

Chair:
Councillor Charles Adje

Deputy Chair:
Councillor Harry Lister

INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report covers matters considered by the Executive at our meeting on 21 February 2006. For ease of reference the Report is divided into the Executive portfolios.
- 1.2 We trust that this Report will be helpful to Members in their representative role and facilitate a fruitful dialogue between the Executive and all groups of Councillors. These reports are a welcome opportunity for the Executive on a regular basis to present the priorities and achievements of the Executive to Council colleagues for consideration and comment. The Executive values and encourages the input of fellow members.

ITEMS OF REPORT

Finance

2. FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE – DECEMBER 2005

- 2.1 We considered the regular finance and performance monitoring report for December 2005 which showed that finance performance had been adversely affected by the fire at Hemel Hempstead in December. Council Tax and Business rate collection had both fallen to 91.5% and 97% respectively. However, we noted that steps had been taken to ensure that normal service was resumed and that we meet our annual targets. In order to meet our agreed Invoice Payment target 91.1% of invoices will have to be paid on time in the remaining months of the year. We also noted that we continued to perform well in processing new benefit claims, and were above target for the year to date.
- 2.2 In terms of performance, 78% of performance indicators had been achieved or were close to being achieved. The report highlighted continued good performance (on target or exceeding target) in a wide range of services from Housing's continued high percentage of urgent repairs completed within Government time limits, to Environmental Services' excellent performance on determining planning applications. The report also highlighted improvements in a wide range of service areas including the rise in the number of items of equipment delivered by Social Services within 7 working days, Housing's improvement in rent collected of rent due, and the Chief Executive's Service's improvement in the number of member enquires responded to within timescale. However, there remained areas which needed improvement, such as Children Services' dealing with complex Children's Act stage 2 complaints, which were receiving support from managers.
- 2.3 Financial regulations required that proposed budget changes be approved by us and those agreed were shown in the table below. These changes fell into one of two categories:
 - budget virements, where it was proposed that budget provision be transferred between one service budget and another. Explanations were provided where this was the case;

- Increases or decreases in budget, generally where notification had been received in-year of a change in the level of external funding such as grants or supplementary credit approval.

2.4 Under the Constitution, certain virements were key decisions. Key decisions were:

- for revenue, any virement which resulted in change in a directorate cash limit of more than £250,000; and
- for capital, any virement which results in the change of a programme area of more than £250,000.

Key decisions were highlighted by an asterisk in the table.

2.5 The following table sets out the proposed changes. There were two figures shown in each line of the table the first amount column related to changes in the current year's budgets and the second to changes in future years' budgets (full year). Differences between the two occurred when, for example, the budget variation required related to an immediate but not ongoing need or where the variation took effect for a part of the current year but would be in effect for the whole of future years. We report that we agreed to the virements set out in the following table:

Period	Service	Key	Amount current year (£'000)	Full year Amount (£'000)	Description
9	Chief Executives, Childrens, Environment, Housing, Social Services, NSR	Rev*	2,520		Chief Executives 282 BWFCC 88 Land charges 400 Management 770 NSR 800 Procurement Social Services 600 Adults & O.People Environment 350 Parking Total 2,520 Met from contingency
9	Chief Executives	Rev	81		Skills for Care Training Forum funding.
9	Finance	Rev	7		Additional SRB income re West Green and JUNP.
9	Chief Executives	Rev	231		Additional SRB income re North London Strategic Alliance £138k, Milton Road community activity scheme £30k, Environmental visioning event and action plan £25k, Young people and parents project £10k and various smaller schemes.
9	Chief Executives	Cap	149		Additional SRB income re Finsbury Park Partnership - Green Lanes Bridge £88k. NDC police kiosk slippage £6k and NDC

					sports & play equipment £55k.
9	Chief Exec /Social Services	Rev*	320		Reallocation of some investment fund monies to Social Services aids & adaptations.
9	Chief Exec	Rev	50		Safer Communities funding for employee seconded to Youth Justice Board.

