

# LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

## CABINET

THURSDAY 23 OCTOBER 2008

### Scrutiny Work Programme and Feasibility Reports

#### Reference from the meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 7 October 2008

1. Members considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive which set out the feasibility reports on the projects which were identified as priorities as part of the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2009/10. The Scrutiny Manager stated that there was scope to include projects during 2008/10, however the Work Programme required submission to Council.
2. Some Members asked whether there was need to carry out a Challenge Panel on Council Communications, given that the presentation received that evening from the Council's Head of Communication on this subject had shown that 59 of the 63 Indicators/Contract Objectives had been met. A Member commented on the reasons why a Scrutiny Challenge Panel would be helpful, noting there appeared to be dissatisfaction in the way the Council communicated key messages to its residents, of which education was a key aspect. Another Member also commented that dissatisfaction could be due to the setting of wrong indicators.
3. The Scrutiny Manager advised that the focus of the Challenge Panel on Council Communications would be as follows:-
  - how effectively the outcomes of the 'Hear Say' Review had been implemented;
  - best practice in addressing Fear of Crime;
  - how 'difficult' messages ought to be communicated.
4. Another Member commented on the limited Councillor resources available and the need to ensure that the programme was not overloaded to ensure that the reviews conducted were robust. He was of the view that two of the five reviews, namely Promoting Sustainability and the Adult and Housing Transformation Programme Action Plan, were crucial and should be accorded high priority. It was felt that a review on Wealdstone could be delayed due to external factors. It was noted that out of the five reviews, feasibility reports had been produced in respect of four of the five reviews. The Scrutiny Manager assured the Committee that there were no issues regarding the funding arrangements for staffing within the Scrutiny Team.
5. Members were also informed that once the Voluntary Sector Review had been finalised, staff would concentrate on the Review of the Budget.

**RESOLVED:** That (1) the feasibility reports on 'Promoting Sustainability', 'Adults and Housing Transformation Programme Action Plan', 'Council Communications' and 'A New Start for Wealdstone' be agreed;

(2) the projects for 2009/10 be undertaken in the priority order set out at Appendix 1 to these minutes;

**(3) the report be referred to Cabinet for comment on the areas for consideration, the feasibility of the projects and their timing;**

(4) Members be invited to volunteer for Chairmanships for each of the Projects.

(See also Recommendation I)

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### Background Documents:

Report considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Draft Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 October 2008.

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### **2008 – Projects**

- Standing Review of the Budget
- Standing Review of NHS Finances
- Extended Schools Light Touch Review
- Care Matters – Time for Change Challenge Panel.

### **2009/10 – Projects (in order of priority)**

- Promoting Sustainability – In-Depth Review
- Adults and Housing Transformation Programme Action Plan – Standing Review
- Council Communications – Challenge Panel
- A new start for Wealdstone – Challenge Panel in Spring 2009 at the earliest and subject to slippage
- Development of a Children’s Trust Model.

### **Reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

- Legionella compliance
- Criminal Records Bureau checks for foreign employers
- Place Shaping
- Tenants Rights to Manage.

### **Reports to Performance and Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee**

- Performance of the Kier contract – Housing Repairs
- Major Building Projects
- Accord MP – Review
- Obesity – Review.

### **Matters for Lead Scrutiny Members**

- Extent and Quality of Individual Performance Appraisal and Development (IPAD) – Lead Scrutiny Members for Corporate Effectiveness and Finance
- Workforce Development – Lead Scrutiny Members for Corporate Effectiveness and Finance
- Asbestos Control – Lead Scrutiny Members for Sustainable Development and Enterprise
- Blue Badges/Disabled Badges – Lead Scrutiny Members for Adult Health and Social Care.