

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	20 April 2004
Subject:	Approval of the Community Strategy For Harrow
Key decision:	Yes
Responsible Chief Officer:	Jill Rothwell, Executive Director (Organisational Development)
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Cllr N. Shah, Property and Partnership
Status:	Public
Ward:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1- Community Strategy For Harrow (see Supplemental Supporting Documents pack) Appendix 2- Report to Overview & Scrutiny on 27 January, outlining consultation process for the Community Strategy for Harrow

1. Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)

- 1.1 Cabinet is presented with the final draft of the Community Strategy for Harrow ('the strategy'). This strategy (appendix 1) has been produced by the Harrow Strategic Partnership (HSP) and has been subject to extensive consultation with residents and stakeholders. The document will officially be launched at the HSP Summit of 19 May 2004.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet endorses the Community Strategy for Harrow for approval by Council

REASON: The strategy is the overarching strategy for the borough and articulates the priorities of Harrow's communities as well as the work being done by partners to address those priorities.

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

3.1 None

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

4.1 The strategy should inform the future key policies and strategies developed by partner organisations.

4.2 Overview & Scrutiny 3 February 2004, minutes 142. Overview and Scrutiny noted the consultation process on the Community Strategy and the outcomes for consultation at that point. They also noted that the next draft of the Strategy would be presented to the Strengthening Communities sub committee of 30 March.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

5.1 The Community Strategy For Harrow addresses all of the council's corporate priorities.

6. **Background Information and options considered**

6.1 Overview and Scrutiny were presented with the last draft of the Strategy and noted that the final version would be sent to the Strengthening Communities sub committee on 30 March for their consideration. The strategy is due to be presented for approval to full Council on the 29 April.

6.2 The strategy has been developed using the priorities of the key agencies in Harrow from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors. Wide consultation has been undertaken with the public, partners and the voluntary and community sector and the outcomes of consultation used to inform the strategy. The Community Strategy for Harrow will be implemented, monitored and reviewed annually by the Board of the HSP.

6.3 The strategy is an indication of the current position of the borough and the priorities that each agency is addressing. It is not intended to be an 'action planning' document containing targets- as these targets are best located in the individual plans of each agency.

6.4 A document is being developed which will identify the longer term planning that the HSP will do in order to address the needs of specific parts of the borough and will build on the work commenced by the Harrow Vitality Profile. The work resulting from this document will also be a tool for partners to plan services in the context of economic, social and demographic changes in the borough over the next 10 years. The intention is that this piece of work will clearly demonstrate the added value of partnership working in the borough.

7. **Consultation**

7.1 Appendix 2 is a report sent to Overview & Scrutiny on 27 January and details the consultation arrangements, which are re-iterated below. The report to Overview and Scrutiny itself contains as an appendix, some of the issues raised during consultation.

7.2 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. Coordinators 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 took place 2 February 2004 – 27 February 2004 via copies being made available for comment in libraries, schools and via the Harrow Live website. Copies were sent to those people who had participated in the interactive consultation programme and request the second draft. The January 2004 edition of Harrow People reported on consultation to date and provided another opportunity for people to comment on the priorities within the draft document.

8. **Finance Observations**

- 8.1 Any costs associated with the production of the Community Strategy will be contained within existing budgets

9. **Legal Observations**

- 9.1 The council has a statutory responsibility under the Local Government Act 2000 to develop a Community Strategy in partnership with local agencies.

10. **Conclusion**

The Community Strategy for Harrow allows the co-ordination of partners' activities to address statutory priorities and exiting plans. It reflects issues that have been identified as important to local residents and stakeholders and is therefore a vital document for the borough.

11. **Background Papers**

- 11.1 Background papers on the HSP and guidance on developing Community Strategies are available from the author of this report. Information on the Harrow Vitality Profile is available from Ian C. Brown, acting Director of Strategy, Urban Living.

12. **Author**

- 12.1 Bindu Arjoon, Manager, Strategic Partnership Section
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LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Agenda item:

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Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	27 January 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:	Public
Ward:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix 1- Initial Outcome of Phase 1 of Public Consultation on the draft Community Strategy For Harrow.

2. Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)

2.1 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.

REASON: Guidance on the development of the Community Strategy indicates that it should be a document that articulates the needs of residents.

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

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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 stakeholder, 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