



HARROW PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Minutes of the special meeting held on Monday 22 March 2010

(1) Present:

Harrow Strategic Partnership Board Members:

Councillor David Ashton (Chairman)	Leader; Strategy, Partnership and Finance Portfolio Holder	Harrow Council
Councillor Susan Hall	Deputy Leader, Environment and Community Safety Portfolio Holder	Harrow Council
Councillor Paul Osborn	Performance, Communication and Corporate Services Portfolio Holder	Harrow Council
Councillor Bill Stephenson	Leader of the Labour Group	Harrow Council
Councillor Phillip O'Dell	Deputy Leader of the Labour Group	Harrow Council
Dr Gillian Schiller (Vice- Chairman)	Chairman	Harrow Primary Care Trust
Howard Bluston	Representative	North West London Chamber of Commerce
Malcolm Parr	Representative	Harrow in Business
Mike Coker	Representative	Voluntary and Community Sector
Jacqui Mace	Representative	Further Education Sector
John Edwards	Divisional Director, Environmental Services	Sustainable Development and Enterprise Management Group
Anne Whitehead	Co-chair, Community Cohesion Management Group	Community Cohesion Management Group
Brendon Hills	Corporate Director, Community and Environment Services	Co-Chair, Community Cohesion Management Group
Nick O'Reilly	Harrow Borough Commander	London Fire Brigade

(2) Also Present:

Michael Lockwood	Chief Executive	Harrow Council
Julia Smith	Chief Executive	Harrow Association of Voluntary Service

(3) The following Harrow Council Officers attended:

Alex Dewsnap	Divisional Director, Partnership, Development and Performance	Harrow Council
Mike Howes	Service Manager, Policy and Partnership Service	Harrow Council
Trina Thompson	Senior Policy Officer, Policy and Partnership Service	Harrow Council
Catherine Doran	Corporate Director, Children's Services	Harrow Council
Nick Davies		Safer Harrow Management Group

Apologies were received from:

Ann Groves (Older People's Reference Group) (Older People's Reference Group), Paul Clark (Corporate Director, Children's Services) (Children and Young People Partnership) and Sarah Crowther (Chief Executive) (Harrow Primary Care Trust)

ACTION

54. Attendance by Substitute Members:

AGREED: To (1) note the attendance of Chief Inspector Nick Davies of Safer Harrow Management Group, as substitute Member for Chief Superintendent Dal Babu;

(2) note the apologies received.

55. Declarations of Interest:

AGREED: To note that there were no declarations of interests.

56. Minutes:

AGREED: That consideration of the minutes of the Board Meeting held on 11 March 2010 be deferred until the next ordinary meeting of the Board scheduled to be held on 15 June 2010.

57. LAA Reward Grant:

The Chairman thanked members for attending the special meeting at short notice, and mentioned that it had been convened to consider three areas where urgent decisions needed to be reached regarding the allocation of grant funding.

The Chairman clarified that grant awards to other Groups would now be decided at the June 2010 meeting of the Board following the receipt of full business cases, as discussed and agreed at the ordinary meeting held on 11 March 2010. He explained that the rules relating to the taking of decisions in the run up to the forthcoming local elections, known as the purdah period, had precluded the holding of a meeting in late April for the purposes of agreeing grant awards to all Groups.

The Board received a report, which set out the key elements of the Local Area Agreement (LAA) Reward Grant and the need to take urgent decisions in relation to the following:

- the award of a grant of £41,250 to meet salary costs relating to the work being undertaken by the Safer Harrow Management Group relating to Domestic Violence;
- the award of an initial payment of £40,000 to Harrow In Business to ensure its immediate future;
- release of the funds for partnership purposes for proposals from the Harrow Chief Executives.

Other grant awards would be paid in June following submission of full business cases. Members of the Board were informed that templates for submission of full business cases at the 15 June 2010 meeting of the Board would be circulated to Management Group Chairs shortly.

A representative of Harrow In Business outlined why the organisation needed funding now to ensure its immediate survival. The adverse economic climate and the demands being placed by local businesses on Harrow In Business for mentoring and general support were high. He was of the view that Harrow was fast becoming a dormitory town, as businesses were moving out of the borough. Inward investment was now crucial. It was likely that, without an income stream, Harrow In Business would close in July 2010.

The Board noted that only two such enterprises existed in West London. There was general support for the work carried out by Harrow In Business, and it was suggested a longer-term strategy was needed. The Chairman voiced his support for the work carried out by Harrow In Business, and stated that the situation had been exacerbated due to the cancellation of the incubation programme planned for a site on Honeypot Lane which too had been hit by the recession. A representative of the Further Education Sector offered assistance and undertook to explore with the representative of Harrow In Business on how they could work better together.

AGREED: That (1) urgent payments of £41,250 in respect of the costs of workers concerned with Domestic Violence, and £40,000 in respect of Harrow In Business be agreed;

(2) the delegation to Harrow Chief Executives, agreed at the Partnership Board meeting on 11 March 2010, in relation to the partnership element of the Reward Grant be implemented without prior consideration of detailed Business Cases by the Board.

58. Date of Next Meeting:

AGREED: To note that the next meeting of the Board would be held on 15 June 2010.

59. Partnership Board Development Day:

AGREED: To (1) note that the Partnership Board Development Day scheduled to be held on Thursday 25 March 2010 had been cancelled and would be held during the Summer;

(2) a meeting of the Harrow Chief Executives would now be held on 25 March 2010.

[Note: The Meeting, having commenced at 5.30 pm, closed at 5.45 pm]