

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	13 January 2004
Subject:	Budget Consultation – Public Meeting
Key decision:	No
Responsible Chief Officer:	Chief Executive
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Sanjay Dighe
Status:	Part 1
Ward:	All
Enclosures:	None

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Members to consider holding a separate public meeting as part of the consultation process for the draft 2004/05 budget.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 **Members are asked to consider the proposals in paragraph 7**

Reason: To assist the consultation process

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

- 3.1 None

4. **Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)**

- 4.1 Cabinet previously agreed the budget consultation process in September 2003.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 Setting a lawful budget is a statutory responsibility of a local authority.

6. **Background Information**

- 6.1 The December Cabinet meeting was well attended by members of the public. It was clear that the formal nature of the Cabinet meeting left many people feeling that they were not able to ask questions or put their point of view across. The agreed consultation process made no provision for a public consultation meeting although there is a stakeholder meeting on 29 January and a consultation document is in wide circulation via the Harrow People and public libraries with a closing date of 6 February.

7. **The Proposal**

- 7.1 It is proposed that a public consultation meeting be held on Tuesday 27 January and that a person chairs the meeting who is independent of the Council. The suggested venue and Chair will be notified to members at the meeting.
- 7.2 Members may wish to consider if all members of Cabinet should be invited to join the panel for the meeting or alternatively if they wish to have a smaller number i.e. Leader and Deputy Leader or nominees, of each political party. For this purpose independent members do not form a political party.

8. **Finance Observations**

- 8.1 There is no budget for this additional meeting; any costs incurred can be met from within existing budgets.

9. **Legal Observations**

- 9.1 None

10. **Author**

- 10.1 Joyce Markham, Chief Executive - extension 2183.