

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	8 <sup>th</sup> July 2008
Subject:	Draft Scope for the Review of the Future For Harrow's Town and District Centres
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting, Divisional Director Strategy and Improvement
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Marilyn Ashton, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Development and Enterprise
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Appendix One: Draft Scope Review of the Future For Harrow's Town and District Centres

## Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report accompanies the revised draft scope for the scrutiny review of 'The Future for Harrow's Town and District Centres'. It also outlines the reasons for the changes to the scope that had been previously agreed.

### **Recommendations:**

The Overview and Scrutiny committee is recommended to:

1. Agree the proposed changes to the scope for the review of 'The Future of Harrow's Town and District centres', contingent on the issues identified in the body of the report having been resolved.

### **Reason: (For recommendation)**

To ensure that the review is scoped in such a way as it makes an effective contribution to the redevelopment proposals for Harrow's town and district centres.

## Section 2 – Report

### Background (if needed)

Although the scope for this review has been previously considered at the Overview and Scrutiny committee, concerns with regard to the focus of the review, in the context of the development of the council's local development framework and consultation on the core strategy were identified. In order to ensure that the review is adding the most value to the redevelopment proposals, the scope has therefore been amended and is attached for further consideration.

At the time of writing, it was still unclear whether meetings of the review group scheduled for early July were still planned to go ahead, or whether members still wished to suspend the review pending discussion of the scope at this meeting. If, in the intervening time, these meetings have in fact been cancelled/postponed, it is suggested that the necessity of rescheduling the three meetings originally planned for early July would make the timescales required to be met to feed into the LDF Core Strategy impossible to achieve. Since feeding into the Core Strategy is one of the key justifications for the revision of the scope, if this issue has not been resolved by the time of the meeting it will be difficult to justify the continuation of the review. Under these circumstances it is suggested that the review should be discontinued.

### Financial Implications

There are no financial implications specific to this report. The costs of the review will be met from within existing resources.

### Performance Issues

There are no specific performance indicators on which this report impacts

### Risk Management Implications

There are no risk management implications associated with this report.

## Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: ...Sheela Thakrar.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 25 June 2008		
Name: Hugh Peart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Monitoring Officer
Date: 25 June 2008.		

## Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Ed Hammond, Scrutiny Officer, 020 8420 5205

Background Papers: None

If appropriate, does the report include the following considerations?

