



**Haringey** Council

**Overview and Scrutiny**

**On June 29 2009**

Report Title: **The Cabinet's Priorities for 2009/10**

Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): **N/A**

Report of: **Councillor Claire Kober, Leader of the Council**

Wards(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **Information**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 To report to the first ordinary meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the new municipal year what the Cabinet's priorities are for the forthcoming municipal year and beyond.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 To note the report and comment on the priorities for 2009/10 as determined by the Cabinet.
- 2.2 To confirm Overview and Scrutiny Committee's active participation in research and policy through its formal Reviews and consideration of the Forward Plan.

Report Authorised by:

**Councillor Claire Kober, Leader of the Council**

**3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **Introduction by the Leader of the Council**

I am pleased to be able to set out in this report some of the Council's achievements over the past 12 months and also the areas which, as a Cabinet, we will be focusing on in the final year of this administration. As members can see, there is a lot planned and I am determined that the theme of the year will be one of delivery.

Clearly the past 12 months have provided a fundamental challenge to the Council and, in particular, our arrangements for the safeguarding of children. We have set out clearly in our JAR Action Plan how with partners we will transform child protection arrangements in the borough. I am pleased that the Action Plan was considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committee and I am sure the Committee will want to take a leading role in monitoring the implementation of the first year of the plan.

In other aspects of the Council's work it is vital that we re-double our efforts to match local ambitions for the area and the services we deliver. That is why during the coming year I want to see a renewed effort to reduce the number of people in temporary accommodation. Last year this number was reduced by around 1000 households and this year we are determined to achieve an even greater increase. This will provide an enhanced quality of life and stability for many families across the borough.

We have made progress during the past year in targeting fly-tipping and the problem of litter. There are a number of measures which we will be implementing over the coming year which will further our efforts in tackling this problem.

As with the rest of the country we face an economic climate radically different to that of 12 months ago. We have focused our efforts on increasing benefit take up and looking at ways we can support businesses and local people through these difficult times. This is one of the reasons why during the coming year I am determined that as a Council we deliver on our major capital programmes.

For the remainder of this financial year we will spend approximately £1 million a week in delivering decent homes across the borough. This investment will deliver 2300 tenanted decent homes and 601 leasehold properties – an additional 700 properties will also be started during the year but the completion will be in the following financial year. This is in addition to the 1500 tenanted properties and 300 leasehold properties made decent last year. Investing in the quality of people's homes has the capacity to change lives and, together with the Cabinet Member for Housing, I will be closely monitoring the delivery of this key programme.

Over the coming year we will see progress in delivering our extensive Building Schools for the Future programme, we will be spending just under £70 million on BSF construction projects. This represents a significant proportion of the total BSF programme of £212 million, covering all secondary schools in the borough plus the new 6<sup>th</sup> form centre and the Heartlands School.

Next year will see a significant investment in improving highways matching what local people tell us what matters to them. We will spend £10.15 million on improving our highways including £2 million on pavements and £2 million on upgrading street lighting in the borough. The £2 million for upgrading street lighting is double what we spent last year.

This paper sets out some of the achievements of 2008/09 as well as the Cabinet's priorities for the coming year.

## **Housing**

### **2008/09 Performance**

In February 2008 we were awarded £198.6m from the Government to invest in the Decent Homes Programme. By the end of 2008/09 works had been carried out to 1,800 properties. We have spent a further £5m on 400 properties through the Warmth and Comfort scheme where eligible families receive benefits to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Through the Decent Homes Programme, and working with partners, we have refurbished two community centres; these are currently being used by the contractors while work is underway and will be handed back to the community once the work is complete. We have secured an agreement with our Decent Homes partners to take on one apprentice each per £1m of turnover. Already, Apollo has taken on 8 local apprentices providing them with training and skills which will provide a foundation to new careers.

The numbers of households in temporary accommodation has been reduced from 5,400 to 4,548. The Council has also received £450,000 to convert nine hostels in the west of the borough; the Council's capital programme will match-fund this. This will provide housing for nine large families of up to 13 people thereby relieving them from overcrowded conditions. Suitable alternative accommodation was found for the 37 single people displaced from the hostels. There has also been a significant improvement in performance of the service in relation to prevention of homelessness with over 860 people helped during 2008/09.

Separately, the creation of a Private Sector Lettings Team has led to a doubling of households placed in private rented accommodation between the summer of 2008 and March 2009.