3. HARINGEY COUNCIL PROCUREMENT STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Council's Procurement Strategy for the period 2002-05 expired in July 2005. We considered a report which advised us that since the publication of the 2002-05 Strategy local government procurement had been subject to transformational change through the publication of the National Procurement Strategy which provided a benchmark for all local authority procurement functions and as a result of the revised CPA framework which placed a greater emphasis on procurement in demonstrating value for money.
- 3.2 The period between August and October 2005 had been spent reviewing achievements against the Strategy and scoping the actions required to mature the Haringey Procurement Service. We noted that in producing a strategy for 2006-09 consideration had been given to the above-mentioned policy drivers as well as to the changing priorities of the Council.
- 3.3 The 2006-09 Strategy recommended to us had been subject to internal consultation with services and had received the endorsement of both the Procurement Stream Board and the Chief Executive's Management Board and, along with its dependencies would provide the route-map for achieving improved procurement performance across the Council as well as the delivery of community services dependent upon procurement.
- 3.4 We report that we approved the Procurement Strategy for the period 2006-09 which was in three parts
- Executive Summary – which set out high level objectives for Council Procurement
 - Strategy Context – which detailed the position of Haringey procurement and detailed plans for maturing the service having regard to the national, regional and local drivers. This section also considered the procurement framework and recommended actions for building capacity.
 - Action Plan – which summarised the actions required to deliver the strategy. We noted that the Procurement Stream Board had yet to agree responsibilities and timescales for delivering the action plan.

Community Involvement

4. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HARINGEY'S COMPACT

- 4.1 The Council will be aware that local Compacts followed on from the National Compact between the Government and Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCS). A Compact was a set of principles and undertakings that provided a framework for partnership and relations between the public sector and the VCS.

- 4.2 We were advised that the Compact recommended to us would enhance the Council's community leadership role and would ensure more effective working with partners to deliver the Council's strategic objectives. We recognised the importance of voluntary sector organisations in delivering services, building community cohesion and encouraging civic pride throughout Haringey and the Compact would assist Haringey's Local Area Agreements (LAA) which would locally integrate funding and, through that, services. Strong partnerships were a pre-requisite for a functioning agreement. Based on the Corporate Peer Review Benchmark, which was devised to reflect changes in the new Corporate Performance Assessment, the Compact could also make a real contribution to the authority becoming an excellent Council and so the Council needed to be committed to work in partnership with the VCS to complement each other to the best of their abilities. To facilitate this there had to be a clear partnership that supported the VCS ability to deliver services to the community at the highest level.
- 4.3 We were also advised that the Compact was the result of a 20 month development process managed by a multi-agency steering group and that over 300 representatives from statutory, voluntary, community organisations have participated in the process. The process had included a 13 week consultation period on the Compact and the Compact document had been reviewed by the Council's Legal Service, as well as the Communications Team and the Equalities Team to ensure that the Council could confidently sign up to the agreement. The Compact had also been presented at the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP) in November 2005 and the Metropolitan Police, the Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust and the Mental Health Trust had endorsed it in principle both at an organisational level and through the Haringey Strategic Partnership (HSP). Our Voluntary Sector Grants Committee had endorsed the process and valued the development of Haringey's Compact. Further engagement and signatories, particularly from VCS organisations to the Compact would be forthcoming once the Council had endorsed their commitment to the agreement. We noted that it was anticipated that a public launch of the Compact will take place at the end of March 2006.
- 4.4 We also noted that there would be further revisions to the Compact agreement and that the finalised agreement would be supported by a 3-year Work Plan on how the principles would be implemented. The Compact also outlined the areas identified as objectives and targets within the agreement. Partners to the Compact would be invited to state how they would work towards and achieve the objectives and targets and its effectiveness would be reviewed, monitored and evaluated by a steering group who would report the outcomes annually to the HSP.
- 4.5 The Council as a whole needs to be seen to be delivering the Compact in the spirit of partnership and demonstrating that it was committed to securing a mutually advantageous agreement so involvement needed to be encouraged across other Council departments at all levels and in order to move this forward it was recommended that Compact Link Officers be appointed across the Council directorates involved in partnership working reporting to the relevant Director for a time limited period of no longer than 6 months during the implementation period and a timetable put in place to support this. This recommendation was supported by our Voluntary Sector Grants Committee.
- 4.6 In order to ensure that the Council used a standardised approach in implementing the

