

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 13 November 2008

Subject: Local Employment Partnerships

Report of: Executive Director of Business Support Services and the Chief Executive

Contact officer: Terry Dunn 01942 827784

Purpose / summary: To gain member support in helping potential recruits, locally, to move from welfare to sustained employment within the Council in partnership with Job Centre Plus.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: The alternative option would be to take no action. This is not considered appropriate considering the positive impact the initiative will have on our community.

Recommendation / decision: That Cabinet approves the initiative to partner with Job Centre Plus in maximising opportunities for locally unemployed people.

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision. The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 21st November 2008

Risks / Implications:

Financial:	None
Staffing:	Officer support within existing resources
Policy:	
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	Not considered necessary at this point
Wards affected:	All wards

Property Implications – Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council’s asset base or its occupation?

No

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council’s Constitution? **Yes**

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council’s budget? **Yes**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No ***

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:	x
Discussion leading to a decision	
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

	x
Discussion	
Decision	x
Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
		13 th November 2008	

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer Terry Dunn

Date 16th October 2008

Background:

Job Centre Plus has recently engaged with the Council and local businesses with the aim of committing to a Local Employment Partnerships Agreement.

The main aim of the agreement is to offer work trials to jobseekers that have been out of work for more than 6 months, particularly linked to vacant positions. The work trial lasts for around 3 weeks during which the jobseeker remains on benefits therefore attracting no cost to the Council.

If the work trail is successful then the candidate will be guaranteed an interview for the vacant post therefore potentially securing sustained employment.

There are many benefits to the scheme which include:

- ✓ The employer (Wigan Council) will have the chance to test out a potential candidates aptitude for the job and if they fit in with our existing workforce.
- ✓ Secondly, the prospective employee has the opportunity to trial a job to ensure suitability.
- ✓ The local economy would also be a beneficiary if the scheme were to be successful as it would reduce unemployment and reduce benefits payments.
- ✓ The scheme would support our worklessness agenda.
- ✓ The Council would become an exemplar of good practice.

The official sign up event will take place on 21st November 2008 at which a number of local businesses, and the Council, would attend to confirm their commitment. Andy Burnham MP will also be present.

Proposals:

It is proposed that the Council sign up to the Local Employment Partnerships Agreement and embed the initiative into its employment practices.

Alternative options considered and reason for the recommended option:

The alternative is to not sign up to the agreement but considering the joint benefits to all stakeholders it is deemed appropriate to be fully involved in the initiative.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members give full support to the Local Employment Partnerships Agreement.