

	<p style="text-align: center;">Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">27 November 2017</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Title</p>	<p>Entrepreneurial Barnet - Annual Update and Forward Plan</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Report of</p>	<p>Councillor Daniel Thomas</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Enclosures</p>	<p>Appendix 1 - Burnt Oak Town Centre Strategy Appendix 2 - Finchley Central Town Centre Strategy</p>
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Summary

This report provides an update on progress towards delivering the 2017 programme of activity for Entrepreneurial Barnet, which the Committee first approved in 2014 and has considered annually thereafter. It sets out progress against each of Entrepreneurial Barnet's five theme areas, including describing key activities that have been completed so far and areas where further activity will be undertaken in 2018. It also sets out a forward plan of decisions to be made in the year ahead.

Recommendations

That the Assets, Regeneration and Growth committee:

1. note the progress of Entrepreneurial Barnet in 2017.
2. note and approve the Town Centre Strategies for Burnt Oak and Finchley Central that have been developed as part of the 2017 work plan and are included as an Appendices to this report.
3. note the forward work plan set out in paragraph 8 and identify any additional items that it would like to be incorporated into it or to return to a future meeting

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1. This report sets out progress to date and planned future activities associated with Entrepreneurial Barnet, which is the borough's cross-public sector approach to becoming the best place in London to be a small business, boosting incomes and well-being for Barnet residents. The Committee agreed to receive an annual progress report when it approved Entrepreneurial Barnet on 15 December 2014 and this paper represents the third such update, the previous one being considered at its meeting on 12 December 2016.
- 1.2. Entrepreneurial Barnet is divided into five theme areas, each with a set of actions and outcomes: A. Getting the basics right, B. A great place to live, work and invest, C. Skilled employees and entrepreneurs, D. Improving access to markets and E. Facilitating business growth.
- 1.3. This update is divided into two broad sections. The first provides an overview of progress against each of the five theme areas set out above. The Town Centre Strategies for Burnt Oak and Finchley Central are included as appendices as they have been completed in 2017. For the first time we have also included case studies from businesses that have benefitted from the activities undertaken this year. The second section of the report presents a forward plan detailing key activities and decisions anticipated or planned in 2018.
- 1.4. Entrepreneurial Barnet brings together a range of different activities. Some of these are new and reflect the opportunities for better coordination across the public sector now that Entrepreneurial Barnet is in place e.g. in relation to celebrating entrepreneurialism, or closer working to create apprenticeships. Others reflect areas of existing activity that were previously occurring within individual services but have a wider value to the Barnet economy and businesses.

2. PROGRESS OF ENTREPRENEURIAL BARNET IN 2017

- 2.1. This section provides an update on progress delivering Entrepreneurial Barnet over the past year. It outlines progress on individual projects and what is being done to ensure ongoing and outstanding projects are delivered.

3. THEME A: Getting the basics right

- 3.1. This theme relates to the way businesses interact with the council and public services on a day to day basis, including how businesses find information about core council services like planning and environmental health. The theme also covers our regular engagement with major developers about how their schemes will deliver jobs and apprenticeships as part of their Section 106 obligations. Finally, this theme increasingly recognises how technology can make life easier for business and reduce costs through a joined up council "back office".

3.2. Business case study- Supporting local food businesses

The London Borough of Barnet has over 2,500 food premises ranging from corner shops to food manufacturers. The Environmental Health team works with local food business owners to ensure they achieve and maintain compliance with food safety law and best practice. Wherever possible, the team provides up front advice and support to businesses to help them meet their responsibilities rather than waiting for them to fall foul of regulation.

In January 2017, one of our Environmental Health Officers (EHO) undertook a food hygiene visit at a restaurant in N14. This was a first visit to a new business that had been registered by the owner. The restaurant had been completely refurbished and the kitchen was in good condition. The EHO gave the restaurant a clean bill of health but also made suggestions as to how the owner could make further improvements, such as reducing contamination risks and advising on food allergies and intolerances.