1.	Consultation	NO
2.	Corporate Priorities	YES

## APPENDIX ONE

### REVIEW OF THE FUTURE FOR HARROW'S TOWN AND DISTRICT

#### CENTRES - DRAFT SCOPE

1	<b>SUBJECT</b>	Town and District centres
2	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
3	<b>REVIEW GROUP</b>	Cllr Seymour (Chairman) Cllr Solanki, Cllr Kinnear, Cllr Kara, Cllr Scott, Cllr O'Dell, Cllr Asante, Cllr Miles, Cllr Champagnie, Ramji Chauhan (stat education co-optee)
4	<b>AIMS/ OBJECTIVE S/ OUTCOMES</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. To investigate the ongoing development of the council's vision for Harrow's town and district centres, as encompassed in the Local Development Framework (LDF).</li><li>2. To make recommendations relating to (1) in the light of general issues relating particularly to the sustainability of the town and district centres.</li></ol>
5	<b>MEASURES OF SUCCESS OF REVIEW</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Delivery of recommendations in a timely manner so as to clarify the vision for Harrow's town and district centres, ensuring that it is robust and sustainable.</li><li>2. Provision of recommendations to enhance and supplement existing and ongoing work on the town and district centres taking account of best practice evidence of renewal work carried out elsewhere.</li><li>3. Provision of a judgment on the future sustainability of the plans, and plotting a way forward.</li></ol>
6	<b>SCOPE</b>	<p>Consideration of the key documents, plans and strategies relating to the long term future of Harrow's town centre, and its district centres, in the light of issues relating to economic, environmental, social and human sustainability.</p> <p>Using an understanding of the current situation to focus on issues relating to long-term planning and future-proofing (sustainability), with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relationships with partners (such as the PCT and the Police)</li><li>• Provision of key public services by these bodies</li><li>• Relationships with the public (on the basis of the responses to the LDF consultation exercise)</li><li>• Public realm improvements</li><li>• Future issues relating to transportation</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mix of uses (eg business, leisure, residential) of the town centre and district centres</li> <li>• Skills, learning and employment</li> <li>• Climate change</li> <li>• Energy use</li> </ul>
7	<b>SERVICE PRIORITIES (Corporate/Dept)</b>	Council's overall vision, with a focus on the town and district centres as set out in the LDF Core Strategy
8	<b>REVIEW SPONSOR</b>	Michael Lockwood, Chief Executive
9	<b>ACCOUNTABLE MANAGER</b>	Lynne McAdam, Service Manager, Scrutiny
10	<b>SUPPORT OFFICER</b>	Ed Hammond, Scrutiny Officer
11	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT</b>	Layla Davidson, Project Research and Support Officer
12	<b>OTHER INPUT</b>	<p>Other council departments</p> <p>Local people</p> <p>Local businesses and voluntary groups</p> <p>Harrow in Business</p> <p>Harrow Agenda 21</p> <p>London Development Agency</p> <p>English Partnerships</p> <p>Transport for London</p> <p>Greater London Authority</p> <p>Other bodies and organisations able to provide best practice information, including other local authorities</p>
13	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<p>The project will be divided into three streams.</p> <p><i>Stream 1: Strategy</i> This stream will run for the full term of the project, and will examine the current situation, relationships with partners, the core strategy, and public realm improvements.</p> <p><i>Stream 2: Economic, social and human sustainability</i> This stream will consider sustainability in respect of long-term economic planning, skills development, Harrow's "unique selling points", and the mix of uses of the town centre and district centres. It will also consider issues relating to public service provision and skills development.</p> <p><i>Stream 3: Environmental sustainability</i> <i>This stream will look at climate change, energy use, energy efficiency and energy production.</i></p> <p>Each stream will produce an interim report, which will be</p>

		<p>considered at a round table meeting of a number of key interested parties. Following this, the final report will be prepared and submitted for approval.</p> <p><u>Site visits</u> - There will be a number of site visits, which will cut across the three streams. Site visits are planned for Stevenage, Uxbridge, Wycombe and Luton, and potentially an overseas visit. This will feed into the rest of the review in October.</p>
14	<b>EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS</b>	Due consideration will be given to these issues.
15	<b>ASSUMPTIONS/ CONSTRAINTS</b>	<p>The project will require a long-term commitment from members and officers.</p> <p>Success will depend upon the ability and willingness of partners, and stakeholders in to become involved in the review.</p>
16	<b>SECTION 17 IMPLICATIONS</b>	There are design issues relating to crime prevention in terms of the public realm improvements. These will be examined as part of Stream 2, below.
17	<b>TIMESCALE</b>	<p>Stream 1: March – September 2008  Stream 2: April – September 2008  Stream 3: April – September 2008</p> <p>Site visits: March – June 2008</p> <p>Interim report: early September, to be submitted at that point to the LDF Panel and for consideration by Cabinet.</p> <p>Round table: w/c 27 October 2008  Report to O&amp;S: February 2009</p> <p>Report to Cabinet in March 2009</p>
18	<b>RESOURCE COMMITMENTS</b>	<p>To be met mainly from the existing scrutiny budget. No significant additional expenditure is expected.</p> <p>The overseas site visit will incur a cost which it has been agreed will be borne corporately.</p>
19	<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Ed Hammond, with review group.
20	<b>SCRUTINY PRINCIPLES</b>	Feasibility study undertaken in October 2007 assured compliance with the Principles. The project is proceeding much as envisaged in the study.
21	<b>REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS</b>	<p>Outline of formal reporting process:</p> <p>To Portfolio Holder [ ] December 2008  To CMT [ ] n/a.  To Cabinet [ ] March 2009</p>

22	<b>MONITORING ARRANGEMENT S</b>	To be agreed between group and officers after the completion of the review, depending upon the nature of the recommendations.

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