We have implemented a new structure for Strategic and Community Housing Services (SCHS) which, it is anticipated, will lead to further improved efficiency and effectiveness of the service.

### **2009/10 Priorities**

Providing accommodation, at a decent standard, for the borough's households remains the key priority. We aim to do this through the successful delivery of year two of the Decent Homes programme, including £6.5m of accelerated funding from the Homes and Communities Agency. We will also work with the HCA to develop the Borough investment agreement to ensure we are at the forefront of regeneration, housing and infrastructure delivery in North London.

We will tackle homelessness, overcrowding and under-occupation through the implementation of the new Housing Strategy and related Homelessness Strategy. We want to dramatically reduce the Council's use of expensive nightly rated housing and have set ourselves an ambitious target of reducing it by 1,400 units to only 200 units by March 2010. Through a grant scheme, together with investment from the owners, empty properties are being brought back into use with the requirement that they are let to Council-nominated tenants for at least two years. An action plan to improve performance on voids is currently being drawn up with implementation to begin at the end of June 2009.

We will review the Management Agreement with Homes for Haringey by December 2009 and we plan on assisting the ALMO to retain and build on its two star rating, as awarded in 2007 by the Audit Commission, in advance of its re-inspection in 2010.

## **Environment and Conservation**

### **2008/09 performance**

An additional 3 commingled recycling rounds were successfully implemented in 2008/09, providing a mixed kerbside recycling service to an additional 22,000 properties. Recycling collections on estates were tripled from 5,000 to 15,000 households, while all our schools are participating in the 'Schools Recycling Scheme'. In addition, 36 schools are participating in the 'eco school programme', far exceeding the target of 20. 13 of these schools have successfully achieved bronze status, with a further school achieving the silver award.

Scores from our independent monitors for local street and environment cleanliness have all met their targets for 2008/09 indicating the ongoing successful delivery of actions in our NI 195 (improved street and environmental cleanliness) action plan. Further, we've successfully gained a score of 'Very Effective' for our performance on fly-tipping, as reported by NI 196.

All of the 98 local authority and independent schools have approved travel plans; exceeding national and local targets. Haringey is one of only four Boroughs nationally to reach 100% in this area. Further, our School Travel Plans have won three awards this year, including the Guardian Public Service Award for Transport and Mobility.

Over 2,700 potholes have been repaired, 700 lighting columns have been replaced, £2m of environmental improvement investments to Tottenham High Road have been made, and £5m has been invested in Mary Neuner Road thus opening up Haringey Heartlands for regeneration. Road casualties have been reduced by more than 20%, exceeding the Mayor's targets for casualty reduction.

A Going Green Conference was held at the Bernie Grant Arts Centre in February 2009, showcasing green projects in the Borough. The Council has led the way on energy efficiency, reducing its CO<sup>2</sup> emissions by 812 tonnes in 12 months, the equivalent of taking 189 cars off the road, and providing cash savings of £170,000 a year in utility bills. Separately, 900 additional trees have been planted, far exceeding the 500 target.

### **2009/10 priorities**

As part of our continued efforts to deliver the Greenest Borough Strategy we will extend mixed recycling services to all kerbside households, whilst developing and implementing street cleansing recycling. A new vehicle to provide a recycling service to 3,800 properties with narrow vehicular access and recycling for flats above shops will also be introduced.

In the summer of 2008 the Council successfully acquired the Marsh Lane site for the development of modern recycling facilities, thus helping to deliver the environment and climate change objectives as set out in the Greenest Borough Strategy. Further, as part of our efforts to improve recycling services and infrastructure, including the introduction of a new vehicle to provide a recycling service to 3800 properties with narrow vehicular access, and the introduction of recycling for flats above shops.

We will develop a Food Strategy and Water Efficiency Strategy as part of our commitment to become one of the greenest boroughs in London. Projects to improve the use of our environmental resources, such as working in partnership with utility companies to promote energy and water saving schemes, and continuing the successful Give and Take Days and Watch Your Waste Week will continue.

We are carrying out plans to develop our 'Green Libraries' programme by expanding the development of green spaces around libraries and promoting green activities; developing gardens at St Ann's library in conjunction with Groundwork, at Highgate and Alexandra Park Libraries in partnership with the friends groups, a Reading Garden at Marcus Garvey Library, and the children's gardening club at Hornsey Library.

