

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

CABINET

26 MARCH 2009

REFERENCE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16 MARCH 2009

Draft Sustainable Community Strategy:

In accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, this item was admitted late to the agenda to enable consideration of the report prior to its consideration by Cabinet on 26 March 2009. A paper setting out the responses to the consultation together with officer comments and recommendations about the inclusion of the comments was tabled at the meeting. This was not available at the time the agenda was despatched as the end of the consultation period was after its despatch. Officers also needed to give consideration to the comments received from the consultation before making their recommendations.

An officer introduced the draft Sustainable Community Strategy and referred to the paper tabled at the meeting. He added that from the 161 comments received, 56 had been taken on board by officers and would be recommended to Cabinet.

The officer described the level of consultation carried out and was pleased to report that more interest had been received in the draft Strategy than in previous years.

A Member asked questions about the link between the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 and whether the Strategy was driven by the Act. He asked whether any attempt had been made to link submission of proposals required by the Act with the Strategy. Another Member questioned the number of penalties issued by the Council for littering.

In response, the officer stated that the Strategy and the Act were not directly linked, but the Council should have regard to the Strategy in considering whether to forward submissions under the Act to the Local Government Association.

In relation to the question on penalties issued for littering, the officer undertook to make enquiries and respond to Members. He noted that the penalties issued might require publicity.

Members sought clarification on some of the many actions recommended in the paper tabled at the meeting. In relation to Wealdstone Town Centre, officers were recommending that the Strategy did not require amending further. A great deal of energy had been spent recently in re-opening Wealdstone High Street to 2-way traffic to increase passing trade for shops and there was no capacity at present for further regeneration. The comment that Wealdstone needed investment in attracting small businesses was considered to be an unrealistic aspiration in the current economic climate.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

FOR INFORMATION

Background Documents:

Report considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the draft minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 March 2009.

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