

Meeting:	Sustainable Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	6 July 2006
Subject:	Scrutiny Policy Briefings
Responsible Officer:	Paul Najsarek, Director, People Performance and Policy
Contact Officer:	Ed Hammond, Scrutiny Officer
Portfolio Holder:	Business Development
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part I

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

None. The briefings are provided for information only.

Reason for report

This report provides key information on policy areas within the sub-committee's terms of reference.

It is intended that members will use the policy briefings in their discussion of the work programme.

Benefits

The provision of policy briefings, and background policy information, means that the sub-committee will be better placed to make sound, evidence based judgments on items for the work programme.

Cost of Proposals

This report is not seeking additional financial resources.

Risks

Not applicable

Implications if recommendations rejected

Not applicable.

Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

The terms of reference of the Sustainable Development and Enterprise Scrutiny Sub-Committee are broad, and wide-ranging. It was thought that members – and especially new members – might find it useful to have some information on the key areas of policy nationally, regionally and locally, to introduce them to the key issues with which the sub-committee will deal over the coming months.

2.2 Detailed Briefings

As well as the briefings themselves (attached to this report as appendices), more detailed policy information is also available from the Scrutiny Officer on request. Files have been pulled together containing many of the national and regional policy papers, council strategies and other miscellaneous information which will be important to members as they deliver the work programme. Executive summaries of these documents can also be provided on request, where applicable.

The policy briefing précis are being provided on the following subjects, and are attached to this report:

Transportation – looking at developments including regional transport schemes, TfL and GLA (Mayoral) strategies, as well as issues surrounding the preparation of the Borough's Transport Local Implementation Plan, and

particular issues relating to transport concerns in Harrow which might be of especial interest to members.

Housing – looking at the council’s stock, and issues surrounding delivery of the Decent Homes Programme by 2010, and associated issues connected to right-to-buy and private home ownership, and planning.

Planning and Development – looking at the Local Development Plan, the Unitary Development Plan, and regional and national issues including Planning Policy Guidance, the Government’s agenda for sustainable development, infrastructure concerns (including utilities and similar).

Enterprise and Skills – looking at the Learning and Skills Council and the role it plays in the borough, support for local businesses, economic development and regeneration.

Cross-cutting issues – looking at issues which fall partly within the sub-committee’s terms of reference and partly outside it.

2.3 Consultation

Not applicable.

2.4 Financial Implications

This report is not seeking additional financial resources.

2.5 Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising out of this report.

2.6 Equalities Impact

None specific to this report.

2.7 Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

None specific to this report.

Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents

Appendix A: Policy Briefings:

- 1 – Transportation
- 2 – Housing
- 3 – Planning and Development
- 4 – Enterprise and Skills
- 5 – Cross-cutting issues