We will continue to promote sustainable transport, and seek to achieve our stretch target of 0% traffic growth. The successful walk to work week, bike week, green fair and car free days will all return. The Council is actively working with Transport for London (TfL) to upgrade all bus stops within Haringey, so that they are fully accessible and comply with TfL guidelines and satisfy Disability Discrimination Act requirements.

## **Community cohesion and involvement**

### **2008/09 performance**

The Haringey Compact has been recognised as a model of good practice, receiving three commendations for excellence from the Compact Commission and also recently winning the Working BETTER Together London Compact Award for Progress in Developing Compact ways of working.

The Modern Councillor website/portal for elected members has been launched: this is a new facility which provides a dedicated electronic information resource for Members as well as a learning and development tool. Further, a Ward Councillors Toolkit has been developed and launched to assist Members in their casework, ward, surgery and community leadership role.

Customer Services has seen consistent levels of improvement, with 93% of calls answered in 2008/09, up from 87% in the previous year. 75% of customers are now seeing their calls answered within 30 seconds, compared with only 57% in the

previous year. Waiting times at Customer Service Centres have also improved, with 81% of customers being seen within 15 minutes; over the course of the year only six customers waited more than an hour.

Successful 'Access to Services' days targeted at Polish, Kurdish, French speaking, Somali and Jewish Orthodox communities have all taken place. These allow frontline services, health, police and other partners to explain their role to the communities as well as the services they provide.

The Council website has been judged to be on of the top twenty local authority websites in the country by the Society of Information Technology Management. For the first time the website was also judged as 'excellent' on useful content.

### **2009/10 priorities**

We're aiming to work towards the successful implementation of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 as well as new statutory requirements to respond to petitions and promote democracy as contained in the Local Democracy Bill.

Enhancing engagement with our citizens is a key priority and through the Community Engagement Framework, within the Haringey Strategic Partnership, we aim to deliver that. We will, of course, continue to raise awareness and promote opportunities for communities to engage with the Council's formal democratic process and opportunities to take up civic roles in the Borough. The Councillor Call for Action will also be implemented.

## **Enterprise and regeneration**

### **2008/09 performance**

The Council is working actively to tackle unemployment through schemes such as the Haringey Guarantee, the North London Pledge and the Families into Work scheme. The Haringey Guarantee alone has delivered 256 permanent job outcomes. The Families into Work scheme is aimed at supporting families that suffer intergenerational disadvantage, such as unemployment and social exclusion: 44 families have been supported through the scheme since October 2008.

Five properties in Tottenham High Road have been completed under our Heritage Improvement Programme. We held our bi-annual Design Awards which celebrate examples of design excellence in the Borough; awards were given to 3 new children's centres in Finsbury Park, South Tottenham and Broadwater Farm. Further, we've published two new guides to good design for use in the planning process.

We successfully bid for a total £10m from the London Growth Area Fund and the Community Infrastructure Fund to be used to improve the Tottenham Hale and Lee Valley Areas. We were the only London Planning Authority to win funds under both of these categories. The permission for the next stages of improvement to Seven Sisters, Tottenham Green and Hale Village were granted and these are now underway. Work has also begun on the Hale Village/GLS site which will bring £500 million of investment to the area.

Pre-application consultation has taken place with Tottenham Hotspur and on a master plan for Haringey Heartlands. Further, a *Plan for Wood Green* outlining its development over the next 10 years has been created.

### **2009/10 priorities**

In the coming year we will work hard to reduce the effect of the recession on our residents by addressing worklessness and regenerating the borough by supporting business, creating employment and developing new housing. Bi-monthly recession statistical monitoring will allow us to track and respond to the changing needs of residents during the economic down-turn. We will focus on those who are recently unemployed in terms of training and return to work programmes. Funding will increase this year from £1.2m to £1.6m to tackle worklessness and promote enterprise. The Council itself is trebling the number of apprenticeships it offers to 70 over the next three years.

Between 5-15 historically important properties in Bruce Grove and Tottenham High Road will be targeted with external funding worth up to £800k. Concerted work through area-based working, a new flexible heritage and regeneration programme will be designed and delivered in a Myddleton Road, N22, in association with English Heritage.

Over the coming year we expect to make decisions on major development schemes at Haringey Heartlands, and the Tottenham Hotspur stadium and its wider regeneration programme. Further, we will prepare funding bids and explore innovative funding mechanisms to close the funding gap for the Tottenham Hale/Seven Sisters Gyratory Regeneration programme, in partnership with the Mayor of London and the Homes & Communities Agency.