Re also provides training for food handlers and food business operators and promotes the Healthier Catering Commitment, which publicly recognises and rewards catering businesses who demonstrate a commitment to provide healthier food choices and healthier cooking techniques.

3.3. Progress over the past year

Aim	Description	Update
Businesses find it easier to contact and complete transactions with the council	Offer a good level of customer services to businesses and improve business transactions with the council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Re have developed a business offer including offering small business support and a range of traded services including planning, pest control, licensing and building control.• The council's procurement team have implemented simplified Contract Procedure Rules
Business engagement	Continued partnership working with local business networks to ensure the council understands the top issues and barriers to growth for local businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing relationship with the Federation of Small Businesses and attendance by our Small Business Champion at their networking events.• Event held with North London Chamber of Commerce in May 2017 on the opportunities arising from Brent Cross.• Work with WOHL enterprise hub and other London-wide workspace providers to understand the models available in Barnet and elsewhere.• Streamlined communications with businesses, providing them with relevant information and updates on

Aim	Description	Update
		council and partner activities that will benefit them on a regular basis.

4. THEME B: A great place to live, work and invest

4.1. This theme is about making Barnet a place where people want to live and work, and businesses want to invest, through improving town centres and making the most of the economic opportunities presented by regeneration in the borough.

4.2. Business case study- Aspens Florists, Burnt Oak

Joanne Jones has been the owner of Aspens Florists in Burnt Oak since 2014, when she took over the business from a retiring couple. Joanna wanted to modernise the shop and offer new stock to help re-orientate her business to better cater to new as well as existing customers in what is an up-and-coming area.

The council's Burnt Oak Town Centre Project has invested in Burnt Oak to promote the high street as a great place to live, work and shop. As part of this process, retail experts Retail Revival, helped Aspens improve the store presentation and use of social media and marketing tools. Aspens have also benefitted from the council's shop front improvement programme in Burnt Oak that is funded by the GLA's High Street Fund. With the help of We Made That (Architects) and Bolt and Heeks (Contractor), Aspens underwent several improvements, including a new colour scheme, fascia, awning and exterior lighting to create more clean and modern feel.

Joanne and the rest of the Aspens team are very pleased with the support received and the shop front improvements, and as a result have become more involved with other local high street initiatives.

4.3. Progress over the past year

Aim	Description	Update
A Local Plan that supports local businesses and entrepreneurs	Focus on developing a refreshed "Local Plan" for Barnet that has a greater focus on employment and education space, particularly within town centres.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the evidence base for the Local Plan is ongoing and the new Local Plan is expected in December 2019. The evidence base includes reports that focus on employment space and town centre floor space. • The Burnt Oak Town Centre Strategy has been referenced in GLA report 'High Streets for All' that recognises the role of high streets in delivering economic, social and environmental benefits to Londoners and also nominated as good practice in the

Aim	Description	Update
		<p>New London Architecture Insight Study 'London's Towns: Shaping the Polycentric City'.</p>
Town Centre Offer expansion	<p>Building on its initial success, we will expand the types of guidance available to local groups such as town teams in the Town Centre Offer.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re have continued to support Town Teams to take a greater leadership role in their local neighbourhoods currently supporting five active Town Teams. • The Town Centre Offer guidance available on the council's website has been improved and refreshed. This will be supported by a brief paper leaflet which will be used to signpost businesses to the webpages. • The Barnet Together crowdfunding platform is being promoted to Town Teams as a way for them to raise funds locally for improvements; crowdfunding has already been used to support projects in Mill Hill, Chipping Barnet and North Finchley.
Using technology to support growth	<p>We will continue to develop our "smart cities" approach to use technology to improve town centres and local growth, particularly in relation to making parking easier and improving access by businesses and residents to high speed broadband.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Lightning is delivering fast broadband to 40000 households in Barnet • The Smart Parking trial continues in Temple Fortune. This uses sensors to provide data on parking bay usage alongside an app to help motorists find a parking space. • This year the council has been piloting electric pool cars for colleagues in Re, Barnet Homes and Family Services. Two cars are available for staff during business hours and are then available to the public in the evening.
Town Centre strategies	<p>Drafting of a Town Centre Strategy for Finchley Central</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Finchley Central Strategy was developed with residents and local

