

Meeting:	CABINET
Date:	11 November 2004
Subject:	Review of New Harrow Project – Reference from Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Responsible Officer:	Director of Organisational Performance
Contact Officer:	Frances Hawkins
Portfolio Holder:	Strategic Overview and External Affairs
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Part I

## **Section 1: Summary**

### **Decision Required**

Cabinet is asked to consider the report of the scrutiny review group and agree the recommendations relating to the overall concept and structure of the NHP (as set out on page 12 of the main report) as well as the recommendations arising from the case study undertaken into the roll out of Public Realm Maintenance (PRM) services to Areas 2&3 (page 4 of the case study).

(The report of the scrutiny case study on the Community Schools Pilot was considered by Cabinet in July 2004)

### **Reason for report**

The NHP is central to the Council's corporate priorities. Overview & Scrutiny Committee has referred the report and its recommendations for Cabinet consideration.

## Benefits

Acceptance of the review group's recommendations (page 12 of the main report and page 4 of the case study on the PRM services roll out to Areas 2 & 3) will have a positive impact not only on the implementation of the NHP but also on other areas of the Council's future activities. Benefits will include:

- Improved management of all future projects
- Strengthened processes for Member engagement in the NHP as well as in other future initiatives, leading to improved democratic processes and Members fulfilment of their community leadership role
- Improved customer focus, communications and ownership of NHP
- Strengthened PRM enforcement processes

## Cost of Proposals

The report is not seeking additional financial resources.

## Risks

See Executive summaries to the main report and PRM case study.

## Implications if recommendations rejected

See Executive summaries to the main report and PRM case study.

Opportunities to improve the planning for, and implementation of the NHP, and to benefit Council-wide from the learning experience are not maximised.

## **Section 2: Report**

### 2.1 Brief History

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee previously undertook a review of the South Harrow Public Realm Maintenance (PRM) Pilot, the report on which was considered by the New Harrow Project Panel on 8 July 2003. Cabinet in March 2004 agreed the 2004/05 roll out schedule for PRM services and the initial scope for the market testing exercise.

A scrutiny review of the Community Schools Pilots was carried out earlier this year and considered by Cabinet on 29 July 2004. At that meeting Cabinet agreed in principle that the Community Schools programme should be extended to all the other clusters of schools and authorised the initial roll out of the programme to further clusters.

## 2.2 Options considered

N/A

## 2.3 Consultation

Members from affected Wards served on both the Community Schools Pilot and the Public Realm Maintenance (Areas 2 & 3) case study groups. Membership of the latter group included representatives from the Kenton local community, Wealdstone Active Community and a member of the local business community whilst the membership of the Community Schools Pilot included representatives from the voluntary sector, school governors and health professionals. During the course of the review, Members also met with members of the public, local businesses and local community groups; the Metropolitan Police; Council staff and senior officers; the Portfolio holder (Environment and Transport); and the political group leaders.

## 2.4 Financial Implications

The report is not seeking additional financial resources.

## 2.5 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with the review group's report.

## 2.6 Equalities Impact

There are no specific equalities issues.

## **Section 3: Supporting Information/Background Documents**

Appendix A - Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Appendix B - Scrutiny Review of New Harrow Project – report of the Scrutiny Review Group

Appendix C - Reference from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 19 October 2004

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