

Cabinet/Committee:	Harrow Business Consultative Advisory Panel
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Portfolio Holder:	Marilyn Ashton Planning, Development and Enterprise
Exempt:	No

## **SECTION 1 – SUMMARY**

This report provides the update on the Harrow Economic Development and Regeneration Review (HEDRR) requested following the presentation at the July Business Consultative Forum

### **FOR INFORMATION**

## **SECTION 2 - REPORT**

At the July meeting the Senior Professional Strategic Planning officer, presented the work that had taken place on the HEDRR so far.

Over the summer the following further actions have been completed:-

- Harrow Economic Profile has been further refined and signed off
- GHK have provided a further report, 'Towards a revised Economic Regeneration Strategy' which utilises all the information in the Economic Profile, contextualises it and gives guidance on the future direction of a revised strategy.

- Summary feedback on the reports, and seeking support on the direction of the revised strategy was sent to:- all participants in the focus groups, officers and colleagues via HSP, the 41 businesses and organisations employing more than 200, and via email all SMEs on HIB's email list.

The deputy leader met for an informal briefing with the Director of Strategic Planning and the Senior Professional leading on this work on the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2006. It was agreed to establish a network of the largest businesses and organisations in the borough. The first meeting has been set up for 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006.

A summary of the second report was used as the basis of a briefing to Members of the Strategic Planning Advisory Panel and Harrow Council Cabinet, who following the submission of a committee report to October Cabinet have endorsed the new direction of the revised strategy.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development's title has had Enterprise added to it to champion the revised strategy.

A similar briefing was taken to colleagues team meetings across the Council and relevant partner organisations:

Transportation, procurement, the Grants Unit, Forward Planning, Youth, Connexions, Lifetime Careers, HCRE, HAVS, the PCT, Lifelong Learning, HSP officers and West London Business.

As a result of the briefings with HSP and Forward Planning, the new draft Community Plan and the LDF have made use of the Economic Profile and the second GHK report.

The briefing was also used as the basis of the Scrutiny Challenge meeting, held on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2006. The report is awaited.

The steering group for HEDRR has been widened to include representation from officers involved in regulatory work with businesses as well as other agencies e.g West London Business who provide a sub-regional Commercial Property database and the LSC. At the meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2006, initial work to scope the revised workstreams was undertaken by the whole group, this is being used to kick start the rewriting of the strategy itself, which is being undertaken by officers.

### **Next Steps**

- Fully scope revised areas of work
- Build in comments from consultation and Scrutiny
- Assess suggested actions, interventions
- Bearing in mind: best practice, Council priorities, resources etc
- Agree partner and Council roles
- Draw up the revised enterprise focused strategy
- Circulate draft strategy for consultation

- Identify performance indicators, outcomes and impact measures

### **In Conclusion**

The HEDRR steering group have agreed that the revised strategy will have 8 workstreams covering:-

- A. Securing inward investment and active business retention
- B. Tackling skills shortages
- C. Supporting the development of enterprise skills and acumen
- D. Technical support, supply chain development and market information
- E. Land and premises e.g. incubator development
- F. A 'Supportive' regulatory environment
- G. Sector support e.g. tourism and the creative business sector
- H. Promotion of the business base to encourage local use e.g. Retail

A draft strategy will be circulated early in the New Year, with the aim of having a published strategy by the end of March 2006.

## **SECTION 3 – FURTHER INFORMATION**

## **SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**Contact:** both the Harrow Economic Profile, and Towards a Revised Economic Regeneration Strategy compiled by GHK can be obtained from C Codling Senior Professional Strategic Planning 0208 429 9399