

ITEM 7a

Camden Local Strategic Partnership	
Meeting	4 July 2008
Report Title	Camden Business Summit
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Purpose	This report is a note of the Camden Business Summit, held on 11 June 2008.
Recommendations	The LSP is asked to note the report.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The LSP hosted the Camden Business Summit on 11 June at the Wellcome Collection. It took the form of a dinner interspersed with speeches.
- 1.2 The purpose of the event was threefold:
 - to communicate the message that the council and other LSP partners are receptive to businesses and understand their needs
 - to foster a sense of a business community across the borough through networking and;
 - to sound out businesses on plans for a climate change partnership and an enterprise board
- 1.3 The event was attended by 43 senior leaders from the borough's largest businesses, institutions and other organisations including the Wellcome Trust, Arup, British Land, the British Library, Argent and Eurostar.
- 1.4 Guests were given a brochure describing how LSP partners work with business, copies of which are available at the LSP meeting.
- 1.5 The event itself was sponsored by London and Continental Railways and the brochure by Argent, substantially reducing the cost to the council. The LSP is very grateful to both sponsors for their generous support.

2 Speeches

- 2.1 Cllr Keith Moffitt welcomed guests with a short speech, stressing the importance the council administration places on good relations with businesses based or operating in Camden. He provided an overview of Camden's economy and set out some of the interests businesses share with LSP members. He asked guests to consider over the course of the evening how businesses could get more involved with the council and

the LSP at a strategic level and how they might work together to tackle climate change.

- 2.2 After the first course, Sir William Castell, Chairman of the Wellcome Trust spoke about the Trust's pivotal role at the intersection of business and research. He described its contribution both to Camden's economy and to the health and education of local people, specifically its work in promoting science teaching in schools.
- 2.3 Following the main course, Terry Hill, Chairman of Arup, described some of the work his company was doing around the world on sustainable development and offered practical ideas on how businesses can reduce their carbon footprint.
- 2.4 Cllr Andrew Marshall concluded the evening by feeding back some of the discussion on his table and setting out the next steps for the climate change partnership and the enterprise board.

3 Discussion

- 3.1 Feedback from guests was generally very positive and the Leader has received several letters of thanks. They welcomed the opportunity to meet their peers from the different sectors of Camden's economy.
- 3.2 There was strong support for the plans for a climate change alliance. A representative of one multinational organisation commented that a local partnership on climate change would complement its global sustainability efforts. Specific comments echoed the LSP's recent seminar on sustainability – the alliance should be business-led as far as possible with the council offering information and advice on the regulatory framework.
- 3.3 The idea of an enterprise board, a partnership which would give businesses more of a voice at a strategic level within the council, perhaps forming part of the LSP family, was also welcomed. However the form it takes needs careful consideration as businesses were clear that they would not be interested in a "talking shop" or an overly bureaucratic set of meetings. Some of its work could be conducted virtually and membership is more likely to be at the level of Head of Corporate Affairs rather than the individuals who attended the summit.
- 3.4 At the same time, there was support for maintaining the wider network of senior business leaders in some form. They could perhaps be invited to an annual networking event or receive periodic briefings on major issues affecting business.
- 3.5 If there was a criticism of the summit, it was that there could have been more time and opportunity for networking. This will be taken into consideration if any LSP business events are held in the future.

4 Next steps

- 4.1 Comments from the event will influence the development of both the climate change alliance and the enterprise board. Cllrs Moffitt and Marshall will write to guests thanking them for attending on behalf of the LSP and informing them that they will be in contact after the summer with more detailed proposals in both areas and ways they can get involved.
- 4.2 The LSP could also consider approaching one or more of the guests to fill its vacancies for representatives of the business and cultural/media sectors as agreed in its new terms of reference.
- 4.3 Overall the summit was a great success and has formed a sound basis for the LSP's future engagement with business.