

Meeting:	Community Consultative Forum
Date:	12 April 2005
Subject:	Update on the Community Strategy
Responsible Officer:	Paul Najsarek, Director of Organisational Performance
Contact Officer:	Bindu Arjoon
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Marie Louise Nolan
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Public

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

The Community Consultative Forum is requested to note:

- The development of the HSP Management and Reference Groups
- The reporting and communication links between the Harrow Strategic Partnership Reference Groups and the Executive
- The monitoring of the 2004 Community Strategy that has been completed so far by the Management Groups.

Reason for report

This report informs the Community Consultative Forum of the development of the HSP Management and Reference Groups. The report also outlines the progress of Management and Reference Groups on the Monitoring of the 2004 Community Strategy and the development of the refresh of the Community Strategy.

Benefits

The information contained within this report will form the basis of the 2004-05 annual report of the Harrow Strategic Partnership (HSP). That report will outline to the community how the partnership works with the community and the overall achievements of the HSP.

This information will be presented at the annual HSP Summit to be held on 18 May 2005.

Cost of Proposals

There is no associated cost with the noting of this report. However, it should be noted that the Policy and Partnership Service has sought a one off allocation of £200,000 funding from Harrow Council in the 2005-06 budget to support the work of the HSP. If successful in gaining this funding bid, the HSP will allocate this money to Management Groups for the achievement of future initiatives which are identified in the action plans (currently under development) for 2005 and onwards.

Risks

If the Community Consultative Forum does not note this report, it will not be informed of the progress made in the implementation of the Community Strategy.

Implications if recommendations rejected

The monitoring of the 2004 Community Strategy is planned for public release at the HSP Summit to be held on 18 May 2005. If the timeline for approval is extended the report may not be ready for release at the Summit. This would cause embarrassment to Harrow Council and the HSP.

Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

The Community Strategy for Harrow was launched by the HSP in May 2004. The Community Strategy identifies a vision for Harrow to be
'A borough that is safe, clean, healthy and prosperous, with equal life opportunities for all - a friendly and vibrant place to be.'

The over-riding objective of the Community Strategy for Harrow and the HSP is to ensure the fulfilment of this vision. The Community Strategy for Harrow explains broadly how agencies in the borough from the public, private and community and voluntary sector are working to address issues related to the quality of life of the people who live, work and visit Harrow.

The Community Strategy was developed by the HSP with the local community. Local agencies, stakeholders and residents were involved in identifying the priorities in the Community Strategy.

The Strategy is being delivered through the HSP as its aim is to work to make a measurable improvement to the quality of life of the people of Harrow through robust and inclusive partnership working. Ultimately the Strategy can only be delivered through the active participation of local stakeholders.

2.2 Options considered

Update on the development and activities of the HSP Management and Reference Groups

As of March 2005, there are two reference groups and six management groups established as part of the Harrow Strategic Partnership (HSP) structure. These groups are listed below together with a brief indicator of their current status and activities:

- Safer Harrow Management Group (chaired by Bob Carr, Borough Commander): This management group has held regular meetings since the inception of the HSP, with its most recent meeting on 9 February. At this meeting the development timetable for the refresh of the Community Strategy was noted. The next meeting of this Group is likely to occur in late April.
- Regenerating Harrow Management Group (now incorporating Greener Harrow Management Group) (chaired by Anna Robinson, Director of Strategy, Urban Living, Harrow Council): These groups have now been amalgamated to serve as one management group. Two meetings of this group have occurred to date. A further meeting of this group has been scheduled to take place prior to the HSP Summit on 18 May 2005.
- Healthy Harrow Management Group (chaired by Andrew Morgan, Chief Executive of the Harrow PCT): A meeting of this group has occurred on 21 March 2005. This meeting was conducted as a working meeting where the action and monitoring plans required for the refresh of the Community Strategy were discussed in detail.
- Children and Young People Management Group (chaired by Paul Clark, Director of Children's Services): Met on 28 January and will meet again on 22 April. At the 28 January meeting it was agreed that members of the group would work out of session to produce the monitoring and action plans required for the refresh of the Community Strategy.
- Learning for All Management Group (chaired by Javed Khan, Director of Learning and Community Development, Harrow Council): A meeting of this group has been scheduled to take place prior to the HSP Summit on 18 May 2005.
- ICT Management Group (chaired by Nick Bell, Executive Director of Business Connections, Harrow Council). This group held its most recent meeting on 15 March. This meeting was conducted as a working meeting to produce the action plans required for the refresh of the Community Strategy.
- Older Persons Reference Group (chaired by Cllr Anne Groves): The Partnership With Older People Steering Group has now taken on the

