

COUNCIL MEETING – 24 FEBRUARY 2005

Safer Harrow Crime and Drugs Strategy 2005-2008:  
Briefing Paper on Amendments following Consultation

Introduction:

This paper details the amendments made to the Safer Harrow Crime and Drugs Strategy 2005-2008 from the version presented to Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2005 as a result of the extensive consultation that has been carried out in developing and agreeing the strategy with partner agencies and the public.

In line with the Cabinet decision the Children's and Young Persons Executive and Safer Harrow Management Group have now agreed the strategy subject to the following amendments.

Key Strategy Amendments:

- 1.0 The strategy vision has changed from the British Crime Survey Comparator crime Reduction of 17.5% by 2008 to making Harrow the safest borough in London by 2008.

**Rationale:** It was decided by the Safer Harrow Management Group that this is more visionary and achieving this vision will make Harrow a safer place to live, work and visit by 2008. Additionally, it was suggested that if Harrow becomes the safest borough in London by 2008 the 17.5% target would not only be achieved but most likely exceeded.

- 2.0 The name of the priority theme 'Tackling and Preventing Youth Crime' has been changed to 'Young People and a Safer Harrow'.

**Rationale:** It was decided by the strategic lead for this priority in People First that the name should be changed to reflect the positive contribution that young people in Harrow make and that the prior name risked negatively 'branding' young people as offenders.

- 3.0 The 4 priorities and three crosscutting themes have been changed to six priorities and one cross-cutting theme. The detail of these has not changed from the original only how they are described.

**Rationale:** The Safer Harrow Management Group members decided that it was more manageable to have six priorities and one crosscutting theme as some of the cross-cutting themes crosscut each other and could cause confusion in developing partnership working.

- 4.0 Violence against the person title has been changed to Violent Crime.

**Rationale:** This has changed to reflect the formal name given by the Home Office to ensure that this clearly aligns with national terminology.

- 5.0 The HSP Executive requested that the following sentence be incorporated in the strategy: That they are "mindful of the health and anti-social behaviour aspects of excessive drinking and request the Council to have a considered approach to flexible drinking hours". This statement has not been incorporated into the revised Strategy.

**Rationale:** It is felt that this is a policy aim and not a strategic aim that can be incorporated directly into the strategy and that it crosses over the provisions of the Licensing Policy and associated controls over the sale of alcohol and opening times. This policy aim will be incorporated directly into the Harrow Council Licensing policy when this is reviewed.

In addition this statement and the impact of the new licensing regime and potential to extend opening hours will be incorporated into the Implementation Plans of the Drug and Alcohol, Violent Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour priorities to ensure that it is taken account into all related direct provision.

- 6.0 There have also been small grammatical changes to the wording but these do not change the tone or emphasis of the strategy.

**Strategy process:**

After receiving Council approval the strategy will be sent to the Council's Communications Officer for publication. The 'design' copy of the strategy will then be sent to the Home Office for their approval.

The strategy will be officially launched at the annual Metropolitan Police Authority visit to Harrow on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2005. Thereafter a programme of positive promotion has been agreed to ensure that the Strategy and actions taken to implement the key priorities are actively promoted to address the Fear of Crime and public perceptions.

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