

REPORT TO: Southampton Partnership Delivery Board
DATE: 2nd October 2008
SUBJECT: Impact of the Economic Downturn Monthly Indicators
AUTHOR: Henry Pavey, Southampton City Council

Recommendation:

The DB is requested to note and comment on the list of proposed monthly indicators to be used, by the SP Delivery Board, for tracking the impact of the economic downturn on Southampton.

Background:

At its last meeting on the 4th September, the DB discussed the impact of the economic down-turn within their own organisations and sectors and agreed that a monthly economic update on key 'track-able' statistics needs to be produced for the DB. It was also noted that the input of all DB members will be requested to develop and maintain this economic update.

What has been achieved since the last DB meeting?

A variety of partners have been approached to help identify both economic and social indicators that can be tracked (ideally) on a monthly basis. Listed on page 2 are the suggested indicators for DB consideration. The DB are invited to comment on the list and identify whether the indicators proposed are useful and/or if there are other indicators that they would wish to see presented.

Citywide Communications:

The DB will wish to note that the report author also received feedback stating that there is a lot to be optimistic about in Southampton and that by focussing in solely on the downturn indicators we could be talking up the problems. Therefore, we should also be focussing on the positives and include data on things which are going to help drive Southampton forward. With this in mind, the DB will also wish to note that an item on joining up citywide communications is on the agenda for their November meeting coupled with an update on the city branding initiative.

Next Steps:

To present a first draft of the 'monthly impact on the economic downturn on Southampton' to the 6th November DB meeting.

**‘IMPACT OF THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN ON SOUTHAMPTON’
SUGGESTED MONTHLY INDICATORS**

| ACTIVITY | INDICATORS |
|--------------------|--|
| Employment | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Numbers claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA). 2. JSA on flows (i.e. new claims). 3. JSA off flows (i.e. those leaving the register). 4. Vacancies notified. |
| Business | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commercial property vacancies. 2. News/intelligence from major employers. |
| Major Developments | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brief update on the major development schemes. Need to agree which developments to be reported on. |
| Housing & Homes | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Average house prices & number of transactions. 2. Numbers presenting themselves as homeless. 3. Number of Housing Benefit Claimants. 4. Number of Council Tax Claimants. 5. Number of new builds started. |
| Crime | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Domestic burglary and vehicle theft rates. 2. Domestic Violence rates. |
| Health | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of anti-depressants being prescribed. 2. <i>Currently awaiting confirmation as to whether A & E admissions (alcohol and/or violence related) can be tracked on a monthly basis.</i> |
| Fuel | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Currently awaiting confirmation as to whether there is an actual monthly fuel poverty measure.</i> |
| Debt Advice | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of referrals to the Citizens Advice Bureau. 2. Number of referrals to SCC Welfare Rights Unit. |