

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date:	28 January 2010
Subject:	Scrutiny Lead Members Report
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director, Partnership Development and Performance.
Scrutiny Lead Member area:	All Areas
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Lead members' reports for Sustainable Development and Enterprise (Appendix A), Adult Health and Social Care with Children and Young People (Appendix B) Safer and Stronger Communities (Appendix C)

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the items that have been considered by the scrutiny policy and performance leads at their quarterly briefings, and details the recommendations they would like the committee to consider with regard to further action/escalation.

Recommendation:

The Committee is requested to:

- consider the report from the Scrutiny policy and performance leads and
- agree recommendations as included therein.

Section 2 – Report

Background

This report records the outcomes of quarterly briefings of scrutiny lead policy and performance councillors and seeks the endorsement of committee of the action proposed. Individual reports have been included in this report for:

- Sustainable Development and Enterprise
- Adult Health and Social Care with Children and Young People
- Safer and Stronger Communities

No meetings have taken place since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny committee for:

- Corporate Effectiveness

Financial Implications

Any costs arising from the recommendations will be contained from existing budgets.

Performance Issues

There are no performance considerations specific to this report. Where specific projects are escalated for more detailed consideration in the scrutiny process, specific performance implications of these projects will be considered during the scoping process.

Environmental Impact

Not applicable to this specific report.

Risk Management Implications

There are none specific to this report.

Corporate Priorities

Not applicable to this specific report.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Not applicable to this specific report.

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

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Background Papers:

Sustainable Development and Enterprise

- Strategic Performance Report, Quarter 1, Cabinet, 22 October 2009; available at:
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=249&MId=4618&J=3#A162490>
- Local Development Framework Preferred Option Document, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 12 October 2009; available at:
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=276&MId=4685&Ver=4&J=6n>
- A New Plan for London – Proposals for the Mayor’s London Plan, Local Development Framework Panel, 29 July 2009; available at:
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=784&MId=60090&J=2>
- Mayor of London, Consultation on three Mayoral Strategies; available at:
<http://www.london.gov.uk/shaping-london/>

Adult Health and Social Care with Children and Young People

- NWL London Children’s Cancer Services Briefing, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 3 November 2009; available at:
<http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=276&MId=4686&J=2>

Appendix A – Sustainable Development and Enterprise Lead Members Quarterly Briefing

The Lead Members met on 18 November 2009.

Meeting attendees:

Councillor Jerry Miles, Policy Lead Member Sustainable Development and Enterprise

Councillor Dinesh Solanki, Performance Lead Member Sustainable Development and Enterprise

Heather Smith, Scrutiny Officer

Place shaping directorate

The Lead Members reviewed progress against the directorate's flagship actions and corporate projects. It was noted that the flagship action associated with the redevelopment of the town centre had been re-worded by Cabinet on 22 October to read:

Develop a planning framework to guide the redevelopment and rejuvenation of Harrow town centre, Wealdstone and the Station Road corridor.

The scope of the town centre design guide will also change, to include the whole of the proposed 'Intensification Area' – including Wealdstone – meaning that there will not be a separate planning brief for Wealdstone.

Housing

It was noted that CLG has been consulting on the future of the Housing Revenue Account and that a challenge panel took place recently to enable scrutiny to contribute the council's response.

Sustainability

The third strand of the scrutiny review will be taking place in the New Year. It will focus on the impact of the recession on local residents and how local organisations are providing support.

Pan-London Mayoral Strategies

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, has published three interlinked strategy documents that are now open to public consultation.¹ These are:

- The London Plan
- Transport Strategy
- Economic Development Strategy

London Plan

The London Plan is the overall strategic development plan for the capital, and sets out an integrated economic, social, environmental and transport policy framework for London until 2031. Strategic planning in London is the shared

¹ The strategies are available online at <http://www.london.gov.uk/shaping-london>. The press release is available at http://www.london.gov.uk/view_press_release.jsp?releaseid=23919.

responsibility of the Mayor of London, 32 London boroughs and the Corporation of the City of London. Under the legislation establishing the Greater London Authority (GLA), the Mayor has to produce a spatial development strategy (SDS) – ‘the London Plan’ – and to keep it under review.

