

Meeting:	Environment and Economy Sub-Committee
Date:	9 March 2006
Subject:	Tourism Review – Report
Responsible Officer:	Director of People, Policy and Performance
Contact Officer:	Ed Hammond (x5205)
Portfolio Holder:	Environment and Transport Education and Lifelong Learning
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part 1

## **Section 1: Summary**

### **Decision Required**

- (1) That the Sub-Committee agree the report and recommendations of the Tourism Review Group (attached at Appendix 1)
- (2) That the report and recommendations be referred to Cabinet.
- (3) That the plans for future monitoring of these recommendations set out in section 2.5 be approved.

### **Reason for report**

The Sub-Committee established the Tourism Review Group at the meeting on 26 September. The Review Group has now finished gathering evidence and is reporting its findings back to the Sub-Committee.

## **Benefits**

The recommendations in the report will contribute towards the implementation and development of the borough's Tourism Strategy, and provide support for the expansion of the council's tourism agenda in the context of economic and cultural development in Harrow.

## **Cost of Proposals**

There is no specific cost associated with the agreement to the content of the scrutiny review report.

The cost of actions taken as a result of the report's recommendations being made will be borne by the service as appropriate; should additional funding be required Member approval will be sought as necessary and in the usual way.

## **Risks**

That the report's recommendations will not be supported or implemented by Cabinet.

That future monitoring of the implementation of the report's recommendations will be ineffective.

## **Implications if recommendations rejected**

The sub-committee would have failed to fulfil its agreed objectives as set out in the 2005-6 work programme.

The scrutiny function would be unable to contribute to an important area of policy development.

## **Section 2: Report**

### Brief History

- 2.1 At its meeting on 10 March 2005 the Environment and Economy Sub-Committee considered its work programme for the coming year and agreed to conduct a review into tourism.
- 2.2 At a subsequent meeting on 8 June 2005, the sub-committee agreed the membership and broad focus of the review group, and further agreed that the scope should be submitted to September's meeting of the Sub-Committee for formal approval.

- 2.3 The scope of the review was agreed by the Sub-Committee at the meeting on 26 September.
- 2.4 The review group spent around four months gathering evidence (having started in early September with some general, preliminary work). It was agreed when the review was commissioned that recommendations would be reported back to the Sub-Committee at this meeting.

#### Ongoing monitoring

- 2.5 Members of the review group discussed the monitoring of their recommendations at their meeting on 31 January. They considered that the standard practice of a six month update on the implementation of recommendations, followed by a final update in March 2007, would be most appropriate.

#### Budget

- 2.6 Members made enquiries about budgeting and resources at the last meeting. A breakdown of expenses incurred so far is shown below. This is being financed from the existing scrutiny review budget.
- 2.7 The expenses listed below do not include money expended as a result of normal working practices, ie officer time.

Room bookings & refreshments	£100
Train tickets (for visit to Birmingham)*	£523
Survey design	£200
Survey printing	£250
Resident survey design**	£150
Resident survey printing	£150
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,373</b>
Final report (design)	£
Final report (printing)	£
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£</b>

*\*It was not possible to book tickets in advance, given the tight timescale for gathering evidence. Thus, open return tickets had to be purchased*

*\*\*A contribution was made to the design and printing of a survey of local residents on the subject of tourism, which was being carried out by the Tourism Officer, because the results were highly relevant to the review. The results of the survey have been used in the*

*final report as evidence.*

Options considered

Not applicable to this report.

Consultation

Not applicable to this report.

Financial Implications

Costs associated with the delivery of the work programme will be met from within existing resources.

Legal Implications

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 requires any council plans or programmes to provide a Strategic Environmental Assessment. This will impact upon any proposals for infrastructure development and the necessity for a sustainable approach has been emphasised in the report.

Equalities Impact

None relevant to this report.

Section 17, Crime and Disorder Act implications

None relevant to this report.

**Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents**

Review of Tourism, report and recommendations (attached, with appendices)