

## LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

<b>Meeting:</b>	Unitary Development Plan Advisory Panel
<b>Date:</b>	18th March 2004
<b>Subject:</b>	Planning Policy Statement (PPS6): Planning for Town Centres
<b>Key Decision:</b>	No
<b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>	Chief Planning Officer
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder:</b>	Planning, Development, Housing and Best Value
<b>Status:</b>	Public
<b>Ward:</b>	All
<b>Enclosures:</b>	None

### 1. Summary

- 1.1 The proposal to replace PPG6 with a new Planning Policy Statement PPS6 forms part of a wider Government wider agenda to modernise the Planning System. The consultation draft broadly follows the principles established in PPG6 and does not therefore raise any fundamental issues. However the requirement imposed on local planning authorities in relation to additional research and information needs will stretch existing resources unless extra help is provided by central government.

### 2. Recommendation (for decision by Cabinet)

2.1 The Panel is recommended to:

- (i) Agree the comments, in appendices (A), as the Council's response to the Government consultation on revised PPS6
- and
- (ii) Authorise officers to forward these comments as the Council's response to the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

REASON: As set out at paragraph 4.

NB It is proposed that, as the next Cabinet meeting after 18<sup>th</sup> March will not take place until the 20<sup>th</sup> April, the above recommendations be processed via the urgency procedure to ensure that the Panel's comments can be forwarded to the ODPM as soon as possible.

### 3. Consultation with Ward Councillors

3.1 None

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

- 4.1 As part of the Government's proposals to modernise the planning system all Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) notes are to be replaced with Planning Policy Statements (PPS). The new draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS6): Planning for Town Centres, is one of these.

Comments are invited by 15 March 2004 and Government would welcome views on whether:

- there are any further elements of PPG6 that should have been included in PPS6
- anything in the draft policy statement is unclear, or would present difficulties in practice
- separate guidance on any other aspects of the planning policies in PPS6 would assist in the implementation of these policies.

#### **5. Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 The new PPS will inform on a key aspect of the Council's attempt to enhance the environment of Harrow and help develop a prosperous and sustainable economy. It is hoped that the policy framework to be developed as part of the LDF will benefit from this new guidance.

#### **6. Background Information and Options Considered**

- 6.1 See Appendix

#### **7 Consultation**

- 7.1 None

#### **8. Finance Observations**

- 8.1 Any additional costs arising from the Government's proposals will be reported to a future meeting.

#### **9. Legal Observations**

- 9.1 None

#### **10. Conclusion**

- 10.1 A Council's response on draft PPS6 is set out in the appendix to the report and will be submitted, with any changes agreed at the Panel, to the ODPM.

#### **11. Background Papers**

- 11.1 Draft Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres.

#### **12. Author**

- 12.1 Dr. Charles Alonge – 020 8424 1461