



Meeting: Haringey Strategic Partnership

Date: 4 November 2008

Report Title: HSP Governance: Revised Terms of Reference

Report of: Sharon Kemp, Assistant Chief Executive, Policy, Performance, Partnership & Consultation

Purpose

To present the revised Terms of Reference for the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) for approval.

Summary

The Terms of Reference for the Haringey Strategic Partnership have been revised to take account of the expectations placed on Local Strategic Partnerships following the publication of the Statutory Guidance - Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities 2008, and the new Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) which comes into effect from April 2009.

The HSP Meeting of 3rd July adopted a new Code of Corporate Governance and agreed that the Terms of Reference for the Partnership be reviewed to take account of any new expectations placed on Local Strategic Partnerships. The meeting also agreed that the update include the Community Link Forum (CLF) within the Terms of Reference as the mechanism for representation from the Voluntary and Community Sector on the Board and its sub-structures.

The HSP Performance Management Group meeting of 6 October discussed the revised Terms of Reference and agreed that the document at Appendix 1 is recommended for adoption to this meeting.

Legal/Financial Implications

Financial:

Not applicable.

Legal:

The main legal implications are in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

Recommendations

To agree the revised HSP Terms of Reference attached at Appendix 1.

For more information contact:

Name: Mary Connolly

Title: HSP Manager

Tel: 020 8489 6393

Email address: mary.connolly@haringey.gov.uk

Background

1.1 Haringey Strategic Partnership was set up in 2002 as the Local Strategic Partnership for the Borough. Its main functions were to develop the Community Strategy and agree the Neighbourhood Strategy, and to allocate Neighbourhood Renewal Funding through a bidding process. It was restructured in 2007 extending the number of Theme Boards from 5 to 6, and established a Performance Management Group (PMG) to oversee the business of the Partnership - providing a forum for the main public sector members to consider issues outside the main meetings.

2. Report

2.1 The Statutory Guidance: Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities places significant emphasis on the role of the Local Strategic Partnership as the vehicle for strengthening partnership working at a local level. The new Comprehensive Area Assessment from April 2009 will have a strong focus on effectiveness of partnership arrangements in setting and delivering priorities for the local area. A robust LSP which broadly complies with governance guidance would be a key way of demonstrating this. According to the guidance published in July, the role of the LSP is now to:

- Exercise a leadership and governing role
- Have oversight of an aim to coordinate community consultation and engagement
- Produce a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)
- Produce a Local Area Agreement (LAA)
- Have oversight of the planning and alignment of resources

- Review and performance manage progress against the agreed targets.
- 2.2 The LSP remains a body with no legal status and where the guidance ascribes statutory functions to it, they are legally the responsibility of the local authority e.g. the duty to prepare the LAA and the SCS. Partner agencies have a duty to co-operate in agreeing these and in the implementation of the targets.
- 2.3 The Guidance recognises the different models of governance that have been adopted for LSPs in other areas with different arrangements in terms of leadership, membership and sub-structures. It also recognises that LSPs are at varying levels of development but states that the direction of travel must be towards more robust arrangements with embedded democratic accountability. The structure “should include some form of executive board, which is able to take decisions underpinned by the main thematic partnerships ...”
- 2.4 The draft revised Terms of Reference are attached at Appendix 1. These in many respects re-confirm the current arrangements but also seek to clarify the reporting lines and accountabilities between the main HSP Board, the PMG and the Theme Boards. The roles and terms of reference for each are specified with some changes to the operating arrangements.

Membership

- 2.5 The guidance for LSP’s stresses the importance of connecting the LSP to local democracy. The Leader of the Council is the Chair of the HSP, and Cabinet Members already sit on the Theme Boards connected to their portfolio area. Theme Boards choose the thematic reps from their own membership, in some instances this is a Cabinet Member and/or Chair of the Theme Board.
- 2.6 The new CAA framework places the Police, Council, Health and Fire Service as the four organisations whose organisational assessments will feed into the Area Assessment. Currently the Fire Service is represented upon the Well Being Theme Board and Safer Communities but not at the HSP or PMG. The Fire Service will therefore be asked to take-up a seat on both of these.
- 2.7 The PMG agreed that Health Partners have 3 seats on the HSP Board, re-confirming membership to Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust.
- 2.8 The Private Sector is represented at the Enterprise Theme Board. The PMG consider that more opportunities for engagement between the HSP and Business are created such as the hosting of breakfast meetings.
- 2.9 The GLA – Transport for London (TfL) and the London Development Agency (LDA) – have seats on the Better Places Partnership and Enterprise respectively. The strengthening of TfL’s role in ‘place shaping’

will need further discussions, and how best they can engage with the HSP will be taken up with them.

2.10 The role of the Community Link Forum in providing the voluntary and community sector representation across the partnership structure, and the number of places is written into the Terms of Reference.

Format and Conduct of Meetings

2.11 The HSP Board and Theme Boards are re-confirmed as open meetings. The PMG is a closed meeting as it is advisory and deals with the operational business of the HSP.

Code and Rules of Conduct

2.12 It is proposed that 'standard' rules of conduct are formally adopted and incorporated into the operational arrangements of the HSP and its sub-structures. These rules will apply to all members of boards incorporating the Principles of Public Life as the ethical framework for the Partnership, the declaration of interests (a standard item on all agendas) and dealing with complaints.

3. Conclusions

3.0 The HSP Terms of Reference have been revised and updated to clarify the reporting lines and accountabilities between the main HSP Board, the PMG and the Themes Boards.