability of local businesses ensuring that they can continue to trade and employ local people. In addition specific actions including the 'Buy Local' campaign actively encourage consumption to be targeted locally which, through multipliers, can bring wider local benefits.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 None

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 Many of the impacts of the worsening economic situation may have a detrimental impact on LAA and Corporate Plan targets. The interventions proposed can mitigate against this risk. Additionally there is a continuing opportunity from lower interest rates and a weakening pound for local business to improve exports and reduce the costs of debt.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 The actions proposed support the corporate priority of 'Protecting the Environment while Growing the Economy'



**6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):**

- 6.1 No alternative options to those proposed under 3.8 exist at this time.
- 6.2 Working with the Economy Task Force, further consideration will be given to other options which may come forward and which are likely to be influenced by this very fluid situation.

**7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The economic situation is changing rapidly and is likely to become more severe. The actions are based upon early feedback from business representative organisations and known economic indicators.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

- 1. None

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

- 1. None

**Background Documents**

- 1. None



Document is Restricted

