

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**JOBS CLUB**

1. Purpose of report

To update the Committee on Eastwood Jobs Club and the potential for holding other jobs clubs in the Borough.

2. Background

The Eastwood Jobs Club which has been running since February 2018, provides valuable training, resources and support to local people who are out of work. The Jobs Club looks to encourage participants back into work, and where new employment is not initially achieved, into training or up-skilling programmes, to better position and prepare them for the job market.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Eastwood Jobs Club has been put on hold, as is the same with any other potential jobs clubs. Plans are in place to consider Jobs Clubs in other parts of the Borough.

Officers will review multiple data available through NOMIS (provided by Office for National Statistics) and partners, to fully understand areas of higher unemployment and focus on these areas with targeted support such as but not limited to, Jobs Clubs. The key indicators for areas requiring support will be unemployment percentage of population and number of people claiming out of work benefits. This data analysis is to be completed once we reach the final stage (STEP 4) of the Government's Covid Recovery Roadmap, currently scheduled for 21 June 2021 but subject to review.

3. Financial implications

The annual cost for the Eastwood Jobs Club is £2,000 per year. Any additional jobs club would likely carry similar recurring costs, with those costs to be allocated to the existing Economic Development departmental budget.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that a second jobs club be approved in the area with the highest need identified following the ending of COVID -19 restrictions.**

Background papers

Nil