

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

FULL COUNCIL – 19th SEPTEMBER 2005

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

The Committee met on Wednesday, 25 July 2005. The following summarises the main business conducted and the conclusions reached.

Improving the Sexual Health of Young People in Brent

The Committee considered a report from the members of the Health Overview task group, who had conducted a review of the sexual health of young people in Brent. Key findings included that accessibility to services, and easy recognition of them, was important to young people. Members also discussed the finding that a guarantee of confidentiality was regarded by young people as crucial.

Members expressed the view that implementation of the report's recommendations would require careful monitoring and the Chair noted that the Health Overview Panel would be in a position to monitor implementation. Subject to this, the report was approved for submission to the Executive.

Housing Density and Urban Design

Members considered a draft report, produced by an independent planning professional, which dealt with issues relating to the Overview task group established to consider issues relating to housing density and urban impacts in Brent.

In an extended discussion, the members of the task group argued that the draft was unsatisfactory, as it did not adequately reflect their work and conclusions. On this account they could not confirm ownership of it, and the chair of the task group had resigned. It was agreed that further work on the report was essential and that the draft report should be referred back to the task group, in consultation with the consultant, to enable this to take place.

Task Groups

The Committee considered a compendium of task group activity which had been produced during the preceding municipal year and noted with satisfaction the outcome of the groups' work. Members also discussed and approved the scope for two new task groups, namely the Community Access to Schools task group and the Increasing Physical Exercise in Brent task group, and extended invitations to all members to join these task groups.

Community Consultation

The Head of Consultation presented members of the Committee with an update on the production of the Community Consultation Strategy, the production of which was being supported by an independent consultant. Several members of the Committee expressed an interest on contributing to this exercise, which was intended to address the Government's agenda for local communities and to acknowledge the needs of Brent's diverse community. It was agreed that work should continue on this basis.

Councillor N Thompson.
Chair, Overview Committee.