The vision espoused in the plan states that “Over the years to 2031 – and beyond, London should: excel among global cities – expanding opportunities for all its people and enterprises, achieving the highest environmental standards and quality of life and leading the world in its approach to tackling the urban challenges of the 21st century, particularly that of climate change.”²

The vision is underpinned with six objectives, to ensure that London is:

- A city that meets the challenges of economic and population growth
- An internationally competitive and successful city
- A city of diverse, strong, secure and accessible neighbourhoods
- A city that becomes a world leader in improving the environment.
- A city where it is easy, safe and convenient for everyone to access jobs, opportunities and facilities

London local authorities’ Core Strategy’ documents must be “in conformity” with the Mayor’s London Plan. The Core Strategy is the Council’s top priority for the Local Development Framework (LDF). It provides the long-term spatial vision, strategic objectives and overarching policy framework to guide development and change within Harrow over the next 15 years and beyond and sets the context for all other LDF documents the Council intends to prepare.³

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a report on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy on 12 October. As reported to O&S, the key proposals and the likely implications of each for Harrow were the subject of a report to the LDF Panel meeting of 29 July 2009,⁴ along with the Council’s submission (as part of the West London Alliance) to the Outer London Commission.⁵ Having been considered by Cabinet and approved at Council, the preferred option for the Core Strategy is currently subject to further consultation.

The London Plan is open for public comment until 12 January 2010. The next stage will be an Examination in Public (EiP), to be held in the summer and autumn of 2010. The examination will be led by an independent panel that will review responses to the Plan and make recommendations to the Mayor. The Mayor sends the finalised version of the Plan to the Secretary of State, who must decide whether to direct any further changes. When this stage is completed, replacement London Plan will be published (expected in late 2011).

² London Plan, chapter 1, paragraph 1.50.

³ <http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=276&MId=4685&Ver=4&J=6>

⁴ <http://www.harrow.gov.uk/www2/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=784&MId=60090&J=2>

⁵ The Mayor of London established the Outer London Commission (OLC) to advise how Outer London can play its full part in the city’s economic success. The role of the commission is to review the opportunities to improve the economy, quality of life and transport in Outer London. <http://www.london.gov.uk/olc/about/index.jsp>

Transport Strategy

The draft Mayor's Transport Strategy (MTS) sets out the Mayor's vision for transport in London over the next 20 years, and describes how Transport for London and its partners, including the London boroughs, will deliver that vision. The legislative framework for the MTS is laid down by the GLA Act (1999) as amended by the GLA Act (2007). All London boroughs must formulate plans to implement the strategy in their areas and have regard to the MTS where relevant. The strategy applies to the transport of both people and goods. The Mayor's vision is that:

'London's transport system should excel among those of global cities, providing access to opportunities for all its people and enterprises, achieving the highest environmental standards and leading the world in its approach to tackling urban transport challenges of the 21st century.'⁶

The six goals the transport strategy seeks to achieve are:

- Support economic development and population growth
- Enhance the quality of life for all Londoners
- Improve the safety and security of all Londoners
- Improve transport opportunities for all Londoners
- Reduce transport's contribution to climate change, and improve its resilience
- Support delivery of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and its legacy⁷

It is a statutory requirement for each London borough to produce a Local Implementation Plan (LIP) to plan how they will implement the terms of the Mayor's Transport Strategy. The LIP also sets out the borough's priorities for transport over the next few years. Harrow's current Transport Local Implementation Plan runs from 2005/6 to 2010/11.

Consultation on the draft Mayor's Transport Strategy runs until January 2010 and the plan is expected to be published in spring 2010. Harrow has put together an initial response to London Councils on the MTS.

The guidance on the LIP is also currently subject to consultation by London Councils and Transport for London. Ideally consultation on this document would have taken place after the MTS but the consultations have been run concurrently. A response to TfL's consultation on the LIP guidance is also being prepared.

