

Meeting: Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date: 28 September 2006
Subject: Consultation draft of the refreshed Community Plan
Responsible Officer: Paul Najsarek
Contact Officer: Mike Howes
Portfolio Holder: David Ashton
Key Decision: No
Status: Public

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

The Sub-Committee is asked to consider the consultation draft of the refreshed Community Plan and make comments.

Reason for report

All Scrutiny Sub-Committees have been invited to consider the consultation draft of the refreshed Community Plan to ensure that it reflects the interests and needs of key groups in the community.

Benefits

The aspirations in the existing Community Strategy have either been achieved or have been overtaken by events. Harrow Strategic Partnership Board therefore commissioned a refresh and agreed to a new structure.

After consultation, the adopted plan will help to align the priorities of the organisations that make up the Partnership and achieve better outcomes for Harrow.

Cost of Proposals

There costs of producing the Community Plan are contained within existing budgets. There are no costs arising directly from the content of the plan.

Risks

- The medium term ambitions contained in the plan have been developed in consultation with the constituent members of the Partnership and reflect their aspirations and forecast capacity to deliver. There is a risk that these ambitions may not be met but as they are deliberately aspirational and are intended to guide activity rather than act as targets to be achieved, this is not considered to be a serious risk.

Implications if recommendations rejected

If the Sub-Committee does not comment, the Community Plan will be less complete than it could be.

Section 2: Report

Brief History

The existing Community Strategy was adopted in May 2004. The process of building the strategy was as important as the document itself as it developed a partnership style of working and an appreciation of other organisations' perception of Harrow, its communities and their needs. Because of this, the plan was deliberately comparatively short-term and the actions it contained have now either been achieved or have been overtaken by events.

The original strategy was based on the outcomes of a series of public meetings and the knowledge of the agencies in the partnership. This refreshed strategy has built on this beginning and taken it forward through a further Summit held at Kodak in July this year. The outcomes of the Summit have shaped most of the medium term ambitions in the new Plan.

In addition, the new Plan brings in targets from the Local Area Agreement which constitutes a significant proportion of the Partnership's workload.

Consultation

As mentioned earlier, the medium term ambitions contained in the Plan are largely drawn from the outcomes of the Summit which involved 70 or so local groups and community leaders. The early drafts of the Plan have been seen and

improved by the Chairs of the LAA Management Groups and the services responsible for delivering the ambitions.

This is a consultation draft which has been sent, together with a summary of the issues and options for the Local Development Framework, to almost 3,000 groups and individuals in the Borough. It is hoped that the Community Plan will also be publicised on the Council's and partners' websites, and will be available in libraries and other public buildings.

Financial Implications

There costs of producing the Community Plan are contained within existing budgets. There are no costs arising directly from the content of the plan.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising from this report

Equalities Impact

The draft Community Plan seeks to improve the quality of life for all sections of the community but recognises that different groups have differing needs and seeks to address these explicitly.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Considerations

Much of the draft Plan is devoted to making Harrow safer. There are no other crime and disorder considerations arising from the report.

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

Appendices

The consultation draft Community Plan for Harrow 2006 – 2020 is attached.