

**CREATING AND SUSTAINING BUSINESS IN WALSALL**

**Ward(s)** All

**Portfolio:** Councillor A. Andrew - Regeneration

**Report:**

The Regeneration Scrutiny and Performance Panel (the Panel) identified the opportunity to investigate the needs of new and existing businesses in the borough at its first meeting of the year during 2011/12.

To complete this task two small working groups were established at the Panels meeting on 13 June 2011.

Draft terms of reference were discussed and agreed by the two working groups on 6 July 2011. These were subsequently agreed by the Panel at its meeting on 28 July 2011. Here the work was split into two distinct streams. One stream was to look at business start up issues and the other at business sustainability.

Both working groups have been very busy meeting a wide range of witnesses. The findings of each working groups meeting with the witnesses have already featured in a series of interim reports to the Panel so they have not been reiterated within this report.

This report sets out the conclusions formulated by a joint meeting of both working groups following their evidence gathering sessions. Priorities for Council policy are set out in this report along with suggested activities which could be undertaken to achieve the recommended priorities.

**Recommendations:**

**That:**


- 1. the conclusions and recommendations of the Creating and Sustaining Business in Walsall report be approved and forwarded to Cabinet for consideration;**

**and;**

- 2. the Panel consider a report in six months time detailing Cabinets response to the reports recommendations.**

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