



Federation of Small Businesses

The UK's Leading Business Organisation

Consultation: The Tottenham Area Action Plans (AAPs)

**Response by the
London Policy Unit of the
Federation of Small Businesses**

27th March 2015

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Introduction

In this response, we are representing the views of the approximately 7,000 Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) members in our Greater London Region, drawn from London's micro and small business communities. According to figures from BIS, micro and small businesses represent 99.3% of businesses in London, ranging from the smallest lifestyle businesses with no employees, to those with 10-49 employees. However the most significant portion of these, 96.6% of businesses, employs less than 10 employees.¹

The Federation of Small Businesses is the UK's largest campaigning pressure group promoting and protecting the interests of the self-employed and owners of small firms. It is non-profit making and non-party political. Formed in 1974, it has around 200,000 members across 33 regions and over 190 branches.

It is important that proper consultation takes place as our members feel they have not been consulted or included within the stakeholder consultation conducted to inform this study. We would like to see a full 12 week consultation being undertaken and with a wider remit of business groups. This current consultation has only run since mid-February.

We are particularly concerned that this development will make it far more difficult for the current small businesses operating within Tottenham, independent traders of long-standing which form an intrinsic part of the local community, to continue to operate in the future of at least be given a guarantee of remaining in their current workplace if rents increase dramatically. A similar situation is occurring with the regeneration under Brixton arches by Network Rail. We want Tottenham to be a leader on this vitally important issue to the local community – gentrification must not come at the expense of independent local businesses. We call for traders to be guaranteed an offer of equal, or at the very least, fair rental costs.

Small businesses are not simply part of the local economy, they are the local economy. For every £1 spent in local small businesses, 63 pence remains within the local economy compared to only 40 pence if spent within large businesses.

¹ SME Statistics for the UK and Region 2009; BIS October 2010

We welcome the opportunity to respond to the proposals outlined in the consultation document.

Raul Mancera

North East London Chair

Federation of Small Businesses