Compact, partnership training courses would be mainstreamed and officers encouraged to attend any other relevant training either through the Council or partner agency. Joint Compact and Champion training, workshops and support would be organised by the HCWG. We report that we approved the Compact agreement and supported its effective implementation both within the Council and with key partnerships including the Haringey Strategic Partnership. We also asked that the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council agree the Compact with other key partners involved in the process including Haringey Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (HAVCO), Haringey Strategic Partnership and the Teaching Primary Care Trust (TPCT) at the public launch of the Compact scheduled to be held in March 2006. We also agreed that Compact Link Officers be appointed across the Council Directorates reporting to the relevant Directors involved in partnership working.

Regeneration and Enterprise

5. CONSULTATION PAPER ON A NEW PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 3 - HOUSING

- 5.1 The Council will be aware that Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 3 sets out the national planning policy framework for delivering the Government's housing objectives. These policies were firmly based on the principles of sustainable development (set out in PPS1 *Delivery Sustainable Development*) and sought to provide for housing in the most sustainable way. The Government's key objective for planning for housing was to ensure that everyone had the opportunity of living in a decent home, which they could afford, in a community where they wanted to live. To achieve this objective, the Government was seeking to:
- (a) ensure that a wide choice of housing types is available, for both affordable and market housing, to meet the needs of all members of the community;
 - (b) deliver a better balance between housing demand and supply in every housing market and to improve affordability where necessary; and
 - (c) create sustainable, inclusive, mixed communities in all areas. Developments should be attractive, safe and designed and built to a high quality. They should be located in areas with good access to jobs, key services and infrastructure.
- 5.2 In December 2005, the Government published for public consultation its draft revision to PPS3. The consultation period ended on 27 February 2006. The new PPS3 will set out the national planning policies for housing, which regional planning bodies and local authorities should take into account in developing regional spatial strategies and local development frameworks. Its objective will be to deliver new homes at the right time in the right place. The national policy framework will reflect the need for flexibility in planning between urban and rural areas, and in areas experiencing high or low demand. The aim was that the planning system was used to its maximum effect to ensure the delivery of decent homes that were well designed, made the best use of land, were energy efficient, made the most of new building technologies and helped to deliver sustainable development.
- 5.3 We noted that the proposals set out in draft PPS3 were generally welcomed, that the Council's emerging UDP was in accord with the new guidance and that the Council was already taking a pro-active approach to housing development by preparing planning briefs and master plans as well as working in partnership with developers and landowners.

- 5.4 However, we also noted that there were some concerns with the new guidance and how it would work in practice. The draft PPS3 placed great emphasis on increasing the supply of housing, raising densities and providing housing according to regional and sub-regional housing needs. This might make it difficult for Haringey to focus on the local housing market and housing needs. There was a strong emphasis on housing delivery, but little mention of the impact of new development on infrastructure, other land uses and existing communities. This was a weakness in the guidance and it failed to adequately mention how the need for necessary infrastructure would be assessed when identifying sites and applying policies.
- 5.5 The Government had promised further guidance on delivering mixed communities, the use of planning obligations and the delivery of affordable housing and the preparation and use of design codes which was to be welcomed. The ODPM asked a number of questions in the consultation paper and we report that we endorsed the responses recommended by our officers as the Council's response to the Government.

Crime and Community Safety

6. ASSOCIATION OF LONDON GOVERNMENT – PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SETTING OF FIXED PENALTY NOTICES LEVELS