Aim	Description	Update
	<p>that recognises the future growth potential of the local area.</p> <p>Delivery of the Burnt Oak High Street improvements.</p> <p>Consultation on a North Finchley Town Centre Framework Draft Supplementary Planning Document.</p>	<p>businesses over the course of 2017 and is included as an appendix.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A number of high street improvements have been undertaken in Burnt Oak and a bid has been submitted to GLA Liveable Neighbourhoods Fund for further works. • Work has also begun on a Town Centre Strategy for Golders Green which will be taken to ARG in 2018. • The North Finchley SPD is currently out to consultation.
Town Centres and Transport Infrastructure	<p>We will work with TfL and the GLA to ensure that planned investments in town centres are undertaken in a way that benefits Barnet businesses and residents.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Golders Green- plans to develop this site are on hold following a consultation earlier this year. Planning colleagues have requested TfL to significantly revise their plans and are now awaiting a response from TfL. • TfL have worked with the council on plans to develop housing and better access to town centres on underused land at Finchley Central and High Barnet and have bid for £14.3m from the CLG Housing Infrastructure Fund. • High level discussions have been held with TfL on plans for Edgware. It is expected that these will be developed further in the next year.

5. THEME C: Skilled Employees and Entrepreneurs

- 5.1. This theme focuses on developing skills and employment support, recognising that having a workforce with the right skills, behaviours and a sense of entrepreneurialism is essential to unlocking economic growth.
- 5.2. Many of the Barnet schemes have now been running for some time. Across our active employment schemes we have delivered 1300 jobs. Property developers make provision to train and support Barnet residents through their section 106 obligations. This funding is used to coordinate skills and employment support in Dollis Valley, Stonegrove, Grahame Park and West Hendon. We also work alongside JobCentre Plus in multi-agency teams who support people affected by welfare reforms, care leavers, Barnet families, residents of Burnt Oak and Childs Hill. More broadly, through Re the council plays an important facilitation role by bringing together employment and skills organisations from across the borough to network, share information and develop new partnership opportunities.

- 5.3. Other areas of the skills and employment landscape are changing. Local skills providers react quickly to changing employer needs- for example, this year Barnet and Southgate College have set up specialist centres in assistive technology and dental technology and Middlesex University has developed a range of degree level apprenticeships. In response to changing needs within the construction industry, Re has also worked with developer St George, their sub-contractor Conneely and Barnet and Southgate College to establish a Dry Lining Academy which will provide training and qualifications in this niche industry.
- 5.4. Sub-regions are preparing for devolution of elements of skills and employment budgets- for example, the West London Alliance has commissioned a provider of the 'Health and Work Programme' and a draft Skills Commissioning Strategy has been produced to inform skills devolution. Further and Higher Education providers are also responding to changes in apprenticeship funding, Community Learning and reform of technical education (expected to be implemented from 2020). The council will use the triennial economic insight report to explore the nature of the challenge presented by the increase in the number of low paid jobs in 2018.
- 5.5. Business case study- Charles Tyrwhitt, retailer at Brent Cross
Business in Barnet often report that it can be difficult to fill vacancies and recruit individuals with the right skills. The award winning Brent Cross Retail Job Shop was launched by Barnet Council in partnership with Job Centre Plus in October 2014 and helps recruit local people to vacancies in businesses at Brent Cross Shopping Centre. As of October 2017, the Retail Job Shop has recruited 270 staff to Brent Cross shopping centre.

The Retail Job Shop helped recruit retail staff for the opening of Charles Tyrwhitt, a quality menswear retailer. Charles Tyrwhitt Head Office said 'Brent Cross Retail Job shop team were outstanding in the staff recruitment for our business. They arranged group sessions for potential candidates who were then screened before a member of management interviewed them in the final stages of the recruitment process. This method we found was very efficient, and productive with choosing the right candidate for the right job in our businesses.'

