

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	Strengthening Communities Sub Committee
Date:	15 October 2003
Subject:	Update on Community Issues Raised
Key decision:	No
Responsible Chief Officer:	Jill Rothwell
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Portfolio Holder for Partnership and Property
Status:	Part 1
Ward:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1- Update on Issues Raised by Community Groups

1. **Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)**

- 1.1 To make members of the Committee aware of the work currently being undertaken in the areas of interest raised by community groups.

2. **Recommendations (for decision by the Committee)**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the work being done in the relevant areas.
- 2.2 That the Committee agrees an appropriate format to respond to the Community groups on the issues raised.

REASON: Consideration of issues raised by the community is part of the work programme for the Committee.

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

- 3.1 None

4. **Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)**

- 4.1 N/A

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

5.1 Engagement with the local communities and responding to issues raised by them is fundamental to the Council's objective of Strengthening Communities.

6. **Background Information and options considered**

6.1 None

7. **Consultation**

7.1 With umbrella organisations representing Community Groups.

8. **Finance Observations**

8.1 None

9. **Legal Observations**

9.1 None

10. **Conclusion**

10.1 Members may wish to note that considerable work is being done in the areas of interest raised by the Community Groups.

11. **Background Papers**

11.1 None

12. **Author**

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Appendix 1

Strengthening Community Sub Committee

Issues Raised by Some Community and Voluntary Sector Groups in Harrow

Issues Raised	Current Progress	Responsible Service area
1. The role of the voluntary sector in partnership working and the burden it places on scarce human resources.	The Harrow Strategic Partnership (HSP), launched in May 2003 aims to rationalise partnership working in the borough which will reduce the burden. The development of the local Compact will also formalise the role between the statutory and voluntary sector in Harrow.	Harrow Association of Voluntary Service and the Partnership Unit, under direction from the HSP Executive.
2. The way in which the Council consults is perceived to be meaningless. There is a need to make consultation papers more accessible.	The new Harrow Strategic Partnership (HSP) has developed a Consultation Framework which it recommends for adoption to all partners	Harrow Strategic Partnership Board and Executive
3. There is a need for support to the sector for fund raising as this consumes a substantial amount of time and resources which could be used helping clients and the community.	Grants Review, development of local compact, proposals for jointly funded post to raise funds for a permanent fund raising post for the voluntary sector.	Business Connections
4. There is a need for specialist skills to be made available to the voluntary sector, for example,	The Local Government On Line Project (LGOL) includes the development of a	LGOL Steering Group (chaired by

<p>community accountancy support, legal expertise, IT troubleshooting, procurement. This could be done through secondments from the Council and other statutory partners.</p> <p>5. There is a need to strengthen the local Council of Voluntary Service (HAVS) and the sector as a whole. This would, make them less dependent on the Council in the future.</p> <p>6. Little provision for after school activities</p> <p>7. Given the high number of elderly people in the borough, there are not sufficient facilities provided for them.</p> <p>8. There is a need for elected members to be aware of the work of the voluntary service and how this supports Council activities. There is a need for a 'champion' for the voluntary sector.</p> <p>9. What is the role of Residents' Panel. There was a concern about the quality of materials that were produced by Quantify. Is the Panel reflective of the diversity of the community?</p> <p>10. There was a concern about the level of consultation that had been done with the sector on the New Harrow Project. Suggestions were sought for the pilot- how have these been actioned?</p> <p>11. How are the Tenants + Residents' Associations</p>	<p>Community Based IT Forum which will provide exactly the type of support identified.</p> <p>There is currently a review being done of the Residents Panel</p> <p>3 stakeholder forums have taken place with local voluntary and community organisations. Suggested actions have been incorporated into the work of the Pilot and further work will be done as part of Phase 2 to develop joint projects between the Council and the Community.</p> <p>Work has been done with specific Tenants</p>	<p>Nick Bell)</p> <p>Organisational Development</p> <p>Lead for Phase 2, Project Manager of the New Harrow Project.</p> <p>Manager, South Harrow Pilot,</p>
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<p>being engaged with for the NHP?</p>	<p>and Residents Fora in the pilot area. They have also been involved in the wider stakeholder Forums.</p>	<p>Manager</p>
<p>12. There is a need to for the Council to recognise umbrella groups in Harrow and involve them in Partnership forums.</p>	<p>Since the launch of the Harrow Strategic Partnership on 20 May, the Harrow Association of Voluntary Service and the Harrow Council For Racial Equality are members of the Partnership Board.</p>	<p>HSP Board and Executive</p>
<p>13. Good practice and expertise in the voluntary sector should be disseminated to other community groups.</p>	<p>This is currently done through the Community Consultative Forum and Strengthening Communities sub committee</p>	
<p>14. Most of the community groups indicated that their greatest priority was securing premises to run services for the elderly, childcare and generally to allow their communities to meet.</p>		
<p>15. There is a perception that the needs of the African and Caribbean communities were not being sufficiently addressed by the Council.</p>	<p>The Council funds a lunch club for older members of the African- Caribbean community via the Harrow African Caribbean Association (HACAS)</p>	