

Harrow Strategic Partnership Board

Thursday 4 August 2005

Communication between the Harrow Strategic Partnership and Harrow Council's Elected Members

Purpose

This paper proposes the development of clear channels of communication between the council's Cabinet and the Harrow Strategic Partnership (HSP).

The HSP Board is requested to note the HSP Executive, at its 21 July 2005 meeting, considered and agreed the proposals 1 through 7 below.

Background

The Harrow Strategic Partnership was launched in May 2003. The last two years have seen efforts to develop its structure, secure the appropriate membership and establish its priorities.

Given the government's and external assessors' increasing focus on the use of local strategic partnerships to improve local quality of life through the identification of local priorities, there is a continued need for the council to promote its community leadership role through leading and actively contributing to the work of the partnership and ensuring that the HSP functions with due regard to effectiveness, efficiency and transparency.

For these reasons the following measures outlined 1 through 7 below were proposed to, and accepted by, the HSP Executive at its 21 July 2005. The aim of these measures is to ensure that elected members are informed about the work of the HSP. These include both immediate and medium-term actions:

Immediate Action:

1. The agenda and minutes from HSP Board and Executive meetings to be lodged with political group offices and members informed that the papers can be accessed via the council's website or the group offices.
2. Relevant portfolio holders to receive copies of the minutes of the appropriate Management and Reference Group meetings.
3. A quarterly HSP electronic update to be despatched to all elected members. Elected members on the HSP Board may wish to brief their groups in further detail. In addition, quarterly reports on HSP activity will be made to fellow portfolio holders by the Leader of the Council and portfolio holder for Communications, Human Resources and Partnership.

Medium Term:

4. All members be invited to attend a member development session to be held in the Autumn. This session will outline what the role of the HSP is, what its achievements have been and areas of emerging work.
5. The HSP has agreed to the development of a performance management framework for the HSP. As part of this, a leadership questionnaire will be prepared over the next two months. Cabinet members will be invited to complete the questionnaire in order to contribute to the evaluation of the HSP.
6. As part of the performance management framework referred to above, an HSP Scorecard will be developed. It is proposed that Cabinet receives quarterly reports on the HSP Scorecard, for information.
7. There will be periodic joint meetings between the HSP Board and Cabinet as appropriate, for example, in June this year, Harrow secured Local Area Agreement (LAA) status, through a bid developed by the HSP. It is proposed that joint meetings take place between the HSP and Cabinet for the sign off of Harrow's priority areas and targets.

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26 July 2005