

HARROW COUNCIL

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| Meeting: | Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
| Date: | 3 February 2004 |
| Subject: | Consultation on the draft Community Strategy For Harrow |
| Key decision: | No |
| Responsible Chief Officer: | Jill Rothwell, Executive Director (Organisational Development) |
| Relevant Portfolio Holder: | Cllr N. Shah, Property and Partnership |
| Status: | Part I |
| Ward: | All |
| Enclosures: | Appendix 1- Initial Outcome of Phase 1 of Public Consultation on the draft Community Strategy For Harrow. |

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This paper updates the Committee on the process of consultation on the draft Community Strategy for Harrow, which is being developed by the Harrow Strategic Partnership and the main issues raised through the public consultation undertaken up to December 2003.

2. **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the consultation process so far and the early results received.

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

- 3.1 None

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

- 4.1 The local authority has a statutory responsibility under the Local Government Act 2000 to develop a Community Strategy in consultation with local partners.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 The draft Community Strategy For Harrow reflects all of the Council's corporate priorities.

6. **Background Information and options considered**

- 6.1 The stages of consultation are identified below:

First Phase- Interactive Consultation: 13 November 2003 – 17 December 2003

This was conducted based on the draft Community Strategy which included:

- Partnership priorities already identified in existing strategic documents and being addressed through joint working
- Initial data from the mapping of Harrow indicators through the Harrow Vitality Profile

Interactive consultation was then undertaken to determine what work should be done in the future to further address the priorities. This is being done using four mechanisms:

- a) Questionnaire
- b) Focus Groups
- c) Existing Meetings
- d) Newsletters

a). Questionnaire (reaching partners and residents)

The questionnaire was used in conjunction with mechanisms b) – d). It has been posted on the Harrow Live Website and sent out separately to the HSP database and to people who had specifically asked to receive information about the Community Strategy.

b). Focus Groups (reaching partners and residents)

The Focus Groups were held as follows:

- Thursday 27 November, Belmont Community Hall (HA7 & HA8)
- Thursday 4 December, Harrow Civic Centre (HA1 & HA3)
- Wednesday 10 December, Northolt Road Hall (HA2 & HA5)

Meetings were held at 3.30pm – 5.30pm and repeated at 6.30pm – 8.30pm at each venue.

Members of the Harrow Strategic Partnership (HSP) Executive attended each session to give a short presentation about the development of the Draft Community Strategy and the Harrow Strategic Partnership. Total attendance was in the region of 80.

c). Existing meetings (reaching partners)

A number of meetings are held across the Borough that discuss issues relevant to the Community Strategy and the future of the Borough. Co-ordinators of these meetings were approached to include an agenda item about the Draft Community. The consultation questionnaire was also made available to people who attended these meetings.

d). Newsletters

A special edition of Partnership News focusing on the Community Strategy was produced which also contained the consultation questionnaire. In addition articles were placed in partners' newsletters.

6.2 Reaching as wide a range of people as possible

The consultation programme was advertised using:

- HSP database including 900 organisations, partners and Members
- The Harrow Live website
- The local press for 2 weeks running
- Partnership News
- Community notice boards
- Partners' newsletters
- Database of people who have expressed an interest in receiving further information about the Community Strategy and participating in consultation
- Places of Worship
- Schools

Second Phase of Public Consultation

Written consultation on the Second Draft will take place 2 February 2004 – 27 February 2004 via copies being made available for comment in libraries, schools and via the Harrow Live website. Copies will be sent to those people who have participated in the interactive consultation programme and request the second draft. The January 2004 edition of Harrow People will report on consultation to date and provide another opportunity for people to comment on the priorities within the draft document.

6.3 Summary of issues raised during the consultation to date

The information received up to 17 December, which was the end of the first phase of the public consultation, are attached as appendix 1. These will be incorporated in the second draft of the Strategy, for consideration by the HSP Board and Executive.

6.4 Prioritising

At the 26 January meeting of the Board and Executive, the issues raised during the consultation period will be presented. The HSP Executive and Board will then need to prioritise the range of issues arising through the consultation and devise which will be included in the Second Draft.

7. Consultation

7.1 The consultation arrangement have been detailed above.

8. Finance Observations

8.1 None

9. Legal Observations

9.1 Included in report

10. Conclusion

10.1 Public consultation is an integral part of the development of the Community Strategy for Harrow and efforts have been made to ensure that as many stakeholders, partners and residents have been engaged in the process.

11. Background Papers

11.1 Background papers on the HSP and guidance on developing Community Strategies are available from the author of this report.

12. **Author**

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Appendix 1- Initial Outcome of Phase 1 of Public Consultation on the draft Community Strategy For Harrow

Appendix 1- Overview and Scrutiny

Initial Results of Phase 1 Consultation on the Draft Community Strategy For Harrow

December 2003

| AREA | EMERGING ISSUES |
|----------------------------|---|
| Children & Young People | More clubs, leisure and exercise opportunities for young people |
| Community Cohesion | Increased support to voluntary groups including enhanced communication mechanisms and community development resources Services to support Harrow's refugee communities |
| Greener Harrow | Employ park wardens to make parks safe and suffer from less vandalism Provide more trees and plants and a replacement program Continue development and extension of recycling programmes Focus on cleaning streets and educating residents and businesses to dispose of litter properly A range of transport issues |
| Healthy Harrow | Develop and promote opportunities for leisure to improve health |
| Learning For All | Extend library open hours Provide more non-vocational adult education course Use schools during the evenings and holidays for training course |
| Making ICT Work for Harrow | Provide computers in libraries and schools Development of a community website Develop information sharing protocols Support to voluntary sector to procure ICT and help with IT problems |
| Regenerating Harrow | Increase the amount of affordable housing in the borough Support to businesses e.g. business units, and develop plans for secondary shopping/business areas and links to initiatives in neighbouring boroughs e.g. Wembley, Heathrow |
| Safer Harrow | Increase the number of police on the streets |