

A Partnership Perspective – How Area Partnerships Can Support Economic Recovery

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Local Context – Key Info

- 25% employed in the public sector with the city council dominating but also police, universities and health key players.
- So far no discernable change to the normal year on year budgetary pressures from central Government on these services.
- There are project funding challenges being faced by City College through changed priorities at the Learning and Skills Council.
- Pressures will likely to be felt in the public sector once government policies become more clear after the 2010 election

Local Context

- Around a third of the city's employees are employed in the financial services sector.
- Only one major player announced job cuts – 2,000 out of their national workforce of 8,000. L&G employ around 2,000 people in the city and we hope they will be secure especially occupying the city's most recently built office complex in Hove.
- American Express, the city's largest private sector employer has so far remained silent and indeed is still looking at a medium term strategy of consolidating all of its Sussex workforce in the city

Local Context

- Retail and hospitality employ around a fifth of the city's workers and B&H is a destination city for 8 million visitors a year.
- Some say this will be counteracted by more stay-cations enjoying a city break or those coming from the Euro zone to enjoy the favourable exchange rate

Local Context

- Around 11% of the city's workforce are engaged in the expanding creative industries sector.
- There is talk of Brighton becoming a super city with our expanding knowledge base economy and track record of attracting some significant international names including Disney.
- The recent report *Taking Account* showed across 1,500 third sector organisations, over 8,000 people (7% of the city's workforce) are employed with a contribution of £96m to the economy with almost 20,000 volunteer positions and over 57,000 volunteer hours per week.

Partnership Views

- All sectors need to get smarter, to reduce costs and eliminate any waste we can: e.g. turn off lights, drive harder bargains with consumable suppliers and buy bus tickets on line instead of refunding volunteer travel costs. There needs to be an exhaustive examination of costs.
- Every bit of funding that is available must be maximised. Public sector commissioning is moving forward and the Third Sector can win contracts ahead of the private sector if it is organised.
- Ultimately we all need each other. By helping each other survive and working together we'll be the greater for the effort.

Some LA Responses

- A bid for just under £2m to the recently launched scheme for job creation led by Brighton and Hove City Council that aims to create 300 jobs over an 18 month period.
- Following the success in targets achieved through the Local Employment Partnership, we are looking to extend this model of working to other public sector partners.
- A large scale event held in the Brighton Centre involving 15 major employers, advice and surgery sessions on recruitment techniques held June 5th.

LA Responses

- An internal council apprenticeship scheme and the emerging citywide apprenticeship strategy
- BHCC has a key role to play trying to co-ordinate the range of provision offered in terms of support to unemployed people, training and skills development, advice and guidance and signposting services; leading the Major Contractors Group for example.

Local Intelligence

- Partnership response based on sound information
- Listen to those that know (Not always who you think)
- Understand your Key partnerships – Economic Partnership, City Employment and Skills Partnership- They are the experts

Partnership Responses

- Business Lifebelt Scheme
- Everyone understanding their contribution – e.g. The Police
- Willingness to explore joint commissioning
- Open discussion – putting politics to one side

Is Your Family Alright?

- The right thematic partnerships within the family are crucial
- The membership and remit has to be right
- Partnerships need to be given the latitude to operate effectively

The Value of the Partnership

- LSP Needs to be inclusive- it is now that the fruits of our labour are borne
- Need to be lithe and responsive- lessons to be learned from private businesses rather than public sector
- This is a test for the partnerships – can they demonstrate added value?
- If there is a shared vision, then this will come through