

**LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT**

**EXECUTIVE - 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2003**

**'A PLAN FOR BRENT' BRENT'S COMMUNITY PLAN**

<b><u>FOR ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>NAME OF WARD(S)</u></b>
	<b>ALL</b>
<b>1. <u>SUMMARY</u></b>	
1.1	This report introduces Brent's first community plan, 'A Plan for Brent'. This plan incorporates a number of priorities identified during consultation with residents and outlines how local agencies are planning to address these priorities. It will help guide the work of Brent's Local Strategic Partnership 'Partners for Brent' over the next five year's and will be updated by Partners for Brent to reflect the changing priorities of local residents.
<b>2. <u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u></b>	
2.1	The Executive is recommended to: (i) Agree the priority objectives of the Plan for Brent (ii) Refer the plan to Full Council for formal adoption
<b>3. <u>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</u></b>	
3.1	There are none specific to this report. However, greater co-ordination of the work of Partners for Brent and targeting of resources should result in the more effective delivery of services.
<b>4. <u>STAFFING IMPLICATIONS</u></b>	
4.1	There are none specific to this report
<b>5. <u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u></b>	
5.1	The Local Government Act 2000 introduced a power for local authorities to do anything they consider likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well being of their area. In determining whether or how to exercise this power the authority must have regard to their community strategy required to be produced under the same Act.  Although there has been some debate on this issue, it is our view that the existence of a community strategy is not a pre-requisite for the use of the power. No specific timetable has been prescribed for the production of a strategy but the government expects all authorities to have an agreed plan at the earliest opportunity.  Once the strategy is in place the power to promote the economic, social and environmental well being of the area will only exercisable after having regard to the community plan. This does not mean that the power cannot be exercised in a particular way simply because it is not specifically mentioned in the plan, provided regard is had to the plan. It may also be relevant to consider the plan when exercising other powers to which the strategic objectives it identifies relate.
<b>6. <u>DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS</u></b>	
6.1	Attached to this report is Brent's first community plan. The plan has been produced in accordance with the requirement of the Local Government Act 2000 and associated guidance, which stipulates that the plan should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engage and involve local communities</li><li>• Involve active participation of Councillors inside and outside of the executive</li></ul>

- Be prepared and implemented by a broad 'local strategic partnership'
  - Be based on a proper assessment of needs and the availability of resources.
- 6.2 According to guidance a community strategy has 3 objectives:
- to allow local communities to articulate their aspirations, needs and priorities
  - to co-ordinate the actions of the council and of the public, voluntary and community and private sector organisations that operate locally
  - to focus and shape existing and future activity of those organisations so that they effectively meet community needs and aspirations
- 6.3 Brent took the view that the community plan should be more than a paper exercise and therefore, over the last 18 months the Council has worked with local residents and other service providers to draft Brent's plan. A number of consultation exercises have taken place:
- July 2001, initial scoping conference took place at the Tricycle Theatre and identified the broad areas to be covered by the plan.
  - December 2001, conference was held at the Town Hall to identify the priorities of local residents under each of the service areas
  - March 2002, seminar for Brent's black and minority ethnic communities was held to ensure that the plan was reflecting the needs of Brent's diverse communities
- 6.4 In addition to these formal arrangements, the views of residents have been sought via the Brent Magazine, which has carried a number of articles on the plan and has invited residents to comment. The Area Consultative Forums have also been briefed during the development of the plan and had the opportunity to contribute to its development.
- 6.5 Specific issues raised during the consultation have been aggregated into a number of priority objectives and organised under the following themes:
- Health and social care
  - Local housing
  - Environment and transport
  - Regeneration and employment
  - Crime prevention and community safety
  - Education and lifelong learning
- 6.6 The plan includes a summary of the plans and policies of individual members of Partners for Brent in order to identify for residents the activity are already being taken locally to address the issues they have raised. The theme groups of Partners for Brent will continue to address the priority objectives to ensure that collective effort is directed at securing service improvements. Further reports from each of the theme groups will be published on an annual basis via the Brent Magazine in order to keep residents informed as to how effectively Partners for Brent are improving services.
- 6.7 The Board of Partners for Brent will oversee delivery of the plan.

## 7. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The following papers were referred to in the preparation of this report:

- A focus for Brent – Report of community planning conference July 2001
- Brent PCT Local Delivery Plan
- Brent Council Corporate Strategy 'Building a Better Borough'
- Social Services Service Development Plan
- Children and Young People's Strategy
- Sport and Leisure Development Framework
- Housing Strategy 2002-07
- Regeneration Strategy 2001-21

- Unitary Development Plan
- Local Agenda 21 Action Plan
- Draft Waste Strategy
- Environment Services Service Development Plan
- Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance
- Interim Local Implementation plan
- Parks Strategy
- Brent Crime and Disorder Reduction and Community Safety Strategy 2002-05
- Fire Safety First
- Education Development Plan
- Education Services Development Plan

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