

REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

Date of Meeting:

13 December 2012

Subject:

INFORMATION REPORT
Harrow Partnership Board

Responsible Officer:

Michael Lockwood, Chief Executive

Exempt:

No

Enclosures:

Community Cohesion and Integration Charter

Section 1 – Summary

This report sets out a summary of the issues considered by the Partnership Board at their meeting on 6th December 2012

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

The Partnership Board met on 6th December and considered the adoption of a Community Cohesion and Integration Charter, the Council's draft budget and Partners' likely financial position for 2013/14 and the opportunities presented by the Community Budgets programme for increasing effectiveness and efficiency and improving outcomes at lower costs. The meeting also received an update of issues considered by Harrow Chief Executives meetings.

Cohesion Charter

The Community Cohesion and Integration Charter was the product of a former Partnership Management Group which was due to be disbanded last year. The Management Group decided that, to ensure that community cohesion continued to be an underlying principle of partnership work, a Charter should be developed and adopted by the Partnership. The Charter has now been developed and was presented to the Board for approval on behalf of all of the organisations involved in the Partnership.

The Charter, which is attached for information, was adopted.

Budgets for 2013/14

The Board received the Council's draft budget paper, which is also before Cabinet at this meeting. The paper served to provide information about the challenging financial circumstances facing the Council so that Partners were aware of the difficult decisions facing the Council.

Partner organisations also gave preliminary indications of their own financial positions including reducing budgets for the North West London Hospitals NHS Trust, and the funding available to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) for 2013/14. The CCG is faced with a legacy deficit from the PCT and is working to put in place a total restructure of the way in which services are delivered.

The Metropolitan Police are facing a funding reduction of £514m by 2015/16 and is also addressing this through restructuring the way in which services are delivered and managed. This will include concentrating all face to face enquiries at one Front Counter at Kirkland House in the Town Centre, re-organising Safer Neighbourhood Teams to operate Sector Policing and to take on a greater enforcement role and combining some back office functions across borough boundaries.

The Fire Service has yet to determine their response to their own funding reductions but the likely options could include the provision of an additional fire appliance within Harrow.

The changes to funding Further Education include the extension of student loans for the costs of level 3 qualification courses, which may impact on demand, as well as continuing year on year savings.

The Voluntary and Community Sector expressed their concerns at the potential reduction in commissioning and grants budgets which would impact on the quality and range of services provided in the Borough.

Community Budgets

Over the last year, four 'whole place community budget pilots – Greater Manchester, Essex, the West London "tri-borough" of Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham, and Cheshire West and Chester have been looking at whether or not, by working together better and smarter, there is a better way of doing business and make public money work harder to tackle some of the major social challenges our communities face today.

The four pilot areas each worked in their own way to build local confidence across public service organisations to invest in a common approach to tackling this issue. They have focussed on outcomes rather than organisational boundaries, inputs and geographical constraints. They have evidenced a way of living within smaller budgets that will not only make savings and protect services, but will improve outcomes for citizens too.

The community budget approach is based on sharing methods and tools such as; an evidence base, maps of money flows, options appraisals, cost benefit analyses, trialling new delivery models, evaluation and co-investment, and scaling up mostly already existing interventions in 5 complex, high cost areas:

- a. Integrating health and social care
- b. Troubled families
- c. Economy & growth
- d. Safer communities
- e. Children & young people

The Board felt that, given that public services in Harrow experience many of the same issues as outlined by the pilots, there was a consensus that we could manage the financial and social challenges we face by developing a community budget approach in the same or a similar way to the four pilots over the next few years.

Harrow Chief Executives

The Board received a report on the activities of Harrow Chief Executives which included looking at how partner organisations could mitigate the impact of Welfare Reforms in Harrow, an update on the Children's Improvement Plan and progress on the Families First project.

Section 3 – Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from the Partnership Board's consideration of these issues.

Section 4 - Equalities implications

An Equalities Impact Assessment was not carried out on the Board's consideration of these issues but do support substantive papers to Cabinet where appropriate.

Section 5 – Corporate Priorities

The Partnership Board supports all of the Council's Corporate Priorities. In particular, the Community Cohesion and Integration Charter supports the second and third priorities.

- Keeping neighbourhoods clean, green and safe.
- United and involved communities:
- Supporting and protecting people who are most in need.
- Supporting our town centre, our local shopping centres and businesses.

Name: Steve Tingle



on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 10 December 2012

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mike Howes, Service Manager, Policy and Partnerships

Tel: 020 8420 9637

Background Papers: Agenda and reports for the Partnership Board meeting held on 6th December 2012

<http://modern.gov:8080/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=597&MId=61115&Ver=4>