

'WORK WHEN YOU CAN' REVOLUTION

Timely idea is just the job...

UNEMPLOYMENT-HIT Newham is pioneering a revolutionary jobs scheme.

The council are currently the only Town Hall piloting a new approach to flexible working that allows residents to turn spare hours into cash.

Mayor Sir Robin Wales said: "We are one of Britain's most innovative councils, both in e-Government and in tackling social exclusion, against the background of one of the country's highest unemployment rates.

"There are thousands of people with commitments like caring for children and other dependants, studying or medical constraints that make it impossible for them to enter the conventional labour market.

'Exciting'

"It is very exciting that we have been able to help them."

The Slivers-of-Time scheme is described as giving firms a cost-effective way of topping up staffing levels at peak times – while allowing those who cannot serve full-time to work as time permits.

Those selling their labour must register with a participating employment agency, which checks that they are legally entitled to work in Britain.

Once they are cleared, they go on-line to Slivers-of-Time, indicate what hours they are available, the work they will do and pay rate they will accept.

They are notified of work bookings by text message and any company needing employees, for even the shortest periods, can book them online instantly.

Firms buying time have so far included caterers, retailers, housing associations, manufacturers – and even the Town Hall.

By **LARRY FERGUSON**

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Arunkumar Soundaramourty, 24, from Stratford, has been selling his spare hours to East Thames Housing Group while he seeks regular, full-time employment.

He said: "I have done manual work and data inputting while searching for a permanent job. The



● Sold on the idea... Arunkumar uses the jobs scheme

Slivers-of-Time system is really easy to use and very flexible."

So far more than 230 people have registered for the scheme, initiated by the Government and the council.

Employers who want to be put in touch with a local recruitment agency offering the service can call (020) 8133 5567 or further details can be found at www.sliversoftime.com