

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	6 th October 2005
Subject:	West London Sub-Regional Development Framework (SRDF)
Responsible Officer:	Graham Jones
Contact Officer:	Claire Codling/Dennis Varcoe
Portfolio Holder:	Keith Burchell – Planning, Development and Housing
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part 1

Section 1: Summary

An early report on the development of the West London Sub-Regional Development Framework (WL SRDF) is enclosed in appendix 1.

The Greater London Authority (GLA) Draft WL SRDF was finally launched on 4th July.

The GLA have agreed to extend the public consultation period to the 28th October 2005. Even with a four month period, because of the summer break it will still be quite a challenge to get the formal West London Partnership (WLP) response signed off on time. It is imperative that the West London sign off timetable is adhered to.

The Strategic Planning Advisory Panel (SPAP) meetings in July and September 2005 plus a member briefing were arranged to raise awareness and approve the Harrow Council response to the SRDF (appendix 2).

In addition to this a West London Partnership response is being prepared.

Decision Required

That Cabinet delegate approval of the final West London Partnership (WLP) response to the draft WL SRDF to the Leader prior to the 25th October West London deadline.

Reason for report

The West London Partnership response is currently being redrafted and will be circulated in advance of the Cabinet meeting as appendix 4.

This report has been written to advise Cabinet members of the processes used in developing both the Harrow and West London responses and an insight to the general direction of the West London response. This is in order to gain approval from Cabinet to delegate final approval of the (WLP) response to the Leader in order to fit in with the WLP sign off timetable which has been arranged to meet the GLA deadline of 28th October 2005.

Benefits

Opportunity to influence the final GLA document and spatial planning and related matters until 2016, and to also inform the development of the Harrow Local Development Framework (LDF).

Cost of Proposals

Costs will need to be contained within existing and future budgets unless further funding is allocated by the GLA for specific initiatives e.g monitoring changes in land use.

Risks

No major risks are associated with this report.

Implications if recommendations rejected

- Harrow Council views not identified
- Harrow Council issues not raised with the GLA
- Harrow Council is not part of the sub-regional West London Partnership response
- Harrow Council loses the opportunity to influence the final SRDF

Section 2: Report

Brief History

Appendix 1 provides the background to the development of the draft WL SRDF.

Harrow Council response

Members of the SPAP committee have received a report on the draft WL SRDF at their July meeting, were sent a hard copy of the full draft WL SRDF and invited to a separate Member's briefing convened on 11th August. They will be asked to approve the Harrow response at their meeting on 29th September 2005.

It was decided that although Harrow has been taking a leading role in developing the West London Partnership SRDF response, that it would also be opportune to write a short Harrow response on pertinent issues. The points it makes are largely in addition to those made in the West London Partnership Response.

The West London Partnership response

Work on the WLP response has been led by the West London Alliance (WLA). Harrow Council's Chief Executive has been the lead chief executive from the WLA. The Planning Reference Group has met regularly since last October to work with the GLA, and has been chaired by Harrow's Director of Strategic Planning. The draft WL SRDF is a public discussion document and poses many questions which need to be addressed in time for the final version to be published before the end of December 2005.

A draft response is currently being prepared. Once the West London Planning Reference Group has cleared this, it will be circulated to all West London Partnership members. In the interim the introductory pages from the latest draft are enclosed as appendix 3.

Summary of key points made in the WLP response

The draft West London response is keen to ensure that the final SRDF encapsulates West London's priorities and issues and genuinely demonstrates

the need for partnership intervention at a sub-regional level. The introductory pages of the response focus on key issues which are concerning planners:

- a. Accommodating projected growth
- b. Sustainability and other principles currently not emphasized in the draft WL SRDF
- c. The role and format of the SRDF vis a vis Local Development Frameworks and the London Plan
- d. West London's strengths and priorities
- e. Managing and monitoring release of land

There are also major concerns about how transport, social and community infrastructure will keep pace with population growth so that housing and development needs are met, without compromising the environment.

In addition there is concern that there is insufficient recognition of the role of both Heathrow and Park Royal.

Please note: In the Mayor's foreword he also states that sub-regional boundaries will be a part of the London Plan Review.

The draft WL SRDF currently contains 100 actions. The WLP response is currently a long and detailed document, largely because so much of what has been included in the draft West London SRDF is not considered to be sub-regional, whilst the response is being edited to shorten it, it is unlikely that it will be less than 50 pages long as it needs to justify why each point should be deleted and cut back to purely sub-regional issues and so that the final document is reduced to around 50 actions.

Options considered

It was decided that it was necessary for the key issues from both responses to be included in the reports, which would be taken through the committee processes. Due to the conflicts in timing it will not be possible for cabinet to have sight of the full West London response until the 27th September 2005. The portfolio holder has been briefed on the expected content of the WLP and Harrow responses.

The final version of the WLP Response will be circulated on 13th October to all members¹ of the West London Partnership prior to being signed off by the joint chairs of WLP and forwarded to the GLA together with the Harrow response by 25th October 2005.

¹ West London Alliance, Learning and Skills Council, North West London Health Authority, West London Business and West London Network

Consultation

A large cross council meeting was held on 21st July 2005 to gain the views of officers on the details within the document. This has been followed by meetings with teams e.g. housing, forward planning and regeneration as well as appropriate individual officers to ensure that the response from Harrow has been developed from feedback across departments. Points raised have been used appropriately to inform the Harrow response and the West London response.

In addition to using feedback from the Planning Reference Group produced over the last ten months to inform the WLP response, the WLA team have attended existing specialist meetings over the summer and additional meetings were also set up to ensure that information was received from the specialist areas: e.g. waste, air quality, culture, tourism, parks and housing.

As the WL SRDF is a GLA document they are also carrying out their own consultation process.

Financial Implications

None

Legal Implications

None

Equalities Impact

Each SRDF will also be subjected to a Strategic Impact Assessment, carried out by external consultants with support from the boroughs which will include evaluating whether the Framework has addressed equalities issues sufficiently.

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

Appendices (circulated in the Cabinet Supporting Documents Pack)

- Appendix 1 – SRDF background
- Appendix 2 - Draft Harrow Response
- Appendix 3 - Draft introductory pages from the West London Partnership Response
- Appendix 4 – Full West London Partnership response (to follow)

The Draft West London SRDF – can be down loaded from the GLA website:
www.london.gov.uk