

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	Strengthening Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee
Date:	14 October 2004
Subject:	Safer Harrow Crime and Drugs Audit to Strategy consultation progress and Audit findings
Key decision:	No
Responsible Chief Officer:	Interim Head of Crime Reduction Unit/ DAT
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Partnership, Best Value and Performance Management
Status:	Part 1
Ward:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix A – Summary of Audit findings and questionnaire Appendix B – Consultation Events Programme

1. **Summary**

- 1.1 This report presents a summary of progress on the Crime Audit to Strategy consultation process and audit findings.

2. **Recommendations**

- i) The Strengthening Communities Scrutiny Sub-Committee are requested to consider and comment on the crime & drugs audit to strategy consultation progress and findings

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

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

- 4.1 The Crime and Drugs Audit to Strategy project plan was agreed by the Safer Harrow Management Group at its meeting on 13 January 2004. The Group is responsible for ensuring that the project plan is undertaken according to statutory timescales and properly resourced. The final draft strategy for 2005-2008 is scheduled for consideration by Cabinet at its meeting on 13 January 2005. Approval will then be required by full Council.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 The Safer Harrow Audit- Strategy process contributes to the priority themes contained in the Community Strategy and the Council's Corporate Priorities.

6. **Background Information**

- 6.1. The Crime & Disorder Act requires Local Authorities, Police, DATs and the PCT (the 'Responsible Bodies') to jointly undertake an audit of local crime and drug problems once every three years. Middlesex University, consultants, have been contracted to undertake the audit, which has been ongoing since January 2004. Following production of the audit, the findings (Appendix A) will be used to inform the Harrow Crime and Drugs Reduction Strategy for the period 2005-2008.

As part of the audit process, the responsible bodies are required to consult widely on crime and disorder problems in the Borough. Extensive consultation has been undertaken involving stakeholder groups, forums and hard to hear groups. Further consultation has also been undertaken with a similar range of partners and stakeholders on the audit findings. The audit findings consultation programme is attached for information (Appendix B).

A full copy of the crime audit is available on request in hard copy and will also be available electronically via the Harrow Live and Council intranet web sites.

- 6.2 Following the consultation process a draft strategy, including targets and objectives, must be agreed by the Council and Safer Harrow Partnership. The final strategy must be published by 1 April 2005.

7. **Finance Observations**

- 7.1 The resources needed to support the Audit to Strategy process project plan have been agreed by the Safer Harrow Management Group at its meeting on 13 January 2004. Total costs amount to £40,000 of which 50% are to be met by the Council and 50% by Harrow Police.

8. **Legal Observations**

- 8.1 Under Part 1 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as amended by the Police Reform Act 2002, the Council and the Police have duties to formulate and implement 3 yearly strategies for crime and disorder reduction and combating the misuse of drugs.

9. **Conclusions**

- 9.1 The Safer Harrow Partnership has been recognised by Home Office GOL and Association for London Government for its good practice in producing Crime Audits and Strategies. The current audit to strategy programme has built on this good practice using widespread consultation with the people of Harrow, particularly hard to hear groups.

10. **Background Papers**

- i) Harrow Crime Audit to Strategy project plan
- ii) Harrow Crime Audit 2004

11. **Author**

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