

**STRATEGIC PLANNING ADVISORY PANEL
(SPECIAL)****15 NOVEMBER 2006**

Chairman: * Councillor Marilyn Ashton

Councillors: * Robert Benson * Mrs Kinnear
* Keith Ferry * Narinder Singh Mudhar (3)
* Thaya Idaikkadar * Navin Shah

* Denotes Member present
(3) Denotes category of Reserve Member

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**PART II - MINUTES****29. Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note the attendance at this meeting of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Manji Kara	Councillor Narinder Singh Mudhar

30. Declarations of Interest:

RESOLVED: To note that there were no declarations of interests made by Members in relation to the business transacted at this meeting.

31. Arrangement of Agenda:

RESOLVED: That all items be considered with the press and public present.

32. Minutes:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 18 July 2006 and 12 September 2006 be deferred to the next ordinary meeting of the Panel.

33. Deputations:

RESOLVED: To note that no deputations were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 15 (Part 4E of the Constitution).

34. Draft Further Alterations to the London Plan (Spatial Development Strategy for Greater London):

The Director of Planning Services introduced the report, which provided a broad summary of the changes to the London Plan proposed by the Mayor of London. Appended to the report was the West London Alliance (WLA) Review Paper, which highlighted emerging key issues for West London.

The Director of Planning Services explained that the content of the London Plan was fundamental to the Borough's future, as Harrow's Local Development Framework would need to comply with the Plan. The Plan predicted a significant population increase and addressed how this might be accommodated in areas such as employment, education, housing, health and infrastructure. Harrow's response to the proposed alterations would be submitted to the Mayor of London in December 2006, and a public enquiry was likely to be held in June 2007. The enquiry panel would determine the issues to be discussed, and who would be invited to attend. In addition to producing the Harrow response, Harrow would be contributing to a West London response in collaboration with other members of the WLA.

The Director of Planning Services invited the Panel to comment on the proposed changes to the London Plan, particularly in relation to the impact they would have on West London, and Harrow. During the discussion on the report, the following issues were raised:

- Concern was expressed at the proposal to extend the 'life' of the Plan by a further ten years, to 2026. The Panel felt that this was looking too far ahead,

and could cause significant problems in predicting what the Borough's needs would be at that time. The Panel recommended that the original timeframe to 2016 should remain, with a programme put in place to review the Plan every two years.

- It was the Panel's view that, in places, the Plan concentrated on local policy instead of focusing on issues at a strategic level.
- The Panel felt that West London should be given more attention in the Plan. The focus on East London was understandable due to the development required for the 2012 Olympics, but this should not be to the detriment of other areas. Similarly, outer London boroughs should not be ignored at the expense of inner London boroughs.
- Concern was expressed that the Plan seemed to predict that outer London would become 'dormitories' for people commuting to inner London. The Panel agreed that Harrow aspired to a vibrant economy with sustainable employment and growth of small businesses. It was recommended that the Plan recognise this and include a section on how to support and encourage such growth at a strategic level.
- A more integrated approach to how the transport infrastructure would deal with growth was needed in the Plan. This should include orbital transport improvements and give greater prominence to Heathrow Airport.
- The Panel questioned the source of the prediction that public transport would need to increase by up to fifty per cent over the plan period. The Panel also requested further information on how the "40,000 additional homes by 2016" for West London predicted in the Plan would affect Harrow.
- The Panel strongly opposed the proposal to set a threshold of ten units for affordable housing. It was the Panel's view that affordable housing should be set by Local Authorities depending on the specific local needs of a borough, rather than dictated by the Mayor of London.
- A clearer explanation of how the energy strategy would be achieved was needed, as well as a coherent overall strategy for dealing with the effects of climate change.

Following advice from the Director of Planning Services that the Harrow Response to the proposed London Plan Alterations would be considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 14 December 2006, a Member requested that the report to Cabinet be circulated to Panel members before being presented to Cabinet. The Chairman, having sought advice from the Director of Strategic Planning, expressed concern that doing this would prevent the timely submission of the report to Cabinet. Subsequently, it was formally moved and seconded that the report to Cabinet be circulated to Panel members before being presented to Cabinet. Having been put to a vote, the motion was lost.

RESOLVED: That the Panel's comments be used to inform the development of the Harrow Response and the West London Response.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.30 pm, closed at 9.02 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR MARILYN ASHTON
Chairman