

## HARROW COUNCIL

<b>Meeting:</b>	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee
<b>Date:</b>	27 September 2004
<b>Subject:</b>	Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
<b>Key decision:</b>	No
<b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>	Director of Organisational Performance
<b>Relevant Portfolio Holder:</b>	N/A
<b>Status:</b>	Part I
<b>Ward:</b>	N/A
<b>Enclosures:</b>	Appendix A – Draft Chair's contribution for the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee

### 1. **Summary**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny Sub-Committees agreed, in the last cycle of 2003/04, the process by which the 2003/04 annual report should be prepared and agreed for presentation to Council.
- 1.2 This process provided for a composite report to be produced which includes an overview of the work undertaken over the past year, supported by individual contributions from each of the scrutiny bodies. A draft Chair's contribution for this Sub-Committee is attached for Members' consideration.

### 2. **Recommendations (for the Sub-Committee)**

- 2.1 That the Sub-Committee approve the draft Chair's report of the Sub-Committee's work over the past year for inclusion in the 2003/04 scrutiny annual report.

### 3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

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

- 4.1 The annual report will address the requirement placed on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report to Council on the work done in the previous year and on its annual work programme for the forthcoming year.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

5.1 The work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its Sub-Committees seeks to support all of the Council's corporate and strategic priorities.

6. **Background Information and options considered**

6.1 N/A

7. **Consultation**

7.1 All of the Scrutiny Sub-Committees are being consulted on their particular draft Chair's report before the inclusion of the section in the full annual report, which will be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 October 2004.

8. **Finance Observations**

8.1 This report is not seeking additional financial resources.

9. **Legal Observations**

9.1 Article 6.03(d) of the Council Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will report annually to full Council on its workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amend working methods, if appropriate.

10. **Conclusion**

10.1 The Sub-Committee is requested approve the draft Chair's report of the Sub-Committee's work over the past year for inclusion in the 2003/04 scrutiny annual report.

11. **Background Papers**

11.1 None.

12. **Author**

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## Environment and Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee

### Overview of work undertaken

This year the Sub-Committee has continued to examine a wide range of issues, which have included:

- Conclusion of the Sub-Committee's work on the Review of Consultation for Transportation and Highway Schemes;
- Progress reports in relation to the implementation of Improvement Plans arising from specific Best Value Reviews, including monitoring of the Your Home, Your Needs Best Value Review and Action Plan and the Best Value Review of Planning Services;
- Monitoring the development of, and arrangements for, the Arms Length Management Organisation (ALMO);
- Examination of relationships with local transport providers, including the role of the bus and rail liaison committees;
- Consideration of the replacement UDP and referral of comments to Cabinet;
- A presentation on the LPSA targets.

### Key areas of impact

We are very pleased with our work on the review on Consultation for Transportation and Highway Schemes. The review was set up to identify and evaluate the effectiveness of current consultation procedures for CPZs with the objective of incorporating best practice and standardising consultation procedures where possible. As part of the review we met with a member of Queensbury Residents Association. The meeting was useful in testing our recommendations and giving us views of representatives of people affected by a scheme. Some helpful points were raised which impacted on the formulation of our recommendations. The relevant Portfolio Holder gave a response to the report to the Sub-Committee in March, and accepted 70% of the review group's recommendations. We feel that we have worked well with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport and have appreciated his willingness to engage in dialogue with us at our meetings about the way forward.

Although the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is taking the lead on the New Harrow Project, the public realm maintenance work stream is of particular relevance to this Sub-Committee. We are conscious of the cross-cutting themes. Working as part of the NHP review group, Sub-Committee Members have been able to forge links with local community and local business representatives and meet with the public to seek their views on 'clean and green' in their area. Community input was obtained when we talked to town centre users during the Community Strategy event held in February and surveyed Wealdstone shoppers during Wealdstone Active Community's Community Safety day held in March. Kenton Ward Councillors have also taken part in a small survey of their own residents.

### Key areas of planned work for 2004-05

The Sub-Committee is intending to conduct an in-depth review of waste management. The London Mayor published his Municipal Waste Management Strategy in September 2003. Having looked at waste management in the borough prior to the publication of the strategy, we have agreed to re-examine the issue in the light of the new strategy. When this review is completed the Sub-Committee intends to conduct a review of green belt management policy. We will also be looking at a range of other issues such as flooding, the review of private sector housing renewal grant policy and the set up of the ALMO.

Alan Blann

Chair, Environment and Economy Scrutiny Sub-Committee