



Haringey Council

Overview and Scrutiny

On July 5 2010

Report Title: **The Cabinet's Priorities for 2010/11**

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 2010/11 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

Introduction by the Leader of the Council

Clearly along with other local authorities we are faced with significant challenges during the next 12 months. We will fundamentally have to re-evaluate all aspects of the way in which we work. We must deal with the challenges effectively while at the same time ensuring we match the aspirations and ambitions of local residents.

The government has already announced £6 billion of savings to be achieved in year across the public sector. Local government is required to provide over £1 billion of savings in year. Clearly the cuts identified elsewhere will effect a number of our partners on the HSP. The specific impact of this on Haringey is yet to be quantified, however what is clear is that it will impact on a number of programmes which the Council and partners had identified.

It is important also for the scrutiny committee to consider that this the beginning of a severe round of public spending cuts which the government has indicated. We will know more about future cuts as we go through the year with the government's emergency budget in June and a spending review in the autumn.

As a Cabinet we will also start implementing the manifesto which as a Labour group we were elected on. Our One Borough approach will be the starting point for what we do and this is reflected in the priorities in this report.

Below I have tried to capture some of those commitments and a number of other areas of work which we will focus on as a Cabinet during the next year. It is important also to reflect on the significant progress we have made over the last 12 months as a Council. This must give us confidence to know that despite the fundamental challenges we can succeed as a Council and Partnership.

Housing

We will focus on the following during the coming four years:

- The delivery of our decent homes programme – maximising the impact of every pound we spend.
- Step up our use of Compulsory Purchase powers to bring empty homes back into use.
- Work with housing associations to ensure improvements to housing management across the borough.
- Seek new, affordable homes in all parts of the borough.
- Work to provide sheltered housing and by 2014 we will also provide extra care housing, so that our older residents can continue to live in dignity with independence
- As resources allow support homeowners to install energy saving measures

2009/10 Performance highlights

The number of households in Temporary Accommodation has fallen significantly over the past year and this is something which has improved living conditions for many households and also reduced the Council's exposure to changes in subsidy rules.

We have continued to take tough action to bring empty properties back into use, through pursuing enforcement action. This has improved the state of housing in the borough and increased opportunities for families in need of a home with 91 properties being brought back into use. As a result of enforcement action, over £120, 000 has been recovered by the Council.

Homes for Haringey have successfully delivered the second year of the Decent Homes programme. This scheme is making a huge difference to residents' lives across the borough. We have undertaken a thorough review of the management agreement to ensure that it reflects our experience and is fit for purpose.

The Council approved a new 10 year Housing Strategy in July 2009 following extensive consultation with key stakeholders. We our launched Haringey's Affordable Warmth Strategy in November 2009.

Neighbourhoods

We will focus on the following during the coming four years:

- Work alongside the Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods Service and local communities to set priorities for action in all of our neighbourhoods.
- Develop the work of the Street Enforcement Officers network in tackle fly tipping, litter, graffiti and rubbish dumping.
- Continue to take tough penalties for those who do not respect our environment.
- Undertake clean sweeps with residents and our new Neighbourhood Environmental Action Teams.
- Continue to adopt measures which reduce our use of landfill.
- Continue to ensure the proper regulation of houses in multiple occupation to tackle slum landlords through licensing.
- Give Area Assemblies greater control over local decisions and ensure we help people to take action with our support.
- Look to further expand the popular city car club.
- Defend the Freedom Pass so that older and disabled people can continue to use public transport free of charge.
- Establish a Sustainable Transport Commission to consider actions to improve transport, provide fairer parking controls and investment in our transport network.
- Fight for better bus services in Haringey, continued investment in the tube and prioritise east-west links across the borough.
- Use the legislation passed by the previous government to stop sex and lap dancing establishments setting up in our borough.

2009/10 performance highlights

We have rolled out new and improved recycling services so that everyone in the borough can now recycle more items. Residents in approximately 3,500 properties above shops now receive collections from their home, which brings the council closer to providing 100% of households with a dedicated recycling collection.

The My Cleaner Haringey campaign has improved cleanliness in the borough with local clean sweeps and new ways of working by street cleaners across the borough. Latest scores show we are on track to meet all targets on cleanliness.

The car club has been a major success with 27 car club vehicles at 14 on street locations around the borough, with 2,100 streetcar members. We were successful in our bid to become a Biking Borough, a TfL initiative that will help us improve cycling provision.

We have responded to local business requests to improve parking and delivered new parking initiatives across the borough including amendments to the parking restrictions within the Crouch End and Muswell Hill area under experimental powers. This followed extensive meetings with traders from within the two areas. Free parking in council car parks over the weekends throughout December and the lead up to Christmas was well received. The cost of a business permit has been brought down to a standard rate across the borough, which has meant a 50% reduction in some areas.

