

## Summary of Council Actions and Progress to date:

Active			
Actions	Timescale	Budgeted	Progress to date and evaluation
<p>1. Hardship Rate Relief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewed the existing policy to facilitate the award of rate relief to assist businesses at imminent risk of failure and to ensure a fair allocation process and agreed budget.</li> <li>Further publicity has been employed through the economic newsletter, website, meetings and contact with businesses.</li> </ul>	Available over 2009/10	£25,000	<p>Scheme available. A marked increase in applications has occurred.</p> <p>6 requests awarded 1 request is pending award 5 requests are expected</p> <p>Cost of awarded hardship rate relief to 31/12/2009 is approximately £12, 100.</p> <p><b>Future Action proposed:</b></p> <p>Continue the scheme.</p>
1. Freeze fees for taxi licensing, trade refuse collection and other environmental health services as recommended by the Portfolio Holder 27 January 2009	Available over 2009/10	£15,500 Actual cost: £17, 150	In place – Completed.
2. Lobby Minister for Local Government regarding NNDR and Minister for Energy regarding fuel poverty issues.	February 2009	-	Minister's response received.
<p>3. Economic Development Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'How to Win Contracts' event with other public authorities at the Belfry</li> </ul>	4 June 2009	£3,000	Completed. Attended by 100 businesses (target 70-80). Positive feedback

<p>Hotel, Cambourne</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Seminar on surviving the economic downturn at Duxford IWM</li> <li>• Business Support Growth Fund with vouchers of £1,000 each launched and delivered with Business Link. This offers direct specialist business support for businesses affected by the recession.</li> <li>• Business competition (“Dragon’s Den”- style) to stimulate business start-up. Delivered in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, Business Link and the private sector</li> </ul>	<p>1 July 2009</p> <p>September 2009 – March 2010</p>	<p>£5,000</p> <p>£50,000</p> <p>£10,000</p>	<p>received on practical value of the event.</p> <p>Completed. Positive feedback received on practical value of the event.</p> <p>Launched. – On track</p> <p>11 vouchers have been issued with a further 5 pending.</p> <p>Businesses have also been assisted with further Business Link support, giving added value.</p> <p>The scheme has also facilitated three new companies to Business Link East.</p> <p><b>Future Action:</b></p> <p>Further marketing and publicity through Business Link flyers and newsletter and SCDC. Additionally marketed through the GCP, Chambers of Commerce and the FSB.</p> <p>Current. Business Link, Chamber of Commerce and private sector sponsorship underway. Legalities being investigated and programme of events to support businesses to prepare for the competition.</p>
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<p>4. Develop financial options to help development continue at Orchard Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plot C3 transferred to affordable housing from market sales. BPHA funded by HCA, with support by SCDC.</li> <li>Persimmon Homes commenced work on Plot B1, as result of transfer to C3 to BPHA. Martin Grant has commenced work on Plot D.</li> <li>Application for HCA Kickstart funding submitted</li> <li>Further work planned with partners on the private rented sector and self build/eco housing options.</li> <li>Construction started on 3 new sites since April.</li> </ul> <p><b>Future action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study commissioned for innovative delivery models with meeting set up about a private rented initiative.</li> </ul>	<p>April 2009</p> <p>May 2009</p> <p>June 2009</p> <p>October 2009</p> <p>November 2009-09</p>	<p>HCA funding provided</p>	<p>All three house-builders are back on site, and higher level of reservations than last year.</p> <p>Project bids were unsuccessful. Will look to resubmit in winter 2009.</p>
<p>5. Provide rent-free space for CAB at SCDC</p>	<p>March 2009</p>	<p>Within existing budgets</p>	<p>Offered – but unlikely to take up offer without financial grant to cover additional costs for CAB</p>

<p>6. SCDC staff:</p> <p>Financial well being event to signpost staff to appropriate organisations who can offer counselling and practical advice for themselves and family members</p> <p>Offer short-term projects to existing staff rather than agency staff</p> <p>Revise the staff relocation terms so that the sums available can be used flexibly, without increasing the total claimed.</p> <p>Human Resources organised publicity on PPC (Positive People Company) to aid staff in the recession. Support is offered through counselling on various matters.</p>	<p>April 2009</p> <p>February 2009</p> <p>December 2009</p> <p>August 2009</p>	<p>£2,000</p> <p>Potential saving</p> <p>Potential saving if new staff can be retained whilst unable to sell former home</p>	<p>In place, completed</p> <p>In place, ongoing</p> <p>Work has commenced</p> <p>Action completed</p>
<p>7. Aim to pay suppliers within 20 days</p>	<p>February 2009 - ongoing</p>	<p>Up to 10 days interest on sums paid</p>	<p>Chief Executive has sent a message to all staff at launch of action requesting 80% of payments in 10 days.</p> <p>Follow up communication suggested to increase payment rate to more than 60.27% (October 2009) and 46.29 % (November 2009)</p> <p><b>Future action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is recommended that we continue to reinforce the message again about processing invoices promptly including the importance of the dispute process.</li> <li>• That the <b>electronic system</b> of invoicing be implemented as soon as possible, thus benefiting businesses in turn</li> </ul>

			<p>through improved cash flows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Cambridgeshire District Council to sign up to the early payment of invoices, demonstrating our commitment to assist businesses with their cash flow.</li> </ul>
8. Small businesses that are identified as likely to benefit from rate relief will be targeted and encouraged to apply for this benefit	September 2009	Within approved budgets	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Letter sent to businesses and communications in the current Economic News Bulletin.</p>
9. Improve ways of helping firms relocate to South Cambridgeshire, including property search and identification systems	September – December 2009	£10,000	<p>Current</p> <p>Meetings held with Invest East of England regarding inward investment. Meetings and discussions also held with the tourism office, neighbouring councils, businesses and commercial agents to develop a tool/mechanism for improved investment. A commercial property database is being developed with colleagues to show available commercial space and market the District</p>
10. Planning Policy SPD/DPD to be produced to strengthen support for economic development	March 2010? TBC	From existing resources	<p>Current</p> <p>To be included within the review of core strategy.</p>
11. Support to local volunteer centres experiencing increased demand for placements as a result of the recession.	October – March 2010 2009	£5,000	<p>Current.</p> <p>Volunteering is a means for people to gain skills and return to jobs following redundancy etc.</p> <p>2 Local Volunteer centres have received funding allowing for additional support through volunteering as a mechanism to both develop skills for employability following redundancy. Similarly, organisations that might otherwise be understaffed benefit.</p>