Economic Development Strategy

The Economic Development Strategy sets out the Mayor's ambitions for the economic development of the capital, providing an analysis of the economy and proposals for building London's economic future. The objectives of the plan are as follows:

⁶ MTS, 2.2 (para 32)

⁷ Mayor's Transport Strategy, section 1.1 (para 2)

- To promote London as a city that excels as a world capital of business.
- To ensure that London has the most competitive business environment in the world.
- To drive London's transition to a low carbon economy and to maximise the economic opportunities this will create.
- To give all Londoners the opportunity to take part in London's economic success, access sustainable employment and progress in their careers.
- To maximise the benefits to London from investment to support growth and regeneration, and from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games and its legacy.

The Economic Development Plan is open for comment until 12 January 2010. The final version is expected to be published in spring 2010. In July Harrow Council responded to the Mayor's initial consultation on the EDS. Any further response is unlikely to differ from the earlier comments made. It is advisable that the Council engages in any consultation on the forthcoming Investment Strategy from the London Development Agency. The LDA's Investment Strategy will determine how money is allocated against the Mayor's priorities.

Future meeting dates:

The Lead Members have decided that they will meet on an ad hoc basis for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

Recommendations:

The committee is requested to note the briefing.

Appendix B– Adult Health with Social Care Lead Members with Children and Young People Lead Members Report

The lead members met on 3 December 2009.

Meeting Attendees:

Councillor Vina Mithani, Policy Lead, Adult Health and Social Care
Councillor Margaret Davine, Policy Lead, Children and Young People
Sarah Crowther, Chief Executive, NHS Harrow
Fiona Bonas, Director, West London Cancer Network
Fola Beckley, Scrutiny Officer

Councillor Rekha Shah, Performance Lead, Adult Health and Social Care also met with Fiona Bonas on a separate occasion on 17 December 2009.

Reshaping of Children’s Cancer Services in North West London

Overview and Scrutiny meeting – 3 November 2009

At an Overview and Scrutiny committee meeting on 3 November 2009, the committee received a report on the proposals to reshape children’s cancer services in North West London (NWL). The plans to reshape children’s cancer services came about in order to comply with national cancer services guidance. Along with other North West London authorities, the committee was required to form a view on whether or not they felt formal consultation was required.

Following discussions at the meeting, it was concluded that further information was required in order to form an opinion on whether or not formal consultation was necessary. It was resolved that the Policy and Performance Lead Members for Children and Young People and/or the Policy and Performance Leads for Adult Health and Social Care should meet with representatives of the London Cancer Network and the NHS to discuss the proposals in more detail.

Children’s Cancer Services Meeting - 3 December 2009

At a meeting on 3 December the Children and Young People Policy Lead and the Adult Health and Social Care Policy lead met with Sarah Crowther (Chief Executive, NHS Harrow) and Fiona Bonas (Director, West London Cancer Network).

At the meeting the leads explained that much of their concern had arisen due to the lack of background information in the report. The leads expressed that they and the Overview and Scrutiny committee required further information as to how the decision to make Hillingdon Hospital the specialist centre was made and that there was a concern for commuting times for parents and carers who would have to travel to Hillingdon Hospital.

Fiona Bonas provided a brief introduction on the NWL Cancer Network and the statistics and cancer services in the borough and set out the following details:

- The primary treatment for children and young people with cancer is Great Ormond Street and care is directed by them and will continue to be directed by them.
- It was decided that 6 hospitals which offer paediatric oncology shared care services (POSCUs) in NWL with 5/6 children being seen each year was not the best use of resources and a better level of care could be provided in specialist centres so a decision to have 3 specialist units was taken.
- The 6 NWL POSCUs were then invited to tender for the position to become one of the 3 specialist units.
- The criteria which the hospitals needed to meet included 1) having the right infrastructure 2) having clinical nurse specialists 3) psychological support 4) having the finances to support the services and future plans etc. The main overall driver was quality.
- The decision for the specialist unit was made by a panel of specialists from Great Ormond Street who decided to go with Hillingdon Hospital as they presented a more coherent bid than Northwick Park Hospital (NPH).
- NPH failed on the basis that they didn't have the finances to support a specialist unit and when asked to provide a business case of how the financial challenges could be addressed, it wasn't provided. The hospital also failed on the basis that there is not a single dedicated unit, there are two units that were meant to be merged but have not been.

