

Harrow Strategic Partnership Board

14th June 2007

Progress against Partnership Work and Improvement Plans

The HSP Board is asked to receive:

This report on progress against the Board's Work and Improvement plans

Background

1. The Board agreed a work plan at their meeting on 1st June 2006, which gave details of papers and projects that the Partnership agreed to commission and an Improvement Plan at their meeting on 7th December 2006, which suggested actions to address the issues that arose from the Leadership Survey undertaken during 2006. This paper reports progress against both these plans.
2. The Work Plan included 15 work areas for completion by the Board during 2006 of which 12 have been completed. The outstanding issues are:
 - Developing a proposal for the involvement of Councillors in Management Groups – this has been delayed to assess the impact of the requirement that Portfolio Holders should take part in relevant thematic groups details of which are expected in the next month or so;
 - Identify good and best practice with help from GOL – this is being pursued through the Neighbourhood Renewal Adviser proposal reported on this agenda; and
 - Producing a project plan to get harrow to move towards the 2020 vision – this is being pursued via Management Group development of targets and action plans for the medium term ambitions.
3. The Work Plan also included some items for 2007/08 of which one is still outstanding viz:
 - Developing a project plan to utilise the LAA reward funding to help move towards the 2020 vision – it is too early to prepare this project plan both because what will be most needed at the end of the current LAA and the extent of reward grant funding 'earned' are not known. An initial plan can be produced for the end of 2007/08.
4. The Improvement Plan has only recently been agreed. Of the actions programmed to have been achieved by March, two issues are outstanding viz:
 - Produce an effective communications and engagement plan and implement it – the Partnership's communications will, to a large degree, rest on the Council's communications capacity. This is currently being reviewed and a workable plan cannot be produced until the review has been completed. Similarly, Partnership engagement

activity will need to fit with the Council's strategy. This is being refreshed and, again, a Partnership specific plan cannot sensibly be prepared until the strategy is available. If partners feel that a wider review of Partnership communications and engagement could usefully be commissioned, the opportunity exists for a multi-organisation brief and funding package to be negotiated.

- Budget monitoring against Management Group spend profiles – not all management groups have agreed and reported spend profiles. Total pump priming expenditure is considerably under forecast at present reflecting the delayed approval of some of the stretch targets and more general start up delays. Pump priming grant is not year specific and underspends in the current year can be compensated for in later years of the programme.

5. A new work programme is under development.

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