



Executive
11th December 2006

**Report from the Director of
Policy and Regeneration**

For Action

Wards Affected:
ALL

Brent's Regeneration Action Plan 2007-09

Forward Plan Ref: PRU-06/07-11

1.0 Summary

1.1 Brent has a well established and highly regarded 20 year regeneration strategy covering the period until 2021. Every three years the Council and the Local Strategic Partnership publish a new Regeneration Action Plan setting out a programme of specific activities in pursuit of the strategy. This report presents the new draft 'Regeneration Action Plan' covering the period 2007 to 2009 (Appendix 1.) The action plan sets a clear and focussed work programme for regeneration in Brent under five themes. As the action plan is a partnership document, following its consideration by the Executive it will be presented to Brent's Local Strategic Partnership for final approval.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Endorse the draft 'Regeneration Action Plan 2007-2009' in advance of consideration and approval by the Local Strategic Partnership.
- 2.2 To delegate responsibility to the Director of Policy & Regeneration to make any necessary minor changes to the plan following its consideration by the local strategic partnership and prior to its final publication.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 In 2001 Brent published its first Regeneration Strategy, setting out an ambitious twenty year agenda to transform the Borough. The document is 'owned' by the Local Strategic Partnership, and identifies six key priorities for regeneration in the period until 2021 based on a rigorous analysis of evidence of need across the Borough.
- To 'reduce the gaps' between Brent's deprived communities and the rest of London.
 - To reduce unemployment levels across the Borough to below the London average.
 - To increase income levels across the Borough to above the London average and promote measures to retain this wealth within the Brent economy.
 - To promote a landmark development of regional and national significance at Wembley, creating an identity for the Borough and ensuring substantial local benefit.
 - To ensure a consistently high quality of life for all residents of Brent.
 - To take positive preventative action in those areas most at risk of falling into decline in the future.
- 3.2 Progress against the strategy has been good. Since its publication the Council has levered in over £1 billion of regeneration grant funding towards delivering the priorities contained within it. The regeneration of Wembley is progressing more rapidly than any other project of a comparable size in London, estate based regeneration in Chalkhill, Church End, Stonebridge and South Kilburn has all progressed well, Brent in2work has been established and now directly places some 1,000 unemployed Brent residents into work each year, and our neighbourhood renewal work has made significant inroads into many social and economic issues in the priority neighbourhoods.
- 3.3 Every three years a new Regeneration Action Plan is produced in support of the strategy. The purpose of these documents is to set a clear and focussed work programme designed to maximise our ability to deliver the regeneration strategy. The action plan incorporates Brent's formal Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy, which we are required to publish as part of the terms of receiving neighbourhood renewal fund grant. The new draft action plan for the period 2007-2009 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.4 The document has been the subject of an extensive consultation exercise, beginning in late 2005. This included a series of themed half day workshops with staff from all Council departments, visits to departmental management teams and a cross-party member workshop. There has also been a more formal written consultation.

3.5 The final draft has been amended further to take on board the priorities of the new administration as articulated in the emerging new Corporate Strategy. Some of the key new work areas include:

- Prioritising efforts to develop visions and implementation plans for each of the 'growth' areas identified in the emerging Local Development Framework.
- An increased emphasis on economic development, through the development of a new Economic Development Plan to ensure that there are favourable conditions to both attract new investment and to support business growth.
- Developing activities designed to ensure that Brent residents get maximum benefits from London hosting the 2012 Olympic Games.
- In relation to Wembley, maximising the retail offer that is achieved and bringing forward tangible proposals for the regeneration of the eastern industrial estate.

3.6 The established performance management regime will allow detailed progress reports to be presented to members at regular and timely intervals.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The activities set out in the draft action plan are dependent on the Council leveraging in external resources, either in the form of sustaining or attracting grant funding (largely from central or regional government and Europe) or alternatively by securing new private investment into the Borough. This is particularly the case with regard to improvements in facilities in the 'growth' and 'regeneration' areas identified in the draft Local Development Framework.

4.2 Any revenue or capital costs incurred in delivering the action plan that have an impact on the Council's mainstream resources will either need to be contained within existing budgets or will be subject to consideration as part of the council's overall service and budget prioritisation process. In doing this, account will need to be taken of the planned outcomes, including the extent to which they meet priorities within the community and corporate strategies, the cost of delivering these, and the extent to which the schemes lever in external resources.

4.3 Particular consideration will need to be given to what happens if, as expected, Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) of £2.3m each year comes to an end after 2007/08. There will be a need to identify how mainstream budgets and other sources of funding can be used to ensure improvements continue in areas covered by NRF. This issue will need to be addressed in the council's medium term financial strategy which will be reported to Full Council in March 2007 as part of the Council's overall budget report.'

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council has power to do anything which is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental well being of its area. This wide ranging power means the Council has sufficient power to carry out a full range of regeneration functions although the power, contained in section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000, has to be exercised with regard to the Council's community strategy. Each project should be assessed fully to determine the regeneration benefits that it is expected to bring about, the risks associated with it and the legal powers available to the Council to implement the project.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The Regeneration Action Plan will undergo an equalities impact assessment prior to final approval by the Local Strategic Partnership. During the period of the plan, specific new areas of work will undergo equalities impact assessments as appropriate.
- 6.2 The action plan is based on a sound evidence base of need. By definition much of the activity contained within the plan is focused on ensuring that those people who need support the most are best able to benefit from the regeneration opportunities across the Borough.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 A vast majority of the Council's regeneration staff are paid for from external funding sources. If the Council is unable to attract new resources then its capacity to deliver regeneration will decrease significantly. The regeneration action plan is a critical document, which gives the Council's funding partners confidence that the Council has a clear and focussed regeneration agenda.

Background Papers

Appendix 1: Brent Regeneration Action Plan 2007-2009 (Draft)

Brent Regeneration Strategy 2001-2021 (available from Policy & Regeneration Unit)

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