

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	15 January 2009
Subject:	Timetable for the Preparation and Consideration of the Statutory Plans and Strategies 2008/09 - Variation
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Hugh Peart, Director of Legal and Governance Services
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr David Ashton, Leader and Strategy, Partnership and Finance Portfolio Holder
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	None

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

On 15 May 2008, Cabinet agreed the timetable for preparation and consideration of the statutory plans. There is now a need to vary the timetable in respect of one plan, the Development Plan.

Recommendations:

That the timetable for the preparation and consideration of the

- 1) Development Plan be varied as set out in paragraph 2.1.6; and
- 2) Sustainable Community Strategy be varied as set out in paragraph 2.1.7.

Reason: (For recommendation)

Cabinet have previously agreed the timetable in order to comply with the requirements of paragraph 3 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules set out in Section 4C of the Council's Constitution. It is therefore necessary to seek Cabinet's agreement to vary the timetable.

Section 2 – Report

2.1 Background

2.1.1 The Council's Constitution sets out the process for the development of the policy framework at paragraph 3 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules. In accordance with the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, the approval of the Development Plan is reserved to the Council.

2.1.2 The Constitution requires the Executive to determine, at the start of each Municipal Year, a timetable for the preparation and consideration of the statutory plans and strategies that are required to be made in that year. On 15 May 2008, Cabinet agreed the timetable for preparation and consideration of the statutory plans. The timetable showed the meeting of the Executive, which it was expected that the Plan or Strategy will be agreed for recommendation to Council, the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to which the matter is to be referred and the date of the Council meeting at which the recommendation will be considered.

2.1.3 Cabinet agreed the following timetable for the Development Plan:-

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 7 January 2009
- Cabinet – 15 January 2009
- Council – to be confirmed

On 13 November 2008, Cabinet agreed to revise to the timetable for the Sustainable Community Strategy as follows:-

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 9th December 2008
Cabinet – 15 January 2009
Council – 19 February 2009

2.1.4 The main reasons for the change in Core Strategy DPD reporting timetable is detailed in the Local Development Scheme – 2008 Revision report (also reported to Cabinet on 18 December 2008) and are summarised as:

- To allow more time to prepare a robust evidence base for the Core Strategy and ensure the Council stands the best possible chance of the Core Strategy being found sound by the planning inspectorate at an examination in public and avoid unnecessary delays in the adoption of the Core Strategy.
- To ensure the LDS accurately reflects the key milestones and delivery targets for development plan documents (such as the Joint Waste DPD and Core Strategy DPD).
- To ensure interim design guidance is developed to help manage development pressure on Harrow Town Centre, whilst the LDF core strategy is being prepared for submission to the Secretary of State.
- To ensure the Council receives the maximum possible amount of funds from the Government through the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant for the plan-making, by having an up to date Local Development Scheme.

2.1.5 The timetable for the development of the Sustainable Community Strategy needs to include an adequate period for public consultation prior to the Strategy's presentation to Cabinet in March 2009 and Council in April 2009. Although the scenario and summit processes that have identified the themes and priorities have themselves constituted public consultation in setting the parameters of the

Strategy, the final balance between priorities and the overall direction for the Borough need to be checked against public opinion before they can be endorsed.

The Sustainable Community Strategy forms the keystone of the Area Assessment element of the Comprehensive Area Assessment and one which needs to demonstrate that its themes have been derived from significant public engagement. The development of the strategy also provides an opportunity to contribute to satisfying the Council's Duty to Involve through further consultation and engagement.

2.1.6 Cabinet are asked to approve the following variation to the timetable for the consideration of the Development Plan:-

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee – date to be confirmed, planned for second half of 2009
- Cabinet – date to be confirmed, planned for second half of 2009
- Council – date to be confirmed, planned for second half of 2009

The dates will be included in the report on the timetable for statutory plans which is submitted to Cabinet for consideration each May.

2.1.7 Cabinet are asked to approve the following variation to the timetable for the consideration of the Sustainable Community Strategy:-

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 16 March 2009
Cabinet – 26 March 2009
Council – 2 April 2009

Options

Cabinet are asked to vary the timetable for this plan, which forms part of the budget and policy framework. Cabinet could decide to set an alternative timetable for the consideration of this plan. However, it would need to be in accordance with the Local Development Scheme being submitted for approval by both GOL and GLA for when planning documents will be prepared.

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Financial Implications

None

Performance Issues

The refreshed Sustainable Community Plan will be a key document for the new Comprehensive Area Assessment as it will describe the Partnership's understanding of the issues concerning the people of Harrow and, through the Local Area Agreement and other delivery strategies, the way in which the Council and its Partners are working together to address these concerns. The Area aspect of the CAA judgement will rest heavily on the relevance and completeness of the refreshed Plan and it is therefore important to take the time needed to prepare the document properly.

The delay from the original timetable will not adversely affect performance against the CAA or any other measure and there is no statutory requirement to refresh the Plan at all or by any particular date.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Myfanwy Barrett



Chief Financial Officer

Date: 11 December 2008

Name: Hugh Peart



Monitoring Officer

Date: 11 December 2009

Section 4 – Performance Officer Clearance

Name: Mike Howes



On behalf of
Divisional Director
(Strategy and Improvement)

Date: 6 January 2009

Section 5 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Alison Atherton, Senior Professional Democratic Services (Cabinet)
Tel:020 8424 1266 or ext 2266 email:alison.atherton@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

The Council's Constitution

Cabinet – 15 May 2008 - approved the timetable for the preparation and consideration of statutory plans 2008/9

Cabinet – 13 November 2008 – approved a variation to the timetable for the consideration of the Sustainable Community Strategy