Barnet Council and Job Centre Plus are looking to grow this model as part of future development in Brent Cross by Hammerson to make sure local people benefit from local job opportunities.

5.6. Progress over the past year

Aim	Description	Update
Apprenticeship Levy	Large employers make good use of their levy and smaller businesses benefit from the co-investment model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council is working closely with partners to monitor and promote good use of the apprenticeship levy by the public sector. Partners have pledged to make 100 apprenticeship opportunities available in 2017/18 Middlesex University will be holding a number of levy events for businesses in conjunction with NatWest in late autumn/ early 2018.

Aim	Description	Update
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re/ CSG will cover the Apprenticeship Levy at their Business Breakfast in January 2018.
Mental health and employment trailblazer	An externally funded programme to support people with common mental illness back to work using an evidence based programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mental Health and Employment trailblazer launched in early 2017. This project continues to accept referrals and report to a national steering group which includes NHS and DWP.
Social investment in health and work	Additional investment into employment support for those with health barriers to employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barnet is part of a successful WLA Social Investment Bond bid for an employment programme for people with alcohol and substance misuse issues.
Support for working people to get a better paid job	The Skills Escalator supports people who are on a low wage with Information, Advice and Guidance and access to a training budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Barnet Skills Escalator launched in January 2017. So far 54 residents have been supported and offered information, advice and training including ESOL, languages, electrical, catering, banking, and nursing equivalency.
West London Skills commissioning function	GLA and sub-regional partnerships are making preparations for skills devolution.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barnet with its sub-region, the West London Alliance have agreed joint principles for how the Mayor and boroughs will establish a coherent, locally relevant and deliverable skills strategy for London. WLA have established a Skills and Employment Board with employers and providers working together with boroughs and the GLA to provide leadership of the agenda. Employer representatives include Heathrow. Both Barnet and Southgate College and Middlesex University represent skills providers on the board.
Encouraging Entrepreneurship	Activities to promote entrepreneurship and help local people to set up businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re, Barnet and Southgate College, Metropolitan Housing Association and Barnet Homes are working with the Hammerson for the second year running to offer a two week Pop Up Business School in Brent Cross to help local people get their businesses off the ground; over 100 people registered to attend this year.

6. THEME D: Access to Markets

- 6.1. This theme relates to supporting businesses and voluntary sector organisations to access public sector contracts and procurement activity, and generally to engage with the local supply chain.
- 6.2. Many of the activities in this area have now been running for some time. The Entrepreneurial Barnet partners arrange a wide ranging programme of events for businesses. The council alone has engaged 450 businesses through its own events this year. This includes giving information and training about how to access council contracts through the Procurement Portal.
- 6.3. Business case study- Mackin groundworks, family business from Burnt Oak
In May 2016 RE hosted *Building for Growth*, a 'meet the buyer' event to encourage major construction employers and developers to work with local suppliers and construction SMEs. The event was well attended by 48 local businesses. Redrow presented a range of opportunities for local businesses to access to the Colindale Gardens supply chain. The Redrow development at Colindale will construct 3,000 homes and a new park.

Brothers Michael and John Mackin, who are residents of Burnt Oak, attended on behalf of their family business, a groundworks company called Mackin. Since the event Mackin have gained two further contracts with Redrow, grown the company turnover and also gained a higher profile, enabling them to take on more staff. Mackin are also working to launch an Apprenticeship Academy with Barnet & Southgate College.

Michael Mackin found that the event helped their business in numerous ways:

'We found the event useful and informative. It enabled us to be more aware of the potential revenue streams within our local area and identified key people from the relevant organisations. It reaffirmed the commitment which the developers have made to resource locally and provided a useful platform from which we were able to send communications directly to the relevant senior management.'

6.4. Progress over the past year

Aim	Description	Update
Business Directory	Development of the Barnet Business Directory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Burrows will start contracting businesses in early December. The first product will be the online directory but a paper directory will be available later in 2018.
Meet the Buyer events	Encouragement to major construction employers and developers to work with local suppliers and construction SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3 events have taken place this year. As a result of these networking events local businesses have secured work with developers- for example the case study at 6.3.

