



## HARROW PARTNERSHIP BOARD

### Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 27 June 2013

#### (1) Present:

##### Harrow Strategic Partnership Board Members:

Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar (Chairman)	Leader of the Council, Business Transformation & Communications, Finance, Performance, Customer Services & Corporate Services, Property & Major Contracts Portfolio Holder	Harrow Council
Councillor Susan Hall	Leader of the Conservative Group, Non Executive Cabinet Member	Harrow Council
Councillor Graham Henson	Reserve Member	
Rozmin Meghjee	Representative	JobCentre Plus
Howard Bluston	Representative	Business Community
Chief Superintendent Simon Ovens	Borough Commander, Harrow Police	Harrow Police
Borough Commander Richard Claydon	Borough Commander, Harrow Fire Authority	London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
Avani Modasia	Representative	Voluntary and Community Sector
Carmel Miedziolka	Representative	Voluntary and Community Sector
Rob Larkman	Accountable Officer	NHS Harrow
Michael Lockwood	Chief Executive, Harrow Council	Chair of Harrow Chief Executives

#### (2) The following Harrow Council Officers attended:

Alex Dewsnap	Divisional Director, Strategic Commissioning	Harrow Council
Tom Whiting	Corporate Director of Resources	Harrow Council

#### Apologies were received from:

Councillor David Perry (Leader of the Labour Group) (Harrow Council), Steve Porter (Representative) (Voluntary and Community Sector), Dr Genevieve Small (Clinical Director) (Clinical Commissioning Group) and Mike Howes (Service Manager, Policy and Partnership Service) (Harrow Council)

## ACTION

### 119. Attendance by Substitute Members:

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

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Councillor David Perry	Councillor Graham Henson	Harrow Council

### 120. Declarations of Interest:

**RESOLVED:** To note that there were no declarations of interests made.

### 121. Appointment of Vice-Chairman:

The Chairman advised that this item had been deferred from the last meeting. Avani Modasia's nomination for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Board was proposed and unanimously agreed.

**AGREED:** That Avani Modasia, the representative from the Voluntary and Community sector, be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Board for the 2013-14 Municipal Year.

All to note.

### 122. Minutes:

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2013 be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

All to note.

### 123. The Future of the Harrow Partnership Board:

The Board received a report which set out the context in which the Harrow Partnership Board (HSP) operated and options open to the Board in terms of its future.

An officer advised that:

- since the abolition of the Local Area Agreement in 2010, Local Strategic Partnerships had been trying to identify the most effective way forward and how they could continue to add value to the work of the council;
- more recently, other partnership groups such as the Safer Harrow Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) had been introduced and were duplicating some of the work of the HSP;
- it was important to bear in mind that, in recent years the Council, statutory agencies such as the Police and voluntary sector providers had all had their budgets and resources reduced, which had impacted on the effective functioning of the Board;

- the following three options, which were set out in the report, were available to the Board:
  - to continue the existing arrangements;
  - to devise a better version of the Harrow Assembly to replace the Board;
  - to use the HWB and Safer Harrow as the principal partnership vehicles, underpinned by Harrow Chief Executives.

In all of the above options, the partnership bodies would continue or improve their reporting to each other, Cabinet and other groups and organisations as appropriate, to ensure that partnership knowledge and actions were shared widely.

In their discussions regarding the merits and disadvantages of each option, Board members made the following comments:

- the Board currently benefited from representation from different sectors and varied areas of expertise, and it was important for the Council to preserve this interaction;
- in the past, the work of the Board had provided value to the work of the Council and other partner organisations;
- Board meetings facilitated strategic working and the widest possible debate of issues under consideration;
- the Board had not made any substantive decisions or produced any concrete outcomes in the past three years and attendance at meetings was generally poor. Loss of funding had diminished its purpose;
- the Board had no decision-making power, and if it were to continue, then its terms of reference should be amended to facilitate this requirement;
- the Board had forged links and established relationships within the borough and these should be maintained. If the Board were to continue, it would require amended terms of reference, improved attendance at meetings and a concrete agenda with items for consideration suggested by all Board members. In view of which, Board members may feel it would be preferable to make more effective use of other existing groups such as the HWB;
- NHS partners valued the opportunity for partnership work which was afforded by the Board, however, reduced capacity and funding would impact on the effectiveness of the Board;
- it was the Borough Commander's priority to make Harrow the safest borough in London and he would welcome the opportunity to

explore with the Council and Board members how this could be achieved;

- the representative from the voluntary sector stated that the voluntary sector co-optees on the HWB had an advisory role and were not full voting members. Membership of the Board allowed this group to have a direct input into the Council and other partners. Additionally, dissolution of the Board could affect the standing of partner members on other bodies and they sought clarity on this. In the case of the Voluntary and Community sector, clarity was also sought on whether the dissolution of the HSP would also mean the loss of the funding contribution to the administrator's role and loss of the option of cost-free booking of committee rooms at the Civic Centre. The Chief Executive responded that, in his view, voluntary sector partners should be full, voting members of other key groups and he would look into enabling this;
- Board members, many of whom by virtue of their membership of the Board, were members of other bodies, had a valuable contribution to make and represented a useful source of local information. The Board's terms of reference should be updated to take into consideration changing circumstances;
- the Joint Analytical Tasking and Action Group (JATAG) was an example of successful working between partners. JATAG had a wide membership, agenda items could be proposed by all members of the Group, it worked collaboratively on problem-solving and had decision-making powers. However, the Group was already quite large and the inclusion of any additional members would make it less effective. The Harrow Town Centre Forum, was also an example of decision-making body with the power to implement decisions;
- it was pointed out however, that the HSP was a strategic body, whereas JATAG was a tasking group which had the power to both make and implement operational decisions;
- in the past, the Board had played a valuable role and enabled information sharing. However, it had not evolved to the decision-making stage. In recent years, lack of funding, poor attendance at meetings and duplication of its work had meant that the Board had little impact. In the light of the above, it would be important to review the Board's governance, membership, capacity and resources. In the future, it may be more appropriate that important, strategic issues become the remit of other groups such as the HWB and HCE.

ML to note

Board Members agreed that a further report, which incorporated the above comments and suggestions through the Policy and Partnerships Team discussing with each of the partners, be submitted at the 23 September 2013 meeting of the Board.

**AGREED:** That a further report, which incorporated the above comments

and suggestions, be submitted to the 23 September 2013 meeting of the Board. MH to note.

**124. Harrow Chief Executives Update:**

The Board received a summary report of the activity involving the Harrow Chief Executives' (HCE) meetings since the last meeting of the Board. It was reported that HCE members had visited a number of sites such as Northwick Park Hospital and the Cedars Youth and Community Centre with a view to sharing learning and good practice and to suggest improvements and ensure that the Council and its partners implemented a cohesive, multi-agency approach in dealing with safeguarding children and young people.

Board members requested that future reports of the HCE should list attendees at its meetings and provide more detail on some of the activities. An officer undertook to ensure this was done.

**AGREED:** That future reports of the HCE should list attendees at its meetings and provide more detail on some of the activities and that the report be noted.

MH to note

[Note: The Meeting, having commenced at 6.00 pm, closed at 6.45 pm]