

Harrow Strategic Partnership  
Board Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2008  
Partnership Governance



**The Board are asked to**

Approve the new structural arrangements as set out in the attached Governance Handbook which sets out the formal interaction between the proposed new Partnership bodies.

**Background**

Proposals for restructuring the partnership have been discussed at various meetings over the last nine months. The drivers for change have been the forthcoming introduction of the Comprehensive Area Assessment; the outcomes of the IDeA Peer Review undertaken late last year which identified duplication within our structures and limited reach of the existing Partnership; and partners' own conclusions that we could achieve more with a streamlined organisation.

At the last meeting, the basic shape of the proposals was outlined including expanding the board to include the voices of groups not currently represented and reducing the size and amending the remit of the current Executive to assist in identifying synergies in the delivery on public services. Since that meeting, discussions have continued around the names of the new bodies with the Partnership Assembly and Harrow Board as the current suggestions. There have also been discussions about the representativeness of the proposed Assembly with options put forward for increasing representation from seldom heard communities. On balance, however, the proposal has remained for an Assembly composed of representatives from organisations and groups that work with and for all of the communities in Harrow.

In order to involve a larger number of people, however, it is proposed to enhance the existing Summit arrangement, which has previously attracted some 70 or 80 participants to a once a year ad hoc meeting, by making it a formal part of the Partnership structure with biannual meetings for a larger number of people.

At the same time, there have been discussions about the size and role of the proposed Harrow Board. The indicative work programme presented to the last meeting provided a rationale for a heavily public sector orientated membership but it is now suggested that the voluntary and community sector and the business sector should also be involved.

The arrangements proposed should be subject to a review in the summer of 2009 with the option of amendment if necessary.

Tom Whiting  
Assistant Chief Executive