



Haringey Council

[No.]

Agenda item:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

On 10 January 2008

Report Title: **Scrutiny Review of Neighbourhood Management**

Forward Plan reference number (N/A)

Report of: **Chair of the Review Panel**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

1. Purpose

1.1 To approve the scope and terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review of Neighbourhood Management which has been approved by the Review Panel.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the scope be approved.
- 2.2 That the terms of reference be approved.

Contact Officer: **Carolyn Banks, Principal Scrutiny Support Officer, Tel: 0208 489 2965**

3. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

3.1 Background papers relating to this report:-
Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 12 March 2007
Sustainable Communities Act 2007
Community Empowerment Action Plan

4 National Agenda

4.1 In 2000, following detailed research the Government announced its National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. It proposed establishing neighbourhood management and neighbourhood managers to drive change at local level, with the task to bring services together, and to 'make things happen'.

4.2 Since 2000 the Government has continued to promote the Neighbourhood agenda, with a series of consultation documents. The Office of the Deputy

Prime Minister under the banner of Creating Sustainable Communities. Published “Citizen Engagement and Public Services: Why Neighbourhoods Matter” which, concentrates specifically on how Neighbourhood Management can be embedded in communities, through, for example, establishing a national framework for neighbourhoods and local neighbourhood charters. These concepts have now being disseminated widely by the Government’s Strong and Prosperous Communities which builds on previous policy documents and the experience of implementing neighbourhood working in many areas across the country.

- 4.3 The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 aims to give local people more control over improving their community. by allowing a community panel to suggest ways local spending could be better used to improve local services and improve quality of life. The Act has a broad remit, with local services understood as anything from the post office and public house to open spaces and social housing.
- 4.4 The Communities and Local Government publication *An Action Plan for Community Empowerment: Building on Success* sets out the government’s plan to deliver its commitments of greater devolution and empowerment of communities.

5 Local Context

- 5.1 Neighbourhood Management was established in 2001 as part of the Council-wide restructuring. It responds to and aims to implement the Government’s National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal. The service provides the supporting framework for community participation in service planning and development, targeting resources at neighbourhood level where staff work in local teams implementing the delivery strategy. The Haringey Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, (HNRS), set out the priority neighbourhoods and the context for neighbourhood work, aiming to avoid fragmentation and parallel development, instead facilitating collaboration and networking.
- 5.2 Neighbourhood Management is continually being shaped by an evolving local and national agenda, which sees community involvement and engagement as central to the revitalisation of local communities. This sets a context for testing out new ways of working with partner agencies, within the Council, and with local people.
- 5.3 A key feature of the service is its crosscutting brief. The intention, articulated through both Government and Council policy is for Neighbourhood Management to join services up, working across existing service demarcations and engaging a range of partner agencies from the statutory and voluntary sectors in “bending” mainstream provision to achieve local objectives of neighbourhood renewal.

- 5.4 Working in an environment of rapid change and evolving services, the need to be receptive and crosscutting requires a responsive, flexible and adaptable structure. .
- 5.5. The tasks carried out by Neighbourhood Management are an integral and important part of the council services and an essential component of the Council's plans to achieve the objectives set out in the Council Plan for 2007/2010 and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

6. Terms of Reference

"Suggested terms of reference

To consider:

1. Government policy and the national position relating to Neighbourhood Management
2. How Neighbourhood Management is perceived nationally and by other Local Authorities.
3. The overall cost of Neighbourhood Management, whether it is meeting Council targets, its successes and the benefits it has delivered.
4. The way in which Council Services and external partners provide a local, holistic, cost effective service to residents.
5. How Neighbourhood Management involves local people in planning and shaping local services.
6. The support provided to Ward Councillors by Neighbourhood Management to assist them in their role as community champions.

7. Possible Outcomes of the Review

1. To identify best practice and how it can be adopted in Haringey where appropriate.
2. To assist in the continual development of holistic, cost effective local services.
3. The potential identification of indicators for measuring performance.

8. Scrutiny Process

Meeting One

To receive presentations from:

- the Young Foundation and the Department for Communities and Local Government on, government policy on Neighbourhood Management, how other local authorities have responded, the identification of, best practice and central and local government's perception of Haringey's service;
- Neighbourhood Management on its budget, how it is allocated, its successes to date and proposed future developments.

Meeting Two

To consider the views of:

- Head of Partnerships,
 - Assistant Director, Policy, Performance, Partnership and Communications,
 - the Directors of Urban Environment and Children and Young People,
 - External partners including Safer Neighbourhoods,
- on the provision of a holistic, cost effective service to local residents;

Meeting Three

- Discussion with Cabinet Member, Chairs of Area Assemblies and Neighbourhood Managers on the way in which the Service operates.
- Report from Corporate Head of Performance and Policy on possible indicators for measuring performance
- Presentation from Policy Studies Institute on research in Haringey on effectiveness of Neighbourhood Management

Additionally

- To hear from local residents on the ways in which they are involved in planning and shaping local services.
- To seek views of all Councillors on Service provided