We will also seek to improve the planning and building control systems with bespoke service improvement plans that will focus on customer feedback and service response, value for money, better design, higher levels of environmental quality and further improving our appeal win rate.

### **Children and young people**

We have continued our detailed work on improving safeguarding since the Cabinet member's last report to scrutiny and have had the Monitoring visit from Ofsted from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June. Their report will be published at the end of June.

The work of our partnership has developed even further to bring us to the creation of a Children's Trust for the Borough. This new arrangement runs from June 2009 and marks a new way of working for us and our partners. One of the first big tasks for the Children's Trust will be to approve the new Children's & Young people's Plan – a Plan that has a 10 year vision for the Borough and detail of the work for the next three years to move us towards that vision.

We are on target to extend choice for secondary school pupils with the opening of the new Heartlands High School in September 2010. This forms only one part of the Building Schools for the Future programme in Haringey. 2009/10 will see the highest ever single round of investment in Haringey secondary schools.

Projections show a continuing demand for primary school places. Despite the difficulties of developing investment plans against the current economic climate, we have plans to continue our record of ensuring young children have a school place in their local area.

The increasing number of very young children will benefit from the borough's 17 established children's centres; over the next two years provision will be extended to fill in gaps and ensure that services are available where they are needed. In this current climate, the provision of better services local to where people live makes an important difference. Our commitment is to make sure that we serve our communities in the communities, taking services to residents wherever possible.

Results have increased for Level 2 (5+ A\*-C GCSE) and Level 3 (4 AS/2 A levels) qualifications at 19 and we are now close to the national average having improved by almost twice the national rate since 2004.

Secondary school attendance continues to improve and the secondary schools are now at the national level for school attendance. We recognise that there is still much to do and want to see all schools attaining at or above the national average.

One long standing issue of concern has been the funding formula, used by Government to determine resources through the Dedicated Schools Grant. This disadvantages Haringey and our schools receive substantially less per pupil than schools in neighbouring Islington and Hackney. We would hope that the Government review, which is reaching its conclusion, will recognise the need for Fair Funding for Haringey Children, and change the current arrangements in respect of determining area costs.

Excellent progress has been made in reducing the numbers of NEET young people, those Not in Education, Employment or Training, Our NEET levels are now almost half the 2006/7 figure and at the 08-09 year end were 6.8% the best ever figure for Haringey.

### **2009/10 Priorities**

Safeguarding will continue to be our main priority for the Service and this is being driven through the Quality Outcomes Board.

We are also preparing for the introduction of new requirements of Ofsted in September 2009, which will look at schools' contribution to improving children's well-being. This will enable our schools to provide greater focus on the achievement and well-being of different groups of pupils, equalities and safeguarding issues.

We plan on providing improved information, advice and guidance for young people and their parents with a better range of curriculum opportunities for 14 to 19 year olds. We're also working towards the opening of the new Heartlands High School which will open in September 2010, which will specialise in the visual arts and media. The school has been specifically designed to allow for community use of its facilities, creating strong links to the local area.

<b>Adult social care and well-being</b>
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## **2008/09 Performance**

The number of clients helped with Direct Payments has increased significantly in 2008/09 with a total of 300 clients given a direct payment to help them to purchase their own care. This is a 15% increase on the equivalent from 2007/08 and includes 103 new clients. In addition to this 717 carers were given direct payments. We successfully exceeded our target for assessments completed within 28 days achieving an excellent 96% and also exceeded our target for delivery of care packages with 95% being delivered within 28 days.

Reduction of hospital re-admissions and reducing the number of admissions to residential care has been a key focus for the Council. 79% of all 65+ clients given rehabilitation services on hospital discharge were still able to live in the community 91 days after discharge. The year on year trend of reducing permanent residential care home admissions has continued exceeding our LAA targets with only 10 clients aged 18-64 and 130 clients aged 65+ being admitted.

We've introduced measures to consolidate safeguarding during the last year, including operational safeguarding arrangements, and establishing a multi-agency safeguarding board and subgroups. By March 2009 a total of 599 people had been trained in safeguarding across the partnership.