Area Assemblies have allowed residents to identify key priorities for their local area which have informed the development of local Area Priority Plans. A variety of approaches were used to identify the priorities including workshops and the use of Turning Point voting software.

Community Safety and Cohesion

We will focus on the following during the coming four years:

- Enforce a community-focused, zero-tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour.
- Increase reporting and support to the most vulnerable victims of crime and tackle hate crime and build on the work carried out at Heathstone.
- Work alongside the Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhoods Service and local communities to set priorities for action in all of our neighbourhoods.
- Support calls for a national dog registration scheme.
- Promote a responsible dog ownership campaign.
- Look designate all of our parks and open spaces as Dog Control Areas.

2009/10 performance highlights

The latest scorecard shows that we are set to exceed our target for serious acquisitive crime; a reduction of 9.5% has been achieved against a target of 1.4%. Recorded incidents of both gun and knife crime have reduced significantly since the beginning of the financial year.

The Anti-social behaviour team (ASBAT) performance remains well above the national average with 94% success rate on enforcement following surveillance and 97% success on other legal proceedings as below.

Final figures released during 2009/10 showed that NI40 (number of problematic Drug Users (PDUs) in effective drug treatment) was 4% higher than the target of 8% with 1045 PDUs in Effective Treatment. Final figures for All Adults in effective treatment showed 1311 individuals in effective treatment against a target of 1265.

Haringey has produced the second Domestic and Gender Based Violence Strategy with actions to combat domestic violence, trafficking, rape, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Planning and Regeneration

We will focus on the following during the coming four years:

- Create 300 new apprenticeships giving our young people the opportunity to forge a successful career.
- Continue our work in creating opportunities for residents to access training and jobs under the Haringey Guarantee and lead on this for North London.
- Continue to develop proposal for our key regeneration sites across the borough.
- Work with the College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London (CHENEL) to bring higher education opportunities closer to our residents.
- Work with traders across the borough to encourage residents to make the most of their local high streets and shop locally
- Use all of our powers to tackle rogue landlords who flout the law through illegal conversions.
- Help businesses to become greener and will support new businesses in the 'green economy'

2009/10 performance highlights

The borough's main additional employment support programme – Haringey Guarantee is on target for delivering its 218 sustained jobs in 2009-10. It also increased the number of community access points in the Borough to 40. Launched in 2008, The North London Pledge (NLP) extends the "Guarantee" to Enfield and Waltham Forest. Following a successful bid of £1.5m to the London Development Agency, the Pledge Programme, (in Haringey) is on target to deliver 110 employment support outputs and 57 people into sustained jobs. In February 2010 Haringey will contract to deliver NLP 2 - £2m over 18 months and 130 Haringey people into sustained jobs.

The Haringey Apprenticeship Programme was launched in 2009-10 and to date 62 places have been created in HSP organisations.

Over 2009-10, five town centre business partnerships have met and developed a range of local improvements including a loyalty parking scheme, Christmas events, local newsletters, loyalty shopping projects, local festivals and shop safely programmes. These happened across Wood Green, Green Lanes, Crouch End, Muswell Hill, Tottenham High Road/West Green.

The Haringey Olympics Programme was launched in Dec 2009. £180k will be allocated in 2010-12 for local projects that support elite athletes, sports participation and community/cultural cohesion.

In 2009-10 the Council consulted on and moved to agree its new Plan for Haringey 2011-26 (LDF Core Strategy). We published our LDF Annual Monitoring Report 08-09 which showed that we were on target for delivery of homes; improvement to parks; maintaining employment space and keeping town centres vibrant and viable. In 2009-10 the Council adopted a challenging target for carbon reduction – 40% reduction by 2020 on a 2005 baseline.

Progress was made on a range of major development sites across the Borough including: Coronation Sidings and Clarendon Square, GLS Site Hale Village, Tottenham Hotspur FC, Tottenham High Road and consultation was carried out on redesigning the Tottenham Gyratory and on options for the Greater Ashley Road Master Plan.

Children's Services

We will focus on the following during the coming four years:

- Open a new community secondary school in Wood Green, Heartlands High, in autumn 2010.
- Lobby government to protect funding for Sure Start children's centres.
- Complete the £212 million Building Schools for the Future programme
- Continue to improve our children's social care service with the aim of developing an outstanding service.
- Keep fighting for fair funding for Haringey children; addressing the inequity which means that central Government provide £1,000 less to teach each child than neighbouring inner London boroughs.
- Every school in the borough will be working towards becoming an eco-school, continuing our pledge that every young Pledge: We will work in partnership with Tottenham Hotspur football club to enhance our youth provision – giving young people an alternative to hanging around the streets.
- Upgrade play facilities

2009/10 performance

We have made significant changes in the way referrals and assessments are managed, and improved the support we offer our social workers through improvements to Framework-I, supervision, management and training.

