

Economy & Jobs: achievements, priorities and vision

**Councillor Question Time
Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Cllr Toni Letts, Cabinet Member for Economy & Jobs
February 2016**

Running order

1. What is the vision for the portfolio?
2. What are the successes of the past 12 months?
3. What are the priorities for next 12 months and how will they be delivered?
4. What pressures does the portfolio face (including financial) and how do you intend to deal with them?

Vision for the Economy & Jobs portfolio

- To create a place where people & businesses want to be
- To enable more local people to access a wider range of jobs

We will do this by

- Creating the conditions for investment and economic growth e.g. improving infrastructure, being a council open for business
- Making our metropolitan and district centres attractive, vibrant places with a diverse offer
- Ensuring our residents have the skills, attitude and experience to meet existing and future business/employer need
- Growing and investing in our own businesses
- Using the Council's buying and regulatory powers to enable investment and growth

Croydon's Economy – Our Priorities

As set out in my June Cabinet report these are:

1. Delivering economic growth through devolution
2. Partnerships for growth
3. Using the Council's powers for economic growth
4. Inward Investment & SME growth
5. Increasing employment and reducing poverty

Success of the past 12 months

1. Growth Zone - Devolution
2. Tech Hub - Incubator and Accelerator
3. Reducing unemployment
4. Expanding HE offer – Sussex Innovation Centre
5. Social Enterprise Borough
6. Protecting office space in the Metropolitan centre
7. Inward Investment Wins
8. London Living Wage
9. Flexible Working Borough

Priorities for the next 12 months

1. Devolution
2. Partnerships that work
3. Job for residents
4. Skills for Growth
5. Inward Investment
6. Core offer to business
7. Better use of our powers and influence

Pressures on the Economy & Jobs portfolio

Pressure

- Resources - smaller team, less flexible funding
- Nature of the London economy
- Balancing metropolitan centre and district growth
- FE area review

Mitigation

- Prioritising activity, alternative funding, leveraging partners
- Networks, relationships, a place to do business
- Maximising and leveraging investment e.g. LIP
- Active engagement in the review to shape and influence provision

Q&A