

# Minutes

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## Credit Crunch War Cabinet

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

**Leaders Office, Rochdale Road Entrance, Civic Centre, Oldham**

10:30 – 11:30

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr Howard Sykes (Chair)	Leader
	Charlie Parker	Chief Executive
	Cliff Ellison	Groundwork
	Ian Flanagan-Smith	Commissioning Unit
	Marie Gillott	Job Centre Plus
	Jon Bloor	Regeneration, E & E Unit
	Nick Brown	Oldham Sixth Form College
	Jennifer Wright	Regeneration, E & E Unit
	Karen McCrackle	Oldham Partnership

<b>Apologies:</b>	Stephen Lowe	Royal Bank of Scotland
	Alison Vaughan	Commissioning Unit
	Chris Heaton	Job Centre Plus
	Chris Sykes	GM Police
	Michelle Ford	GM LSC
	Michele Carr	Regeneration, E & E Unit

### **A SECTION OF MINUTES**

#### **1 Welcome and Apologies**

Cabinet members were welcomed to the inaugural meeting

#### **2 Minutes of Last Meeting**

The Minutes of the last meeting were recorded as an accurate.

#### **3 Matter Arising**

No matter were raised.

#### **4 Declarations of Interest**

4.1 CE - Volunteering Item

4.2 There were no other declarations of interest.

#### **5 Economic Dashboard and Intelligence Report.**

- 5.1 NEET figures show a reduction of 12%, comparable with last year and these figures do follow a seasonal trend.
- 5.2 NB- LSC have cut there numbers that colleges and 6<sup>th</sup> Forms will take on and this has led to a 1.9% cut for everyone averaging about £160,000 shortfall in people this is 170 individuals.
- 5.3 JB – There has been an increase in JSA claimants. Claimants have been broken down into wards and it can be seen that homogenisation in occurring. It is not possible to show the figures using the new wards as DWP still use the old wards to record figures.
- 5.4 Housing figures have now been shown on the dashboard.  
**HS – include Right to buy and Buy Back figures.**
- 5.5 Homelessness showed an increase in Sep and Jan however there is a expected rise due as a delayed knock on effect from Christmas as no repossessions take place over Christmas and it is a 8 week process hence a 8 week delay.
- 5.6 House prices – There has been a 50% decrease in house sales  
**HS – GM comparison table required.**  
**CP – Would like to know what communities are buying properties, as the Asain community have there own lending service which is faster than the normal route and they will pay a correct price for a property.**
- 5.7 Feedback from the intelligence group suggested that there is a Credit Crunch Event organised to support the One Magazine recently distributed. There will be report to this group for the next meeting. Also looking at keeping the young engaged.
- 5.8 MG – Job Centre Plus are extremely busy and are looking at recruiting 250 people, despite the increase in demand all time scales are being met, however there are a lot of changes around new training for people out of work. Companies seem to be downsizing rather than seizing business completely.
- 5.9 ACTION – JB to circulate NEET figures**
- 5.10 NB – To provide a written note to HS on the LSC numbers being reduced and the impact it has.**
- 6 Business Case – Volunteering To Employment**
- 6.1 This item has been withdrawn from the agenda as BTCV have been awarded a national contract, it comes into place on 6<sup>th</sup> April and will look at creating a better volunteering structure. MG is meeting with them next week and will have more information then, and will report back to the group.
- 6.2 **ACTION - JB and CE to get together to discuss this aspect further.**
- 7 Short Time Working Report**

7.1 Employers may choose to do this before redundancies this may work well in the construction industry. There is a need to lobby Government to consider models being used in other countries. People must be made more aware of what ACAS can do to help them, this needs to be done through promotion. CAB advisors that will be appointed going into businesses to assist their staff on this subject, this could be formalised into a co-ordinated response. There is a need to develop a communication strategy on new Flexibilities within Train to Gain service to employers to support skills acquisition. A communication strategy will be brought to the next CCWC

7.2 **HS – Information in a table format rather than text.**

7.3 **JB to do a Communication Strategy paper for next CCWC.**

## **8 Verbal Update**

8.1 CAB – Commissioned work, the posts have been ring fenced for council staff at risk. 8 applications have been received and the successful applicants will be in place by beginning on May.

8.2 Response to Recession – Oldham is in line with what everyone else is doing, nothing new happening.

HS – there are a number of councils repackaging what they already do and work that is on-going and suggests that this may be something that we can do with J21, CP suggests the offenders programme as this is not new but it is ongoing.

## **9 AOB**

JB requests more support in the E&E unit, JB to produce a report and run it by Elaine Mclean and CP.

## **10 Review Of Cabinets Key Messages**

**NEETS Update**

**Considering all volunteering activities**

**How we can be more flexible with Short time working**

**Reviewing investment programme to support credit crunch**