

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Special) Supplemental Agenda

Date: Tuesday 11 January 2022

- . **Agenda - Part I**
- 3. **Question and Answer Session with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive (Pages 3 - 8)**

Presentation attached.

- . **Agenda - Part II - Nil**

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Council Strategic Overview

January 2022

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- Presentation re Harrow Council context and priorities to set scene for Leader and CEO Question and Answer session January 2022
- Covid-19 has dominated since March 2020 having a major impact on the Borough, Council, businesses and residents
- 4 ● Covid has presented a number of dynamic and changing challenges:
 - Direct Covid-19 related activity – testing, regulations, business grants, community hub etc
 - Service impact – working from home, staff absence, virtual delivery etc
 - Vaccination programme – logistics, communications and engagement
 - Recovery activity – economy, education, mental health etc
 - Particular challenges relating to the delivery of Adult Social Care
- Collectively this has created a major impact on organisational capacity
- Latest impact of Omicron Variant has exacerbated and prolonged this

Outlook for 2022?

- Pandemic response will continue to be a major organisational focus probably until the Spring?
- Capacity at all levels is stretched and recruitment is a major challenge
- Outlook for remainder of 2022 more difficult to predict but grounds for some optimism due to vaccination and immunity
- Council Elections in May 2022 important context and new Administration will set focus for next four years in a (hopefully) post pandemic context
- Context of significant financial uncertainty pre October 2021 Spending Review and ongoing impact of Covid-19
- Greater financial certainty for 2023/4 with budget for 2022/3 providing some stability for new Administration to plan for MTFS
- Key managerial leadership changes will happen during 2022

- Ongoing Covid-19 response – Adult Social Care and vaccination key
- Core service delivery – dealing with direct impact of pandemic on capacity and resilience
- Regeneration Programme and HSDP
 - – Three key sites – Byron, Poets and Peel
 - Milton Road and Grange Farm
 - Accommodation Strategy as enabler
- Borough Plan in context of Pandemic – health inequalities, economy, poverty, housing, education etc
- Council Modernisation – Equalities Diversity and Inclusion, IT systems, staff development
- MTFS development and planning for 2023/4

Medium – Term Planning

- Assumption that post May 2022 Election new Administration will be able to plan for a post Covid-19 scenario.....?
- Ongoing focus on Covid-19 recovery activity e.g. health, education, economy
- Borough Plan refresh along with engagement and consultation with partners, stakeholders and residents re priorities
- Delivery of the Administration's priorities for the Regeneration programme and HSDP
- MTFS covering the period 2023/4 and beyond based upon a three year financial settlement?
- Next phase of organisational modernisation

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