

**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK PANEL
(SPECIAL)****9 APRIL 2008**

Chairman: * Councillor Marilyn Ashton

Councillors: * Robert Benson * Manji Kara
* Keith Ferry * Narinder Singh Mudhar (1)
* Thaya Idaikkadar Navin Shah

* Denotes Member present
(1) Denote category of Reserve Member

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS**RECOMMENDATION 1 - Key Decision - Harrow Biodiversity Action Plan**

An officer introduced the report relating to the final draft of the Harrow Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and explained that the document had been revised following extensive consultation with a number of different bodies. These included Natural England, the Greater London Assembly and English Heritage.

The officer explained that the BAP had been published on the internet to seek comments from members of the public. Twenty one people had responded with constructive comments. The officer reported that these had generally been positive and felt that the document reflected the needs of the community in Harrow.

The officer reported that following consultation, there had been several amendments to the final draft of the BAP. Two section titles had been altered from 'Gardens Action Plan' and 'Deadwood Action Plan' to 'Gardens and Allotments Action Plan' and 'Decaying Timber Action Plan' respectively. The officer also explained that a provision to provide an environmental education centre had been included in the BAP. The reason for inclusion was linked to a greater likelihood of obtaining external funding from the relevant body if provided for in the BAP.

During the discussion on this item, Members raised a number of issues, which officers responded to as follows:

- That reference to the Council's Allotment and Tree Strategy would be made in the final version of the BAP.
- That further reference could be made on the contribution to the document by the Greener Harrow organisation. The Chairman further commented that a representative of the organisation had been complimentary about the document.
- In response to a query on the availability of a graphically designed version of the BAP, the officer reported that the relevant graphic designer had been away which had caused a slight delay. It was the intention of officers to publish the graphically designed version on 14 April 2008.

The Chairman commended officers for their work on the BAP.

Resolved to RECOMMEND (To Cabinet)

That the adoption and publication of the final Harrow Biodiversity Action Plan be approved.

Reason for Recommendation: Indicatory Biodiversity 197 was proposed to be included as a designated indicator in the Local Area Agreement. Many of the actions within the Biodiversity Action Plan would contribute to the achievement of this indicator. Within the Corporate Improvement Plan, a key project was to launch a Biodiversity programme – essentially this was adopting and implementing a Biodiversity Action Plan.