## **2009/10 Priorities**

Over the coming year we will develop and implement a comprehensive system of performance management and quality assurance, so that the Council can be assured that people in vulnerable situations are safeguarded. Further, we will develop and implement a preventative strategy for safeguarding that is aligned to other preventative work including community safety.

As a result of the Scrutiny review of stroke prevention in the borough, we have planned improvements to include training for staff that come in to contact with those at risk, best practice annual reviews of stroke patients, widened involvement of the voluntary and community sector, and targeted awareness training. In addition to this, to coincide with the national stroke campaign, we're going to work in tandem with Islington to run a campaign for five weeks, in five Haringey tube stations and with 300 internal bus posters in July 2009 and in January 2010. The campaign will focus on stroke prevention.

<b>Resources</b>
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## **2008/09 performance**

The Achieving Excellence programme has been re-launched as Haringey Forward, to better address the current challenges facing the Council. Haringey Forward is now working in three main areas: transforming our core operations; ensuring value for money and making the most cost-efficient use of our office space to create more productive work environments.

The first five reviews in our Value for Money programme were completed in October 2008 and have identified £988,000 in savings. The services covered include, Building Control, Communications, Legal and Benefits and Local Taxation. The action plans from first wave of reviews are now implemented. Further, as part of the Haringey Forward programme we have carried out an options appraisal to determine the best way of providing the Out of Hours service. As a result of this we're joining the pan-London shared Out of Hours service.

We have launched the 'Start Here' directory of accessible services and a new customer relationship management system has been introduced, generating savings and improving call handling. Through more efficient ways of working, we have managed to achieve savings of £495,000 last year. Invoice payments paid on time is 93.1% for the year to February 2009, this is an improvement from 90.5% in 2007/08.

Work has continued over the last year to improve the management of sickness absence and reduce sickness levels to the below 9 days per person. To assist in this process monthly people management performance meetings were introduced from April 2008 to challenge directors and service heads about people management within their services. The new People Strategy was agreed, and our Leadership programme won a national award.

The agreement of the Single Status/Equal Pay agreement which had been jointly agreed with the unions in September 2008 was a key milestone. This has virtually removed the risk of equal pay claims from the workforce and has introduced a package that is within manageable budgets.

### **2009/10 priorities**

We must continue to strive to deliver better value for money for residents; we plan to achieve this through developing shared services, such as the pan-London Out of Hours service.

Internal value for money reviews of central services, through the Haringey Forward programme, will seek to identify further savings still. Delivering the SMART working programme through the Accommodation and People strategies will help to deliver greater efficiency savings. Through the rationalisation of office accommodation at four key sites in the Wood Green campus and disposing of twelve older, less efficient buildings should bring significant savings for the Authority.

Also during the coming year we will explore whether the Council has a role in facilitating matters such as house building, mortgage and other lending, Credit Unions, supporting Post Office services and apprenticeships.

The embedding of our new Treasury Management strategy and the development of a new procurement strategy are also key priorities for the coming year.

Over the coming year we plan to implement a range of policy reviews and changes in the areas of sickness absence, capability, redeployment and grievances. We will also implement intervention groups which will be targeted at improving performance. We will also continue our SMART working programme through the delivery of the Accommodation Strategy and People Strategy.

## **Leisure, culture, Lifelong Learning Priorities**

### **2008/09 Performance**

Culture was assessed as performing strongly (4 stars) by the Audit Commission. This is evident in that we received 2.14 million visits to our libraries in 2008/09. Our libraries are considered to be among the busiest in London, with Wood Green being the 2<sup>nd</sup> most visited library in London and the 9<sup>th</sup> most visited in England. Our libraries do not just provide books, but are vibrant community hubs. We have extended library opening hours; all 9 libraries have implemented the Choose and Book scheme, working jointly with the Primary Care Trust.

The use of leisure facilities has continued to increase year on year with 1.29 million visitors in 2008/09, an increase of over 50,000 from 07/08. We now also have 12 parks, 9 of which are managed by the Council, with Green Flags and 3 parks with Green Pennants.

Bruce Castle Museum welcomed more than 46,500 visitors exceeding the target with an increase of 7.3% from 07/08. In addition, it won a distinction in the London Archive Landmark Awards for its project working with adults who had literacy difficulties.

