

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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**Date of Meeting:** 8 September 2010

**Subject:** Scrutiny Lead Members Report

**Responsible Officer:** Alex Dewsnap, Divisional Director  
Partnership Development and  
Performance

**Scrutiny Lead  
Member area:** Sustainable development and  
enterprise – Councillors Sue Anderson  
and Stanley Sheinwald

**Exempt:** No

**Enclosures:** Report from the Scrutiny Lead  
Members – Sustainable development  
and enterprise

**Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations**

The report accompanies the report from the Scrutiny Lead Members.

**Recommendations:**

The Committee is requested to consider the report from the Scrutiny Lead Members and agree the actions proposed therein.

## **Section 2 – Report**

### **Introductory paragraph**

This report outlines the outcomes from the meetings held by the Sustainable Development and Enterprise scrutiny lead members in July 2010.

There are no reports from the other scrutiny lead members.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications associated with this report

### **Performance Issues**

There are no performance issues associated with this report.

### **Environmental Impact**

There is no environmental impact associated with this report

### **Risk Management Implications**

There are no risks associated with this report.

### **Corporate Priorities**

Please identify which corporate priority the report incorporates and how:

- Deliver cleaner safer streets
- Build stronger communities

## **Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance**

Not required for this report.

## **Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers**

**Contact:** Heather Smith, Scrutiny Officer, 020 8420 9203,  
[heather.smith@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:heather.smith@harrow.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:** None

## **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **SCRUTINY LEAD MEMBERS' REPORT: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENTERPRISE**

**Lead Members:** Councillors Sue Anderson and Stanley Sheinwald

#### **BRIEFING – PLACE SHAPING DIRECTORATE**

The lead members met on 26 July 2010.

#### **Attendees**

Councillor Sue Anderson, Scrutiny Lead Member

Councillor Stanley Sheinwald, Scrutiny Lead Member

Councillor Keith Ferry, Portfolio Holder, Planning, Development and Enterprise

Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar, Portfolio Holder, Property and Major Contracts

Andrew Trehern, Corporate Director, Place Shaping

Mark Billington, Head of Economic Development

Heather Smith, Scrutiny Officer

#### **Key Place Shaping issues**

The Corporate Director provided a briefing on the key issues for the directorate.

A Major Developments Panel has been established to give oversight of the development of the Harrow and Wealdstone Intensification Area and to ensure the effective management and development of the Council's spatial vision for the Intensification Area. Each of the Key Strategic Sites are to be reviewed over the course of the administration.

The Local Development Framework Core Strategy is scheduled for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 October. Announcements made by the new Coalition Government will have impacts on policy and process.

The Local Economic Assessment, a statutory requirement, is to be completed by 30 March 2011. The borough profile will feed into the West London sub regional assessment which will in turn inform the London Economic Assessment.

The Economic Development Strategy ('Enterprising Harrow') is now in year four having been refreshed last year.

Attendees also discussed the need for a good quality Census return in 2011.

#### **FOR ACTION:**

The lead members have requested further briefings on the following topics:

- The Local Economic Assessment
- The refresh of the Economic Development Strategy ('Enterprising Harrow')
- The council's property disposal programme

The lead members have also asked to be kept apprised with regard to Harrow in Business.

The lead members request that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee include proposals for the new Civic Centre site and the Healthy Living Centre within the scrutiny work programme [NB – this action was reported verbally to O&S on 27 July; O&S agreed to establish a standing review on the Better Deal for Residents Programme].

## **BRIEFING – HOUSING DIVISION**

The lead members met on 27 July 2010.

### **Attendees**

Councillor Sue Anderson, Scrutiny Lead Member  
Councillor Stanley Sheinwald, Scrutiny Lead Member  
Lynne Pennington, Divisional Director, Housing Services  
Maggie Challoner, Service Manager, Resident Services  
Jon Dalton, Service Manager, Housing Needs [part]  
Heather Smith, Scrutiny Officer

### **Housing Ambition Plan**

The Divisional Director introduced the plan and set out the context for its development. It was completed in December 2009 and in the New Year all staff were engaged in the development of an action plan to deliver the plan. The plan contains 453 specific actions and is supported by a detailed performance scorecard.

The Divisional Director advised that the division are looking to strengthen the council's resident engagement approaches, and to develop a more systematic approach to involving residents in the review and development of housing services. The Tenant Services Authority is looking to providers to strengthen local accountability and resident scrutiny. She proposed that scrutiny consider examining the division's progress on improving engagement towards the end of the year.

### **Housing complaint**

Scrutiny Members were briefed by the Service Manager, Housing Needs on circumstances relating to an individual complaint. This complaint had been considered by the Ombudsman as well as the County Court.

### **FOR ACTION:**

The scrutiny leads request that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake a challenge panel on the Housing Ambition Plan, with specific focus on resident engagement [NB – this action was reported verbally to O&S on 27 July and agreed for inclusion in the work programme].