role of the OPRG. This group met on 8 March 2005. The group raised concerns regarding the timing of the refresh of the Community Strategy and the inadequacy that the timetable for the development of the strategy has to the scheduled meetings of the group. The group has developed sub groups concentrating on safety, health, housing and transport. The group also considered the draft Community Engagement Strategy. The group welcomed the document and is happy to provide input into it. However, the group was concerned at how the strategy would address growing tiredness within the community on consultation. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 10 May 2005.

- Community Cohesion Reference Group (chaired by Julia Smith (formally Mayo), Harrow Association of Voluntary Service): is holding it's next meeting on 6 April 2005. The agenda will cover the Community Engagement Strategy, how the group will input into the development of the Community Strategy, council funded worker to work at HAVS on faith issues and two compact codes on how the council will interact with black, minority ethnic and refugee groups.

Links Between the HSP Reference Groups and the HSP Board and Executive

Since their relatively recent establishment of the management and reference groups, there has been ad hoc communication between the reference groups and the rest of the HSP. To address this issue a paper was presented to the HSP Executive at its meeting on 22 March 2005 that outlined mechanisms to allow for more effective communication between the various constituent parts of the HSP. The proposals in this paper were endorsed and the changes shall be written into the Constitution of the HSP at the May 2005 Summit.

Refresh of the 2004 Community Strategy

When the HSP Board launched the Community Strategy 2004, the Board undertook to ensure that monitoring of the Strategy was completed and reported to the 2005 Summit.

In late 2004, the HSP Board also agreed to a 'refresh' of the Community Strategy in 2005. It was agreed that this refresh would include action plans with detailed initiatives for the delivery of the themes in the 2004 Community Strategy.

Monitoring of the 2004 Community Strategy

To facilitate the drafting of the annual report of the HSP, Management Group Chairs were asked by Policy and Partnership Services in January 2005 to complete a template for their respective chapters. Given the varying levels of organisation of the Management Groups, there is a corresponding variance in the level of monitoring that has been completed.

At the time of drafting this report, the Policy and Partnership Service is working with all Management Groups to further develop the content of the monitoring exercise. It is anticipated that this work will be significantly progressed for the HSP Boards consideration of all monitoring plans at its next meeting on 6 April 2005.

Action Plans

To facilitate the drafting of the refresh of the Community Strategy, Management Group Chairs in January 2005 were asked to produce an Action Plan outlining key actions for the 2005 refresh by 23 March 2005.

To date, liaison with Management Group Chairs suggests that the majority of groups will be in a position to deliver a first draft of their action plans by the requested date. The Policy and Partnership Service anticipates that further intensive work will have to be done in partnership with Management Group Chairs in the week following 23 March to ensure that the action plans give clear direction as to how the work of the partnership will progress over the next 3 years. Drafts of the action plans will be distributed for public comment on 27 April 2005. The action plans will form the basis of discussion at the HSP Summit on 18 May 2005.

2.3 Consultation

Consultation on the information contained within this report and on the development of the 2005 refresh of the Community Strategy has been through the Management Group and Reference Group structures.

2.4 Financial Implications

This report is not seeking additional financial resources. This programme of work will be delivered within the 2005-06 budget provision recently approved by Council.

2.5 Legal Implications

None.

2.6 Equalities Impact

The Community Strategy:

- Seeks to engage the local community and reflects their needs and aspirations
- Co-ordinates the actions of agencies in the HSP to meet community needs
- Aims to develop and support cohesive communities
- Aims to achieve improvements which are sustainable.

All of these underlying principles work together to promote greater equality within Harrow.

Both the monitoring of the Community Strategy 2004 and the 2005 refresh of the Community Strategy will seek to outline how these principles have been achieved and how they will be advanced in the future.

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

There are no appendices to this report.

Background papers that are available on request:

- 2004 Community Strategy for Harrow