Against a London average of 53.2%, 59% of Haringey's children and young people are satisfied with parks and play areas and 72% of residents as a whole. Out of the 33 Boroughs, Haringey ranks fourth. Further improvements are forthcoming with Lordship Recreation Ground successfully attracting £400,000 of funding

The Bereavement Services Team were awarded the National Institute for Customer Services Award this year and Haringey's newest cemetery has been officially recognised as one of the best in the country, winning two awards at the Cemetery of the Year Awards 2007.

### **2009/10 Priorities**

Over the coming year we will complete a major refurbishment of Markfield Recreation Ground, Chestnuts and start works on Lordship Recreation Ground and Muswell Hill Playing Fields and implement the Wolves Lane improvement project. We will also complete the masterplan and funding strategy for White Hart Lane Community Sports Centre.

It is our aim to offer customers an improved number and range of ICT facilities in our libraries with improved internet access, more intuitive customer interfaces and a wider range of digital resources. The re-development of Coombes Croft Library using the Big Lottery Fund Grant is another key part of our plans for the library service over the coming year. We will also continue to build upon the positive outcomes of the recent OFSTED re-inspection of HALS, to offer our diverse community a range of adult learning which is both relevant and exciting.

## **Enforcement and Community Safety**

### **2008/09 Performance**

Crime performance in Haringey for 2008/09 was exceptionally good with all crime down 7% since last year. This compares well with neighbouring boroughs such as

Islington and Camden. Of particular note were the following final recorded figures (compared with the same period last year):

- Personal robbery down 26.5%
- Theft from a motor vehicle down 6%
- Gun crime down 26%
- Knife crime down 20%
- Youth violence down 15.5%
- Drug users into effective treatment up 10%

Significant improvements were made in youth crime prevention (down 11%), and the number of 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training (down to 7% against a target of 9.5%) The Parenting Worker in the Anti-social Behaviour Action Team (ASBAT) has supported over 100 families during 2008/09. Partly attributed to this, the Council has not had to apply for an ASBO since October 2007 but continues to intervene early and successfully with Acceptable Behaviour Contracts.

Our Youth Offending Service has successfully bid for £165,000 of additional external funding to boost their work on youth crime prevention and working with specific communities of concern. We will be applying for a national Tilley Award for our innovative school publicity campaign to address theft from motor vehicles. This is widely believed to have contributed to the significant improvement in performance over the past few months.

Enforcement action has contributed to the achievement of the Council's target for reducing fly-tipping and improving cleanliness. As previously mentioned, Haringey gained the highest possible score on a national indicating making the Council 'very effective'.

Since a major upgrade to Haringey's CCTV facility, 682 incidents have been logged and 111 arrests made (43 in March 09 alone). Newly appointed controllers have directed police to over 700 incidents since December 2008. This constitutes dramatically improved performance.

We celebrated our first year of the Community Justice Court and reported an encouraging increase in the cases coming before it. Partner agencies and support services are collaborating successfully and the court will consider community impact statements as part of their problem-solving approach in future.

### **Priorities (2009/10)**

We will be restructuring our community services to support area based working, with one named Street Enforcement Officer to every ward acting as a point of contact for Frontline Services. We will also be extending our hours of operation and linking up our activities outside normal working hours. A new Youth Rehabilitation Order will be introduced in to the Youth Offending System and we will also be developing support services for young people between the ages of 18-24, an age group which is strongly represented in substance misuse and crime commission. These actions will help us to reduce crime and the fear of crime.

In addition to these actions we will be reviewing our Air Quality Action Plan and introducing new measures to reduce the impact of pollution on both the quality of the borough's environment and maximising our climate change contribution, producing a

multi-agency Floor Plan for the Borough and ensuring that all 'flu pandemic preparations are complete.

### **Working with Overview and Scrutiny**

On becoming Leader of the Council one of the areas I was keen to see enhanced is the Council's overview and scrutiny function. I have met, on a number of occasions, the Chair of the Committee, as well as committee members, to discuss how this can be taken forward during the current municipal year and beyond.

One of the key areas will be in ensuring that the Committee, while ensuring its overview of the work of the Council, develops its role in working with partners to look at service delivery across the borough. Also what more it can do to develop its role championing community interests in line with the themes and priorities outlined in the Community Plan. I would obviously be interested in proposals which the Committee itself wishes to bring forward and develop.

Both I and my cabinet colleagues are committed to assisting the Committee in the reviews and investigations you undertake during the coming year. I would hope that the Committee will play its full part in supporting the delivery of key services and programmes outlined and as such I would like to wish the committee well for the coming year.