

Meeting:	Town Centre and Major Projects Panel
Date:	19 th June 2007
Subject:	Public Realm and Access Strategy
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Graham Jones. Director of Planning, Development and Enterprise
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Marilyn Ashton. Planning, Development & Enterprise
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

SECTION 1 – SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This report summarises progress on the preparation of a Public Realm and Access Strategy for Harrow Town Centre and outlines arrangements for public consultation. A presentation by Urban Initiatives will accompany the report at the Panel meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Panel consider the presentation by Urban Initiatives and note the arrangements for public consultation.

SECTION 2 – REPORT

Background

Urban Initiatives were appointed in August 2006 to prepare a Public Realm Strategy for Harrow Town Centre. The commission was subsequently extended to include an Access and Movement study, to provide a framework for any major change to the basic infrastructure of the town centre, and to ensure that future funding bids to Transport for London had been properly tested.

The Panel received a presentation by Urban Initiatives at its January meeting and this was followed in March with a workshop with key stakeholders representing town centre

businesses, Transport for London, the Police, HAD, HPTUA, Harrow College, the Chamber of Commerce, HA21, residents' associations and community groups. Regular meetings have continued to take place with the Council's officer steering group. Bids have also been prepared for inclusion in the Funding Submission to TfL, which was approved by the Portfolio Holder for Environment Services on 25th May.

A draft strategy is nearing completion. It comprises three main parts

- an Urban Design Framework, which sets the context for the overall study and, in particular, identifies key design principles that should be followed in bringing forward new development proposals. These will be shown on an Illustrative Masterplan.
- an Access study, including details of a transport and movement appraisal of the town centre and key approach corridors. Initial ideas to improve access to key parts of the centre have been identified, the most significant of which are proposals for two way bus working in Station Road and simplification of the road network around Kimberley Road and the western end of College Road.
- a Public Realm Strategy which defines a hierarchy of street and spaces within the town centre, a design "palette" for paving materials, street furniture, lighting etc, and concept designs for seven specific schemes.

Urban Initiatives will be presenting details of the strategy at the Panel meeting.

Public Consultation

Some £3m has been included in the Capital Programme for implementation of the Public Realm Strategy from 2008/09 onward. A range of tasks will have to be completed over the next 6-9 months if this timetable is to be achieved, including outline design, detailed design and procurement. This will require public consultation on the draft strategy to commence as soon as possible, before the start of the main holiday period.

With the agreement of the Portfolio Holder, arrangements for consultation have been put in place. The main features will include a two week exhibition in the St Anns Centre, commencing on 25th June, a surgery for town centre stakeholders, an on line survey, and a "special" event with the Harrow Youth Council. Further details are being developed and will be presented at the Panel meeting. The costs will be contained within the Strategic Development Capital Programme allocation.

Public consultation on the strategy will be the first stage in a process of community engagement over the next few years. Appropriate stakeholders will be involved in the development of detailed proposals and general consultation will be carried out on specific schemes prior to implementation.

SECTION 3 - STATUTORY OFFICER CLEARANCE

Chief Finance Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Sheela Thakra Date: 08/06/07
Monitoring Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Name: Jessica Farmer Date: 8/06/07

SECTION 4 - CONTACT DETAILS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

Contact:

Phil Greenwood. Senior {Professional Strategic Planning
Tel: 0208 424 1166

Background Papers:

None

1.	Consultation	N/A
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES
3.	Manifesto Pledge Reference Number	A2, F2