



Agenda item

Haringey Strategic Partnership - 22nd May 2007

Subject: Community Empowerment Network (Haringey)

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To outline the proposed method for establishing a new community empowerment process in Haringey by HAVCO.
- 1.2 To outline the interim arrangements while the new method for electing representatives to the main HSP and Partnership Theme Boards.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The HSP derecognised HarCEN as the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) on 22nd March 2007 and agreed that HAVCO should be approached to establish a new method of community empowerment in Haringey.
- 2.2 The proposal for putting in place a community empowerment system by HAVCO is set out in detail in Appendix 1 of this Report:
 - Interim arrangement (Page 1)
 - Proposed new model for community engagement (Page 2)
 - Number of places for community and voluntary sector representation (Page 4)
 - Support for elected representative (Page 4)
 - Web portal and ICT support (Page 6)
 - Implementation timetable (Page 7)
 - Proposed Community Link Forum Terms of Reference (Page 7)
 - Summary

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the proposal submitted by HAVCO is accepted and agreed by the HSP.
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Report of:

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4. Report

- 4.1 The HSP derecognised HarCEN as the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) on the 22nd March 2007 and agreed that HAVCO should be approached to establish a new method of community empowerment in Haringey.
- 4.2 The agreement to approach HAVCO to undertake this role was the result of independent research undertaken for Haringey on best practice community empowerment operating across London in delivering effective and functioning CEN's.
- 4.3. However, following the HSP decision in making the approach to HAVCO to take on this function there was acknowledgement by Officers that there were issues which needed to be addressed and supported to ensure best results for all parties. These included:
1. The imperative for the HSP and Partnership Theme Boards to have elected and accountable community representations in place at the earliest opportunity.
 2. The apathy of many voluntary and community organisations to engage with community empowerment networks due to the perceived ineffectiveness of the previous provider.
 3. The awareness that HAVCO's positive reputation should not be jeopardised by undertaking this role.
 4. A significant reduction of financial support for future community empowerment processes.
 5. Because of point 4, the need to put in place a streamlined and cost effective process that would provide maximum benefit for all partners.
- 4.4 To assist HAVCO in exploring options in order to put forward a workable and effective proposal to the HSP the advisor who undertook the independent review on methods used across London for community empowerment supported HAVCO in coming forward with the attached proposal.
- 4.5 The new community empowerment arrangement proposed by HAVCO will be called 'Haringey Community Link'. HAVCO's proposal paper is Appendix 1 of this report. It sets out their proposals for:

- **Interim arrangement (Page 1) -**
Following the de-recognition of HarCEN there are currently 24 community and voluntary representatives on the main HSP and Themed Partnership Boards. It is proposed that the current representative remain in place until the new systems re adopted and fully operational.
- **Proposed new model for community engagement (page 2)**
All existing mechanisms are replaced by a new generic model for representation to HSP and Theme boards through a new forum called Haringey Community Link. Ad hoc themed forums may be convened in key policy areas as required.
- **Number of places from community and voluntary sector representation (page 4)** Other than HAVCO's standing representation 20 other places will go through an election process.
- **Support for elected representative (page 4)** There will be a 3 stage approach of support, training and development for representatives through the new Community Link model.
- **Web portal and ICT support (page 6)** HAVCO's Community Link portal will provide additional support to elected representatives.
- **Implementation timetable (page 7)** It is expected that newly elected representatives will be in position by November 2007.