- 6.1 The London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003 (2003 Act) and the London Local Authorities Act 2004 (2004 Act) provided for local authorities to use fixed penalty notices in relation to a number of offences. Both Acts provided a duty on local authorities to set the level of fixed penalty notices but provided that this should be exercised by a joint committee established under section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972. In 2001 London boroughs established arrangements that discharged certain functions to a joint committee known as the Association of London Government Transport and Environment Committee (ALGTEC).
- 6.2 We considered a report which advised us that the Association of London Government was proposing that the existing agreement for ALGTEC be varied so that on behalf of participating boroughs it could exercise the joint functions established under both the 2003 and 2004 Acts. Specifically, this would include the setting of fixed penalty fine levels for offences and other functions such as the publishing of relevant codes of practice.
- 6.3 The 2003 and 2004 Acts prescribed arrangements for fines to be limited by the Secretary of State and the matters to be considered in the setting of fines. The ALG had consulted on the levels of fines that might be set under the 2003 and 2004 Acts and had approved in principle consultation findings that established £100 as the appropriate level for fixed penalty notices arising from the 2003 Act. More recently, the ALG had initiated consultations on the 2004 Act and proposed fines which had been endorsed by the ALGTEC in December 2005. The proposals would authorise ALGTEC to support co-ordinated action in relation to offences and would allow London Council's to have the same levels set for a range of fixed penalty notices relating to highways, street trading and environmental protection issues. The setting of fines would release these powers for authorised officers to use in Haringey.

- 6.4 We report that we approved the proposed variation of agreement with ALGTEC providing authority for it to act on our behalf as a “joint committee” for the purposes of the London Local Authorities and Transport for London Act 2003 (2003 Act) and the London Local Authorities Act 2004(2004 Act). We also authorised the Director of Environmental Services or the Head of Legal Services to sign the proposed variation to ALGTEC agreement in accordance with Part H4 of the Constitution.

7. HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION - LICENSING

- 7.1 We considered a report which advised us that the Housing Act 2004 was a wide ranging Act which would implement reforms in the private housing sector and contribute towards establishing ‘sustainable communities’. It was recognised that the private rented sector made a valuable contribution to the housing market and the Act sought to provide additional powers to regulate the market. The provisions included :
- Replacement of the current housing fitness standard with a new Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS).
 - Introduction of mandatory licensing for certain larger Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's).
 - Local discretion to apply additional licensing to other types of HMO's.
 - Introduction of selective licensing
 - New enforcement powers following the HHSRS
 - Changes to the Right to Buy
 - Additional powers to take over the use and management of empty properties
- 7.2 The Act sought to enable landlords in the management of their properties in a professional manner and also to improve the quality and status of the sector by providing stronger powers to deal with bad landlords and poor tenants who caused problems to others. We welcomed the introduction of the Act, as the new powers would enhance our successful private sector work and would help us to deliver our Private Sector Housing strategy objectives. The provisions fitted well with our existing work on Landlord Accreditation, empty properties and area based intervention. We noted that while the remainder of the report we considered concentrated on the implementation of HMO licensing, it was proposed to submit a further report to us on the broader provisions at a later date.
- 7.3 The Act introduced a mandatory licensing scheme for certain categories of HMO's and discretionary powers to extend licensing to other types of HMO's through additional licensing schemes. Mandatory HMO licensing was to commence borough-wide in April 2006 when Haringey's existing HMO registration control schemes would cease.
- 7.4 Mandatory licensing would apply to HMO's of 3 or more storeys and 5 or more residents who constituted more than one household. Therefore, It would not affect a majority of the HMO's in Haringey and particularly not those found in the east of the Borough. We noted the intention of officers to bring a further report to us on the potential of additional licensing to better regulate and control the operation of HMO's in the east of the borough and in smaller premises. However, these powers were unlikely be released until mandatory licensing had been completed.

7.5 The Act imposed a duty on the Council to:-

- Effectively implement a HMO licensing regime;
- Ensure that all applications for licensing are determined within a reasonable time; and
- To satisfy itself as soon as is reasonably practicable (within a 5 years maximum) that inspections to identify and remove serious hazards have been carried out.

A licence might therefore be granted prior to an inspection.

7.6 The Act provided that a Council might charge a fixed fee for an application, and provided for secondary legislation in the form of regulations which might specify maximum fees (either by amounts or calculation methods), fee exemptions, or refunds. In fixing the fee, the Act allowed the Council to take into account all costs incurred in carrying out HMO licensing functions as well as all enforcement costs incurred in relation to HMO Management Orders, where the costs of the latter were not recoverable elsewhere. We noted that the resources required to support mandatory licensing were in addition to existing responsibilities relating to HMO enforcement and that whilst there was some limited potential for the absorption of field time spent on assisted applications and of management costs within the existing establishment, some growth from fee income was required.