7. THEME E: Business Growth

7.1. This theme is about making sure that businesses and entrepreneurs who are looking to either establish themselves or grow have access to the information, advice and networks they need to do this.

7.2. Business case study- Student Light wins the Entrepreneurial Barnet competition in 2017

Barnet is home to many aspiring entrepreneurs looking for support to get their ideas off the ground, including how to develop a business plan, advice from businesses that've faced similar issues and making the perfect pitch. Barnet is also home to a huge number of professionals and business people with a lot to give back.

The annual Entrepreneurial Barnet competition, run by Middlesex University, Barnet and Southgate College and Re, invites entrepreneurs to pitch their business ideas to an expert panel in hope of securing a £2,000 cash prize and ongoing mentoring to grow their business. Middlesex University student Andre Thompson won the March 2017 Entrepreneurial Barnet competition, after he successfully pitched his Student Light idea to the competition judges. Student Light is an app and web platform aimed at students facing mental health issues. It connects students with opportunities in their local community with the aim of reducing suicide amongst young people and increasing uptake of local support. Upon winning, Andre Thompson said 'I really hope that this business can make a difference, and this money will pay for start-up costs including software and licences.' Andre has also had the opportunity to promote his app to local practitioners which was very positively received.

7.3. Progress over the past year

Aim	Description	Update
Workspace for businesses	Delivery of workspace in some of Barnet's libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The estates team have completed soft market testing to understand the models for workspace and how successful these have been elsewhere. A number of providers have visited a range of library sites. The first sites will be open for local entrepreneurs in February 2018.
Council Offices in Colindale	Creation of small business space in part of the ground floor of the councils new offices in Colindale, once it is completed in 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This longer term plan is being built into plans for the Colindale office. The trials in the libraries above will inform how this develops.
Business Competition 2017	This will be the third year that this competition, delivered in partnership with Hammerson, Middlesex University and Barnet and Southgate College, has taken place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Entrepreneurial Barnet competition has launched and has received 34 entrants so far. There will be events at Brent Cross, Middlesex University and Barnet and Southgate College to encourage applications and offer support on business models, finance and making a pitch. The final will be held on March 1 2018.

8. FORWARD PLAN OF ACTIVITY FOR 2018

Theme	Title	Description	Timescale
A	Businesses finding it easy to transact with the council	Business Satisfaction Survey undertaken to better understand business priorities.	May 2018
A	Business engagement	<p>Completion of the Economic Insight report that is commissioned by Re every three years. This will initiate a six month review of the Entrepreneurial Barnet workplan to address any arising business issues.</p> <p>Continued partnership working with local business networks to ensure the council understands the top issues and barriers to growth for local businesses.</p>	<p>May 2018</p> <p>On-going</p>
A	Business engagement	Continued streamlining of communications with local businesses to ensure that the council is offering joined up support and signposting businesses to relevant information.	On-going
A	Engagement with developers	Joint work with developers to ensure construction schemes deliver jobs and apprenticeships as part of their Section 106 obligations.	On-going
B	A Local Plan that supports local businesses and entrepreneurs	Develop a refreshed "Local Plan" for Barnet that has a greater focus on employment and education space, particularly within town centres.	Delivery of Local Plan by December 2019
B	Town Centre Offer expansion	We will continue to support Town Teams in the 7 main town centres to take a leadership role in their local neighbourhood as well as provide information to smaller centres.	On-going
B	Using technology to support growth	As part of the council's next wave of transformation we will ensure "smart cities" approaches to use technology are part of our plans to improve town centres and local growth.	On-going
B	Town Centre Strategies in our 7 main town centres	<p>Completion of a Town Centre Strategy for Golders Green and Edgware.</p> <p>Support to work in North Finchley</p>	<p>Golders Green, March 2017</p> <p>Edgware, Summer 2018</p> <p>North Finchley, on-</p>

