

# CABINET MINUTES

## 10 FEBRUARY 2011

**Chairman:** \* Councillor Bill Stephenson

**Councillors:**

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| * Bob Currie      | * Graham Henson    |
| * Margaret Davine | * Thaya Idaikkadar |
| * Keith Ferry     | * Phillip O'Dell   |
| * Brian Gate      | * Mrs Rekha Shah   |
| * Mitzi Green     |                    |

**In attendance:  
(Councillors)**

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| James Bond              | Minute 146         |
| Susan Hall              | Minute 141 and 146 |
| Barry Macleod-Cullinane | Minute 146         |
| Ben Wealthy             | Minute 146         |

\* Denotes Member present

### RECOMMENDED ITEMS

#### 150. Key Decision - Corporate Plan - Vision and Corporate Priorities

Cabinet received a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that set out a key aspect of the Council's medium term planning process, the Corporate Plan. The Corporate Plan identified the Council's new Vision and Priorities, including information on key initiatives and projects for 2011/12.

The Divisional Director Partnership Development and Performance introduced the report, a draft of which had previously been considered agreed by Cabinet in October 2010. Since then, a consultation exercise had been carried out and the report included the results of the "Let's Talk" public consultation on the Council's draft Vision and Priorities and presented the Corporate Plan, setting out the direction for the Council over the coming years. He advised that an original Priority 'A Town Centre to be proud of: Changing Harrow for the Better' had changed to 'Supporting Our Town Centre, local shopping

centres and businesses' as a direct result of conversations with residents through "Let's Talk". This showed a recognition of a greater affinity with all shopping centres, not just a focus on the Town Centre. The Divisional Director also spoke on the responses received through Let's Talk, a campaign through which a number of innovative and engaging events had been held. He informed Cabinet that under each Priority, a number of priority actions had been set.

The Leader of the Council explained the thinking behind the proposed new Vision for the Council, "Working Together: Our Harrow, Our Community", which had received overwhelming public support, together with the Priorities, all of which would help shape Harrow during the challenging financial years ahead. He added that the Vision would reach out to residents and find new ways of involving residents, as well as enabling users of services and partners to keep improving the services delivered. Thus "Our Harrow Our Community" aspect of the Vision emphasised a unified Harrow and celebrated the diversity of its residents. Working Together meant joint working within the Council, with Partners, statutory bodies, central government, local MPs, the GLA Member for Brent & Harrow and residents thereby harnessing the existing community spirit. Silo cultures would be eradicated and the Council would facilitate local groups to work together. The key drivers behind this Vision would be to listen and involve the community in everything the Council did.

Council Priorities proposed were:

- Keeping Neighbourhoods Clean, Green and Safe.
- United and Involved Communities: A Council that Listens and Leads.
- Supporting and Protecting People who are Most in Need.
- Supporting our Town Centre, Our Local Shopping Centres and Businesses.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing requested that a priority action included in the Corporate Plan be amended to read 'Tenants' Charter' rather than 'Tenant Consultation Charter'. He explained that whilst consultation was important, it was only one part of the wider Charter which the Council wanted to develop over the next year.

The Corporate Director Children's Service made a minor amendment to a measure which related to another priority action 'Improving Outcomes for those Children and Families in greatest need of help'. It was agreed that the measure should read 'Reduce the number of Children with Child Protection Plans for over two years by March 2012'.

Cabinet noted the tabled reference received from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9 February 2011.

The Leader of the Council commended the Council's new Vision and Priorities and supporting Corporate Plan to Council.

**Resolved to RECOMMEND:** (to Council)

That the Vision and Priorities together with the Corporate Plan prepared to reflect the Vision and Priorities be adopted, subject to the minor amendments to the priority actions advised.

**Reason for Decision:** To provide the Council with a Vision and Priorities to guide its work in the coming years.