Extensive auditing has demonstrated an improvement in the quality of practice. Better joint working with other areas of CYPS, particularly through Children's Networks, and with other agencies is ensuring that the service we provide is better able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable children.

Children's Networks services deliver both prevention and early intervention and support to children and young people who have additional needs, as part of a coordinated and joined-up approach to children, young people and their families.

Our services to children with disabilities have been enhanced by delivering the Aiming High programme which has resulted in a sharp rise in the number of families benefiting from short breaks.

Adult and Community Services

We will focus on the following during the coming four years:

- Develop extra care housing for our older people
- Extensive improvements to Lordship Recreation Ground
- Continue to support the work of our Friends of Parks groups

- Encourage the active involvement of all residents in looking after their parks and open spaces
- Aim to attract external funding from organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund to develop Bruce Castle to provide a focal point for heritage and culture
- Help people to help themselves and encourage our residents who have disabilities to take control of their own budgets, with our support
- Invest in allotments and seek new places for growing food in new developments
- Establish the “Haringey Circle”, a self-help service to help all generations to work together to solve problems and ensure independence and choice
- Provide an adult learning a facility to provide significant English language programmes as well as basic skills training in numeracy and literacy.

2009/10 Performance

Adult Social Care Services is Performing Well, consistently delivering above the minimum requirements for people, is cost effective and makes contributions to wider outcomes for the community. The next highest score is ‘Performing Excellently’.

The percentage of carers receiving a needs assessment or review and a specific carer’s service, or advice and information was 14.3% against a target of 11.2%. The percentage of vulnerable people achieving independent living was 81.5% against a target of 75%.

The use of libraries in the borough has increased. Bruce Castle Museum has just received the National Customer Service Award for Public Sector and Education. HALS is developing well following the successful Ofsted re-inspection. Enrolments to Adult Learning courses have increased significantly. This year we have extended the popular Libraries for Health by incorporating personal health checks. Two additional wellbeing suites are being installed in our libraries, one at St Ann’s and one at Hornsey.

White Hart Lane Active Strength Gym - Grand Opening Sunday July 09. The gym represents a new chapter in fitness training for borough residents with high quality strength training facilities. Free swimming introduced from April 09 to Over 60s and 16s and under. A new Outdoor Fitness (Trim Trail) facility installed in Albert Road Recreation Ground.

Eleven green Flags in 2009 for parks and open spaces. (2 new, 9 retained), and 4 Green Pennants won by community gardens (1 new, 3 retained). Parkforce Stewards (additional frontline staff presence) engaged /inducted, and deployed across 12 main parks from July, with emphasis upon evening and weekend cover.

Finance and Sustainability

We will focus on the following during the coming four years:

- Protect essential services for residents.
- Undertake a root and branch review of spending to cut waste and deliver better value for money.
- Make substantial progress on our commitment to achieve a 40 per cent reduction in carbon emissions.

- Establish a dedicated Carbon Management Service to maximise our efforts.
- Continue to carry out educational and awareness raising work around energy and water use, recycling, nature conservation, food growing and sustainable transport.
- Help homeowners to install energy saving measures which will not only tackle carbon emissions but cut energy bills
- Support the development of food co-operatives in the borough and help residents into sustainable food schemes.

2009/10 performance highlights.

Tottenham Town Hall: working in partnership with Newlon Housing Trust we are providing new homes, business units and community facilities in the heart of Tottenham. The development agreement will enable the refurbishment of the Town Hall and develop the Clyde Road depot site to include 109 new homes.

A new site at Cranford Way has been purchased to replace the existing recycling site at the former Hornsey Central Depot to provide improved facilities for residents.

We have made good progress with the first phase of our accommodation strategy in the creation of SMART working environments in Alexandra House and River Park House. This will release assets for disposal and reduce costs and improve the working environment for staff.

We set up a new Emergency Out of Hours Services to provide an enhanced service for residents and businesses, enabling people to report emergencies and get support outside the Council's normal office hours.

The Legal Service has developed areas of expertise in contracts; specialist litigation and social case so reducing our external spend in these areas.

For the past 4 years, Haringey Council has hosted and supported the London Energy Project. The project has successfully changed the way in which local government in the UK buys its energy. For this the Council was awarded recognition of Best Procurement Innovation in 2009.

Implementing the e-benefits project – a pilot went live in January 2010. This enables benefit claims to be assessed on line while the claimant is present at the customer services centre so reducing the time to process claims and providing a better service.

Working with Overview and Scrutiny

My cabinet colleagues and I are committed to assisting the Committee in the reviews and investigations you will 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.