Theme	Title	Description	Timescale
		Town Centre.	going and throughout 2018
B	Town Centres and Transport Infrastructure	Ongoing work with TfL and the GLA to ensure that planned investments in town centres are undertaken in a way that benefits Barnet businesses and residents.	On-going
C	Local people benefit from jobs in regeneration sites	Work with partners to implement employment and skills obligations across Brent Cross developments- the station, shopping centre and south and ensure there are joined up pathways into jobs for Barnet's priority groups. This also applies to Barnet's major regeneration schemes, including Grahame Park and West Hendon.	On-going, starting in 2018
C	Pathways to apprenticeships	Work with partners to create pathways that enable young people to take up apprenticeships and ensure they have the employability skills that employers are looking for.	On-going
C	Apprenticeship Levy	Large employers make good use of their levy and smaller businesses benefit from the co-investment model.	From April 2017
C	Support for Universal Credit claimants	Universal Credit Full Service will roll out in Barnet in 2018. Many partners are involved in supporting residents to manage this change and increase their digital and financial management skills.	From February 2018
C	Social investment in health and work	Implementation of the project offering employment support for those with alcohol and substance misuse issues to find employment.	September 2018
C	West London Skills Commissioning	Publication of a West London Skills Commissioning Strategy.	January 2018
D	Business Directory	Completion of Barnet Business Directory and magazine.	March 2018
D	Inward Investment	Work with West London Alliance to develop a model of Inward Investment which will include an employer steering group and high quality website.	Spring 2018
E	Business Support	Development and delivery of a business support approach (e.g. mentoring) to complement the network of workspaces across the borough.	September 2018
E	Business workspace in council offices	Following completion of the workspace trial in libraries we will create small business space in part	November 2018

Theme	Title	Description	Timescale
	in Colindale	of the ground floor of the council's new offices in Colindale, once it is completed in 2018.	
E	Business Competition 2017	This will be the fourth year that this competition, delivered in partnership with Middlesex University and Barnet & Southgate College, has taken place.	December 2018

9. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1. Entrepreneurial Barnet is focused on delivering a range of activities that will make the borough the best place in London to be a small business. This annual update reflects progress made in year three of the five year life of Entrepreneurial Barnet. It is appropriate to recommend that the progress to date is noted and proposals in the Forward Plan are agreed and implemented. Entrepreneurial Barnet partners have been consulted on what they would like to see in the annual forward plan.

10. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 10.1. The purpose of this annual update is to enable the Committee to review progress and to consider the forward plan. The alternative is not to give an annual update which would weaken the ability of the Committee to track progress and ensure the Entrepreneurial Barnet strategy is delivered along the lines it agreed in December 2014.

11. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 11.1. Should the Committee approve the proposals, work will commence to deliver the objectives within the forward plan and the individual areas of activity within each theme. Partnership work is essential in achieving the objectives set out in Entrepreneurial Barnet and work will continue with Middlesex University, Barnet and Southgate College, the Department for Work and Pensions and Barnet Homes.

12. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

12.1. Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 12.1.1. The implementation of Entrepreneurial Barnet directly supports the delivery of the Corporate Plan 2016-2021, particularly the following priority areas:
- There will be a broad offer of skills and employment programmes for all ages
 - Residents will see a responsible approach to regeneration, with thousands of new homes built and job opportunities created
 - Barnet's local environment will be clean and attractive, with well-maintained roads and pavements, flowing traffic, increased recycling and less waste sent to landfill

12.2. Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 12.2.1. Specific areas within Entrepreneurial Barnet that have financial implications (e.g. business hubs) will be brought to the Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee on a case by case basis. The current work programme is being managed within existing council resources. The programme also attracts a range of external funding including Crowdfunding, government funding and developer funding.