Hence, the proposals came about to have:

- Great Ormond Street - first port of call that determines the treatment pathway, discussing the individual children's cases on a weekly basis as is the case currently.
- Hillingdon Hospital - provide Level 1 service (in-patient beds)
- St Mary's - provide Level 2 with NPH (outpatient) as St Mary's have a good level of haematology (St Mary's clinicians will come to NPH) - This allayed councillors concerns over commuting for parents and patients.
- St Mary's and Hammersmith and Fulham will develop the teenage pathway as children grow and move into adulthood.

Further literature and information was also provided including:

- The bid put forward by Northwick Park Hospital
- The response to the bid from West London Cancer Trust
- The scoring matrix

Recommendation:

The Policy and Performance Lead Members for Children and Young People and the Policy and Performance Leads for Adult Health and Social Care felt that having been fully briefed on the case for change and the details to

reshape children's cancer services in NWL, they were happy to endorse the proposed plans to be implemented.

Appendix C – Safer and Stronger Communities Lead Members Report

The Safer and Stronger Communities lead members met on Thursday 5 November 2009.

Meeting attendees:

Councillor Anthony Seymour (Policy Scrutiny Lead Safer and Stronger Communities)

Councillor Nana Asante (Performance Scrutiny Lead Safer and Stronger Communities)

Ian Pearce, Crime Reduction Team Leader

Fola Beckley, Scrutiny Officer

Community Safety Update - Scrutiny of Crime and Disorder Matters – Under Sections 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006

The lead members received an update from the Crime Reduction Team Leader on the recently enforced statutory powers for local authorities to scrutinise Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships to ensure their accountability.

Discussions took place around the new protocols between CDRP partners and scrutiny, the opportunity for joint work and the way in which work programmes can be developed to add value to local decision-making. In order to increase police authority involvement in scrutiny work in local authorities, it has been advised that an MPA link member should receive a standing invitation to scrutiny meetings.

Discussions took place around how the duties under the Police and Justice Act can be implemented within the current scrutiny structure in Harrow.

The Crime Reduction Team Leader informed the lead members that he will keep them informed of any relevant training that is available.

The leads felt that in view of the new powers for scrutiny it may be necessary to address the statutory role of the Harrow Police Community Consultative Group (HPCCG) and explore if there are any overlaps.

Recommendations:

- I. Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider how we implement the new duties related to the Police and Justice Act within the current scrutiny structure.
- II. Scrutiny Officer to look into the statutory duties of the HPCCG.

Community engagement and empowerment in Harrow – Community Involvement Strategy

The Lead Members considered the progress and work underway in the council in respect of community engagement, consultation and empowerment as was discussed at the previous meeting.

A steering group has been set up to develop the strategy and it will now form a strand of the 'Better deal for residents' element of the Transformation Programme.

The 'Better deal for residents' programme will, in the first instance, include a review of how the council can deliver more integrated services to residents across all the public sector partners in the borough. It will focus on how the council can better align services with residents' needs, whilst being more cost effective.

Gypsy and Traveller Strategy

The lead members received an update on the progress of the development of the Gypsy and Traveller Strategy from the Scrutiny Officer. The council has yet to develop its Gypsy and Traveller Strategy.

The performance lead member gave a further briefing on a training session she attended on Gypsy and Travellers at the LGIU. The local authority is required to provide transit sites for Gypsy and Travellers and she learned that Gypsy and Travellers do not want to be accommodated in bricks and mortar. Romany Gypsies and Irish Travellers are legally recognised as ethnic groups, and protected from discrimination by the Race Relations Act (1976, amended 2000) and the Human Rights Act (1998).

The Equality and Human Rights Commission have also recently produced a briefing on the current situation for Gypsy and Travellers in the UK, entitled 'Gypsies and Travellers; simple solutions for living together'.

Recommendations:

- I. Scrutiny Officer to follow up on questions raised with regards to the briefing provided on the current developments around Gypsies and Travellers in time for the next leads meeting

- II. Lead members will continue to monitor the progress with regards to the development of a Harrow Gypsy and Traveller Strategy and to ensure that the council is meeting its obligations with regards to supporting Gypsy and Traveler communities.

Future Meeting

The lead members decided that they would hold their next quarterly meeting would be at the end of January 2010/ early February 2010, the exact date of the meeting will be set shortly.