

HARROW COUNCIL

CABINET – 18 MARCH 2010

REFERENCE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 23 FEBRUARY 2010

Final Report of Sustainability Review

The Committee received a report which set out the recommendations of the Sustainability Review which were due to be referred to Cabinet. It was explained that the review had been commissioned by the Overview and Scrutiny to explore how far the Council had progressed with incorporating sustainability into its objectives and priorities.

The Chairman queried how the Council and the Citizens Advice Bureau may be able to assist individuals that were struggling to pay their Council tax. A Member of the Review Group explained that when collecting Council tax, the Council had to adhere to statutory guidance and, to some extent, this limited the assistance the authority could provide. The biggest challenge facing Harrow's Citizens Advice Bureau was that its grant had been reduced at a time when its services were in high demand due to the recession.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the observations of the Scrutiny Review Group be noted;
- (2) the recommendations of the Scrutiny Review Group be noted and endorsed;
- (3) the report of the Scrutiny Review Group be referred to the meeting of Cabinet on 18 March 2010;**
- (4) the Overview and Scrutiny Committee continue the work of the sustainability review in the next municipal year by monitoring the effectiveness of current projects, plans and the longer-term impact of the recession.

Contact

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Background Papers:

Report considered by the Committee on 23 February 2010