12.3. **Social Value**

- 12.3.1. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. Before commencing a procurement process, commissioners should think about whether the services they are going to buy, or the way they are going to buy them, could secure these benefits for their area or stakeholders.
- 12.3.2. The Entrepreneurial Barnet strategy contributes social value through improving people's experience of public space and town centres, creating jobs and supporting residents into employment, improving education, promoting health and wellbeing, and ensuring local businesses are able to engage with the council and secure and sustain council contracts. The council has developed some resources that suggest how businesses can support their local community-
<https://www.barnet.gov.uk/citizen-home/business/business-responsibility.html>

12.4. **Legal and Constitutional References**

- 12.4.1. There are no specific legal issues associated with this annual update. The proposals are in line with the Localism Act (2011), and particularly the General Power of Competence given to local authorities.
- 12.4.2. Council Constitution, Article 7.5 Responsibility for Functions, states that Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee-is responsible for asset management, employment strategy, business support and engagement.
- 12.4.3. Council, Constitution, Article 10 Table A states that the Assets Regeneration and Growth Committee is responsible for authorising all acquisition or disposal of land for over £500k; no acquisition or disposal is recommended for approval as part of this report.

12.5. **Risk Management**

- 12.5.1. There is a risk that if the forward plan is not approved then the vision of Entrepreneurial Barnet will not be realised and the range of benefits as envisaged by the economic strategy e.g. higher business satisfaction with the council and the borough as a place to do business, or lower employment will not come to fruition.

12.6. **Equalities and Diversity**

- 12.6.1. An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken on Entrepreneurial Barnet as a part of its development in 2014, and the result was that a slight positive impact was identified from the analysis. Individual projects commissioned within the framework of Entrepreneurial Barnet will be equality impact assessed on a case-by-case basis.

12.7. Consultation and Engagement

- 12.7.1. No consultation or engagement was required as part of this decision and future consultation and engagement will take place for individual projects as required e.g. in relation to town centres improvements.

12.8. Insight

- 12.8.1. Insight data has been used to inform the update on progress to date and to identify areas for improvement. Some key updates on information shared previously is included below-

12.8.2. Labour Market Insights

- Latest figures (Jul 2016 – Jun 2017) show that 4.9% of Barnet's economically active population is unemployed. Barnet has currently the 9th lowest unemployment rate out of 32 London boroughs (excluding City of London). Source: *Nomis Economically active - Unemployed (Model Based)*.
- This level of unemployment marks a 0.3% reduction in unemployment in Barnet when compared to the corresponding period in years previous (Jul 2015 – Jun 2016). Source: *Nomis Economically active - Unemployed (Model Based)*.
- While there has been a minor reduction in unemployment, recent analysis by Trust for London has highlighted that Barnet has seen a 5% increase in the proportion of employed residents with low pay (paid below London Living Wage) from 2013-2016. 1 in 4 people living in Barnet are low paid and 27% of jobs in the borough pay below the London Living Wage. Source: <https://www.trustforlondon.org.uk/data/boroughs/barnet/>

12.8.3. Business Growth and Composition

- The 2016 Entrepreneurial Barnet Annual Update provided insight into business birth, death and growth rates in Barnet. This data is taken from the ONS Business Demography dataset. The latest update of this dataset will be published on November 21st 2017. Source <https://www.ons.gov.uk/releases/businessdemographyuk2016>
- Sage and Nesta's recent *The State of Small Business* report and analysis (based primarily on ONS Inter-Departmental Business Register data) has identified 21,920 (SMEs) small and medium-sized enterprises in Barnet. Of this total count, 94.1% are micro enterprises (0-9 employees), 5.1 are small enterprises (10-49 employees) and 0.9% are medium enterprises (50-250 employees). Source: <http://stateofsmallbiz.com/barnet>
- In 2018 the triennial Economic Insight report will be completed by Re. This will consider, amongst other areas, the nature of the low wage economy in Barnet. Following this analysis it will be appropriate to initiate a six month review of the Entrepreneurial Barnet workplan to address any arising business issues.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 13.1. Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee Report, 15 December 2014: <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s19842/Entrepreneurial%20Barnet%20Report%20-%20Publish.pdf>

- 13.2. Assets, Regeneration and Growth Committee town centres Report, 16 March 2015:
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s21967/Town%20Centres%20in%20Barnet.pdf>
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