

**EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE AND RESOURCES
PDS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 JUNE 2012**

187 RESOURCES PORTFOLIO - PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY

The Committee considered the following report for pre-decision scrutiny on a matter where the Resources Portfolio Holder was minded to make a decision.

187.1 The Bromley Youth Employment Project
Report DRR12/049

The Executive had allocated £500,000 to support sustainable employment opportunities for young unemployed people living in Bromley and it was proposed to establish a three year project to create these jobs for young residents aged 18-24. The programme would focus on creating sustainable apprenticeships and internships in the private sector to give young people skills and experience in the workplace, and it was estimated that about 52 places could be created over the life of the project. Alongside this, it was also proposed to work with other partners to apply to the Jobcentre Plus Flexible Learning Fund to create a skills based environmental training programme that would complement Council initiatives in the borough's parks and open spaces. Opportunities would be sought to lever in other funding. It was confirmed that referrals to the scheme would be through Jobcentre Plus, ensuring that only unemployed young people would be taken on, but young people who pulled out of the scheme would not be at risk of losing benefits.

It was proposed to carry out a tendering exercise to engage specialist providers, and report back to the Committee on 3rd January 2013 before a final decision was taken to award a contract. Officers would ensure that a sound proposal was drawn up incorporating financial controls which would be monitored by existing staff at no additional cost to the Council. Members commented that the criteria for awarding the contract needed to be weighted more towards quality than price to ensure that an effective provider was chosen, and that the contract needed to be closely monitored and payment made by results rather than up-front. A Member suggested that payments to the young people should be based on the London Living Wage, but the Committee supported the project in principle.

Members requested further information or clarification on the following –

- The relation between the unemployment rates given in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of the report.
- The numbers of unemployed young people in each age group cohort.

RESOLVED that that Resources Portfolio Holder be recommended to

- (1) Approve the creation of an employment programme for young people aged 18-24 over three years (2013-2016) by way of apprenticeships and internship.**
- (2) Approve the outsourcing of the project to a suitable, experienced and proficient employment and skills provider to deliver the outcomes desired from the programme.**
- (3) Approve an application to the Jobcentre Plus Flexible Learning Fund to deliver environmental skills and training to young people over the next 3 years with support from local and regional partnerships (the application may be submitted by one of the Council's partners rather than directly by the Council.)**