7.7 We report that we approved the following HMO licensing fees as well as arrangements to support the HMO licensing provision -

Unassisted applications

A. Fixed standard fee per letting	£164
B. Full application received pre 30/9/2006 10% discount	£148
C. Application from accredited landlords 2006-2008 20% discount:	£131
D. If both B and C	£115

Assisted applications (no discounted rates will apply)

E. An additional charge per HMO	£230
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Health and Social Services

8. RESPONSE TO SUPPORTING PEOPLE CONSULTATION (GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS FOR A FUTURE NATIONAL SUPPORTING PEOPLE STRATEGY)

8.1 We considered a report the first part of which provided a brief overview of the development of the Supporting People programme since its inception in April 2003 and set out some basic facts about how much was being spent on Supporting People services at national and local level. The report also detailed the requirements the Government imposed on local authorities regarding decision making and planning, contract and performance management and the review of services. Details were also provided of how Haringey had implemented these requirements including how local Supporting People decisions were made. This offered a context to the Government's consultation on its future national Supporting People strategy.

- 8.2 The report also provided a detailed summary of the key suggestions and proposals the Government had set out in their national consultation document *Creating Sustainable Communities Supporting Independence* and the key issues the Government had identified with regard to the future management and funding of Supporting People services for vulnerable households: We noted that the key issues were:
- The better integration of Supporting People strategic planning, commissioning and service delivery with other planning frameworks
 - Identifying three key groups of vulnerable household around which joint planning arrangements and more flexible funding could be arranged, which include highly vulnerable people requiring care and support; households who are independent but who need some support and households who are socially excluded including homeless households
 - The possibility of removing the ring fencing around SP decision making and funding and allowing greater flexibility, possibly within the context of Local Area Agreements
 - A move towards a needs based formula framework for allocating Supporting People funding and the redistribution of SP funds between authorities based on the formula
- 8.3 We noted the summary and conclusions to the report and we authorised the Director of Social Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Social Services and Health and the Leader of the Council to produce a formal response to the Government's proposals on the future direction of the Supporting People programme.

Leader

9. PROJECT AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT – RESPONSE TO THE AUDIT COMMISSION REVIEW

- 9.1 We considered a report which advised us that the Programme Management framework in Haringey consisted of CEMB Programme Board, four Stream Boards and one Project Board, as follows:
- Assets
 - Customer Focus
 - E-Care (Project Board)
 - Procurement
 - Information Management
- 9.2 The Programme encompassed all the Council's major internal projects but there were also a number of externally focused projects that report separately to the Chief Executive's Management Board (CEMB), for example Better Haringey, Change for Children Programme and the Community Care Strategy. Programme management was essential to co-ordinate the delivery of a set of projects and ensure that the outcomes of the programme were greater than the sum of outcomes from the individual projects and was key to performance improvement and the realisation of our corporate strategy.

- 9.3 Over the past year, the Programme had improved the way the Council managed projects corporately and was a key part of our response to the CPA Corporate Assessment. Despite the successes of the first year, further work was required to ensure that programme management was fully embedded and a discussion paper on restructuring the Programme was presented to CEMB in December 2005. This built on discussions with senior Councillors following the June 2005 Outturn report to the Executive. Programme Board agreed that:
- Further consideration should be given to Member involvement in projects;
 - That the Programme be strengthened to respond to the value for money and use of resources agenda;
 - A dedicated Programme Management Office be established.
- 9.4 Subsequently, in January 2006, the Audit Commission published a report which examined the Council's arrangements for managing the Tech Refresh project. Their report highlighted a number of concerns with the governance arrangements for Tech Refresh and specifically outlined inadequate project and financial management practices. Concerns about reporting arrangements for high risk, major projects had also been highlighted in the Use of Resources Assessment in November 2005.
- 9.5 The report advised us that the Council was required to produce an action plan to address the issues raised by the Audit Commission report and that Commission would be carrying out a follow-up review in late February/early March 2006. The report recommended a response to the Audit Commission report and Use of Resources assessment and outlined new arrangements for programme and project management in Haringey which build on the discussion paper presented to Programme Board.
- 9.6 We report that we adopted the recommendation contained in the report which involved the approval of a detailed action plan in response to the Audit Commission's recommendations and agreement to a new Programme Management structure. We also agreed to the establishment of Member Steering Groups for each Stream Board in order to provide strategic direction as well as political input and steer. Approval was also granted to the establishment of a dedicated Programme Management Office in the Improvement and Performance Team. We asked that a separate report be submitted to us that clarified the links between change, programme management, policy development and the Member decision making process and we noted that a separate Project Implementation Review would be produced for us in respect of Tech Refresh.

10. ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER URGENCY PROCEDURES

- 10.1 We were informed of one action taken by Directors under urgency procedures following consultation with Executive Members.

Purchase of Deployment Infrastructure for Computerised Report Running in Housing Services

Approval to a waiver of Contract Standing Order 6.4 (Requirement to Tender) in connection with the procurement and implementation of a deployment infrastructure to support the use in Housing Services of the corporate standard computerised reporting tool.

11. DELEGATED DECISIONS AND SIGNIFICANT ACTIONS – JANUARY 2006

- 11.1 We were informed of significant actions which involved expenditure of more than £50,000 taken by Directors under delegated powers.

Assistant Chief Executive (Access)

Milton Road Estate Phase 3 – House Storage and Associated Works – Appointment of Miller & Barker.

IT Technical Refresh – Delayed Handover and Deployment Support – 4th Addendum for Logicalis.

Director of Environmental Services

Contract for the Macadam Resurfacing as part of the Open Spaces Infrastructure Improvement Programme was awarded to Southern Landscape Ltd. in the sum of £146,417.

Contract for the Fences and Railings as part of the Open Spaces Infrastructure Improvement Programme was awarded to Metalcraft (Tottenham) Ltd in the sum of £211,145.

Restructure of Streetscene Business Improvement Team with additional costs of £78,541 being charged to the 3 main sections within the Streetscene Service.

Director of Housing Services

Commerce Road Estate Lighting Improvements (Better Haringey Estates Improvement Programme) - Award of contract for street lighting replacement and improvement to Seeboard Contracting Services in the sum of £56,875

Acacia/Winkfield Estate Lighting Improvements (Better Haringey Estates Improvement Programme) - Award of contract for street lighting replacement and improvement to Seeboard Contracting Services in the sum of £53,796.

Love Lane Door Entry Works (Better Haringey Estates Improvement Programme) - Award of contract for the provision of new controlled entry systems and work to existing systems to C J Bartley in the sum of £67,564.

The Sandlings Lighting Improvements (Better Haringey Estates Improvement Programme) - Award of contract for street lighting replacement and improvement to Seeboard Contracting Services in the sum of £103,967.

Remington Road/Pulford Road Environmental Works - Award of contract for environmental works to T E Beach Ltd in the sum of £222,035.

Fladbury Road Environmental Works - Award of contract for environmental works to T E Beach Ltd in the sum of £243,233.

Fladbury Square Environmental Works - Award of contract for environmental works to T E Beach Ltd in the sum of £249,266

Garton House, Moore House, Mildura Court Door Entry Works (Better Haringey Estates Improvement Plan) - Award of contract for the provision of new controlled entry systems and work to existing systems to Dennis Johns in the sum of £106,924

The Sandlings/Commerce Road Door Entry Works (Better Haringey Estates Improvement Plan) - Award of contract for the provision of new controlled entry systems and work to existing systems to Cartel Security Systems PLC in the sum of £141,645

Rothbury Walk, Broad Lane, Cordell House Door Entry Works (Better Haringey Estates Improvement Plan) - Award of contract for the provision of new controlled entry systems and work to existing systems to Eversafe Security in the sum of £170,208.

Bracknell Close Lighting Improvement (Better Haringey Estates Improvement Plan) - Award of contract for lighting improvement work to Seeboard Contracting Services in the sum of £85,000.

Howfield Place Door Entry Works (Better Haringey Estates Improvement Plan) - Award of contract for the provision of new controlled entry system and work to existing system to Cartel Security Systems plc in the sum of £108,754.