

REPORT FOR: **CABINET**

Date of Meeting: 18 July 2013

Subject: **INFORMATION REPORT** – Harrow Partnership Board

Responsible Officer: Tom Whiting, Corporate Director of Resources

Exempt: No

Enclosures: None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report summarises discussion at the meeting of the Partnership Board held on 27th June 2013.

FOR INFORMATION

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

This report sets out the Partnership's decisions reached at a recent meeting.

Options considered

None

Background

The Partnership Board comprises representatives of the Council, the Police, The Fire Brigade, the Health Service, the Further Education Sector, Business and the voluntary and community sector. It meets to consider issues that will

influence the future of the borough and consider how they take forward the ambitions set out in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

After each Board meeting, a report of the business considered is made to Cabinet for information.

Current situation

At the Board's most recent meeting on 27^h June, the Board considered a report considering the future of the Partnership Board itself. The Board also received a report on the business considered by Harrow Chief Executives.

The Future of the Partnership Board

The report summarised attempts since the abolition of the Local Area Agreement in 2010 to identify a role for the Partnership Board that would enable it to make an effective and valuable contribution to the Borough. It also drew attention to the development of the statutory Health and Wellbeing Board, which has responsibility for a wide range of activity that was previously considered by the Board and to the wider agenda being pursued by Safer Harrow.

The paper provided three options:

- to continue the existing arrangements;
- to devise a better version of the Harrow Assembly to replace the Board; and
- to use the Health and Wellbeing Board and Safer harrow as the principal partnership vehicles, underpinned by Harrow Chief Executives.

The Board identified the benefits that the existing arrangements had brought in the past, not least in providing a forum for better understanding the priorities of and difficulties faced by partner organisations, but also recognised that the Board no longer controlled a budget nor had decision-making responsibilities.

Representatives of the voluntary and community sector had particular concerns regarding their access to decision-makers if the Board were to cease to meet and a number of other detailed issues.

After a full discussion, it was agreed that officers should initiate further discussions with partners and prepare a further report for the Board's next meeting in September.

Harrow Chief Executives

Harrow Chief Executives reported that they had devoted a significant amount of time to understanding how their services contributed to safeguarding children and young people and to identifying ways in which these services could work better together in the future.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications

Equality Impact Assessments have or are being undertaken for all of the projects referred to in this report.

Corporate Priorities

The Partnership's priorities support aspects of all of the Council's Corporate Priorities.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Steve Tingle



on behalf of the
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 8 July 2013

Section 6 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Mike Howes, Service Manager, Policy and Partnerships Ext 5637

Background Papers: Agenda and Minutes of the Partnership Board, 27th June, 2013