

Stephen Knight AM

Chair, Economy Committee
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Date: 8 October 2013

Dear Stephen,

Tailor-made: Improving adult careers services in London

Thank you for the letter earlier this year, setting out the London Assembly Economy Committee's recommendation for the London Enterprise Panel (LEP), following the publication of its report *Tailor-made: Improving adult careers services in London*.

The LEP's Skills and Employment Working Group (SEWG) members have read the report's findings with interest and as Co-chairs of the Group we are pleased to say that we agree with the recommendations made. As the report noted, an effective careers service for the capital is one of the LEP's key priorities, as set out in the Jobs and Growth Plan for London. As part of the implementation planning that is now taking place, we shall continue our on-going work with the Skills Funding Agency around the procurement of the new National Careers Service. We understand that the procurement of area based contracts for the new service has in fact been delayed in order to ensure that the specification fully accommodates the government's response to the Ofsted thematic review of careers guidance, as well as the National Careers Council Report. Alongside this activity, LEP officers are presently in the process of drafting the forthcoming European Structural Investment Fund Strategy for 2014-2020, and we shall be working closely with them to ensure that this work will allow for the development of a truly comprehensive offer for London.

In order to gain a better understanding of what this offer needs to look like, Members of the Group have recently undertaken visits to sample service provision currently underway for both young people and adults in south London. On our visit to Bexleyheath we had the honour of meeting a number of committed professionals working in the field, who certainly share the value that the Group places on this work. In addition to this, colleagues in the Skills Funding Agency have accepted the Group's offer to present the LEP's priorities to potential new providers of the area based contracts, as soon as the procurement cycle presents an opportunity for this to happen.

We welcome the suggestion to arrange a meeting with other Committee Members to discuss their report and the wider plans of the Group. We will ask officers to liaise with Simon Shaw in setting this up, perhaps once the revised timelines for the procurement of the new service are known.

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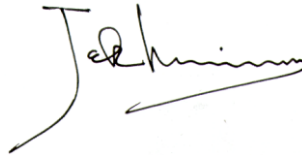
ENTERPRISE PANEL

May we take this opportunity of thanking Andrew Dismore as former Chair of the Committee, along with all the other members who contributed their time, in supporting the Group in this important piece of work.

Yours sincerely,



Grant Hearn
Chief Executive Officer
Travelodge



Jack Morris OBE
Chairman
Business Design Group

cc. Simon Shaw – Economy Committee Scrutiny Manager

SUPPORTED BY

MAYOR OF LONDON