

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27 APRIL 2011

REFERENCE FROM PERFORMANCE & FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE – 6 APRIL 2011

Minute 38 – Update on Actions Arising from the Scrutiny Review ‘Delivering a Strengthened Voluntary Sector’

The Sub-Committee received a report that presented an update on actions taken to address the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee report ‘Delivering a strengthened voluntary sector’ completed in December 2008.

The Sub-Committee noted the positive progress made, and its incorporation in to the Third Sector Strategy working group action plan. In addition, the Sub-committee noted the progress against the recommendations that were adopted by Cabinet in March 2009.

The Sub-Committee commented that the report did not fully consider the impact that the demise of Harrow Association of Voluntary Services (HAVS) would have on the recommendations outlined in the report. The Sub-Committee considered that the report should contain information that outlined any interim arrangements that had been put into place.

In response, an officer advised that:

- the Voluntary Sector Compact contains a set of principles that govern the relationship between the voluntary sector and the Council. The delivery of actions around the Compact had been completed in partnership with the voluntary sector in Harrow which included HAVS as well as other organisations;
- Compact challenges were monitored by the Service Manager of Policy and Partnerships. Officers would seek clarification on how the voluntary sector would continue to be involved;
- the funding code for the Compact document was subject to consultation with Councillors, officers and external colleagues. It was anticipated that the final draft would be ready by July 2011;
- officers would clarify whether a register of community premises for use by the voluntary and community sector had been compiled;

- the Council had entered into an informal agreement for joint line management responsibility of the funding officer. Although the post was jointly funded by the Council, HAVS had overall responsibility for the day-to-day management of the post;
- officers would provide a further update on the implications of the closure of HAVS on the delivery of recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny.

Following the discussion, the Sub-Committee agreed that officers prepare a revised report on the impact of the HAVS closure and delivery of recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) officers prepare a report for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that outlined the implications of HAVS closure on the delivery of recommendations made by Overview and Scrutiny.

FOR CONSIDERATION

[The report considered by Performance & Finance Sub-Committee is attached herewith]

Background Documents:

Minutes of Performance & Finance Scrutiny Sub-Committee

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