

BRIEFING ON HARINGEY'S COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND THE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Community Strategy

- There is a duty on local authorities under the Local Government Act 2000 to produce, in partnership, a community strategy
- Draft guidance from government expects new community strategies to be developed as *sustainable* community strategies
- A sustainable community strategy should have due regard for the economic, social and environmental impact of the policies and activity arising from the strategy. It should also ensure that the strategy addresses the existing and future needs of the community.
- A sustainability impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the development of Haringey's new community strategy.
- A full consultation programme has been developed to ensure that the broadest range of stakeholders as possible are able to have an input into the community strategy.
- The timetable has been developed to ensure that all major developments are able to be influenced and signed off by the Partnership.
- The community strategy will set out a long term vision for the borough
- The vision and objectives contained within the community strategy will be underpinned by an action plan.
- This action plan will be developed and monitored through the Partnership
- The Local Area Agreement will form a vital part of the action plan

The Local Area Agreement

- The primary objective of the LAA, as stated by Government, is 'to deliver sustainable communities through better outcomes for local people'. Each Local Strategic Partnership is required to agree targets based on local evidence and priorities. Haringey's LAA will be informed by the consultation around and the development of the new Community Strategy.
- Similarly because the LAA will be such a central part of the work of the Partnership the LAA will also inform the content of and the action plans in the Community Strategy
- Local Area Agreements (LAA) have been introduced to make local strategic partnerships more effective by providing the facility for partners to align and jointly plan the use of resources to achieve specific targets to provide better services, outcomes and opportunities for local people.
- Local Area Agreements focus upon the biggest issues and problems facing local areas.
- The LAA has a Safer & Stronger communities block that has mandatory outcomes for crime, environment, community empowerment and decent homes

A Haringey focus for the LAA

Proposals currently under discussion with members of the HSP seek to provide a focus for Haringey's LAA. This focus needs to be in line with the biggest issues and problems facing the borough. Themes could include

- Creating successful, healthy and prosperous communities
- Young people aged 14-24
- Putting people first –community cohesion and tackling disparities where they exist
- Increasing community capacity and participation
- All underpinned by Neighbourhood management – addressing what is important to local areas.

Stretch targets

- LAAs provide financial incentives if local strategic partnerships set and achieve more challenging targets than those mandatory outcomes set by central Government (known as 'stretch targets').
- Stretch targets within the theme of Better Places could focus upon
 - Green flag awards for parks situated within our most deprived areas
 - Increasing resident satisfaction
 - Cleanliness of the environment –focus on the specific problems faced in local areas
 - Increase recycling in those areas where participation is low

The Better Places Partnership meeting on 13th September will be devoted to the Community Strategy and LAA and updates will be given at this meeting. Meanwhile partners with any queries should contact Janice Robinson at Janice.robinson@haringey.gov.uk or on 020 8489 2613.