

Overview & Scrutiny Feedback

In respect of: Town Centre Regeneration in Brent
 Membership: Cllr Jones, Cllr Corcoran, Cllr Kansagra

Date: Lead Member: Councillor Van Colle & Councillor Detre
 Lead Officer: Michael Read

Recommendation	Has or will this be Implemented / Not Implemented	If not Why not	Timescales for implementation	Officer Responsible
<p>1. That the planning service develop a protocol to agree priorities and improve the response to environmental issues raised by town centre managers.</p>	<p>Delivery structure for the working of the Town Centre Sub Groups in place. Plan to develop more detailed protocol during 2009/10</p>	<p>Available staff resource focussed on bringing the LDA funded town centre enhancement programme to a successful conclusion.</p>	<p>2009/10</p>	<p>Chris Walker</p>
<p>2. That the new town centre strategy in the council's Regeneration Action Plan for 2007-2009 is endorsed by the relevant portfolio holders and clear resources to deliver its objectives are identified through the budget process.</p>	<p>The development of a strategy envisaged external consultancy support given the lack of capacity within the existing town centre management resource. The need for this work has been identified in the Planning Service Plan for 2009/10 and a draft brief for this work has been prepared.</p>	<p>No funding has currently been identified to take this work forward. It is estimated that the required work would cost £50k.</p>	<p>2009/10 – subject to resources being identified.</p>	<p>Chris Walker</p>
<p>3. That neighbourhood working officers ensure that local businesses are included within their consultation</p>	<p>Officers attend town centre partnership meetings for Wembley, Kilburn and Willesden Green, which are forums that engage with the business community.</p> <p>In Dollis Hill local business owners sit on the Safer Neighbourhood Team ward panel, which is one of</p>			<p>Christine Collins</p>

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	<p>the forums Neighbourhood Working use for consultation.</p> <p>Also in Dollis Hill, one of the local business owners is part of a partnership group that is currently meeting around ways to engage young people</p> <p>In Harlesden the Neighbourhood Coordinator receives regular feedback from SNT Panel meetings about issues on of concern in the Town Centre. The Neighbourhood Officer also attends Harlesden Town Centre Partnership Meetings which are attended by local businesses and agencies. Local business also attend the Area Consultative Forum where they have an opportunity to raise issues of concern to them that Neighbourhood Working has responded to such as CCTV, congestion, Alert Box and RAID Control initiatives and the funding of a Christmas Town Centre event.</p>			
<p>4. That neighbourhood working officers with a town centre in their ward dedicate at least one walkabout a year to focus on town centre issues</p>	<p>Cllrs had a walkabout in May 2008 along Willesden Green High Road</p> <p>Kilburn Cllrs attended a walkabout</p>			Christine Collins

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	<p>along the High Road in October 2008, as part of Community Safety's environmental street audit.</p> <p>Mapesbury Cllrs had a Cricklewood Broadway walkabout with Transportation officers on 26 August 08 to explore improved signage and branding for the Broadway after concerns were raised about lack of identity for the area, empty premises and a poor range of local shops. Cllrs are exploring a possible business/residents survey from April 09 to identify key priorities and move forward.</p> <p>Fryent Cllrs had a walkabout in early June 08 on Kingsbury Road where the key issues raised were CCTV and fear of crime.</p> <p>Wembley Central ward had a walkabout including Wembley High Road on 6 May with the Wembley Town Centre Manager. They identified some local fly-tipping hotspots</p> <p>All three Harlesden walkabouts have included the Town Centre within the route.</p>			

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<p>5. That the planning department research the possibilities of identifying suitable locations to trial a project on flexible uses of property on the periphery of high streets, where alternative uses would add to the attractiveness of the town centre.</p>	<p>As an interim measure the Council has endeavoured to persuade landlords of empty shops to consider temporary displays/art/uses. Landlords reluctant to do so in the absence of economic rents. Practical issues of implementation given the lack of Council ownership of property. Formal review of planning approach through LDF Development control Policies in 2010.</p>	<p>Formal review of Development Control Policies as part of LDF needs to await the formal endorsement of the LDF Core Strategy due to be examined in public later this year.</p>	<p>Policy Review 2010/11</p>	<p>Chris Walker</p>
<p>6. That the StreetCare department explore and report on how other councils overcome difficulties with enforcing fixed penalty fines for people who drop litter and suggest a model that might suit Brent.</p>	<p>London councils have a disparate approach to litter enforcement and no standardised model would appear to exist from which best practice can be identified. Ian Stewart (Waste Services Manager) is currently discussing protocols and methodology for the deployment of PCSOs in litter enforcement with Chief Inspector Ian Vincent. This scheme will be managed by the StreetCare Enforcement Team.</p>		<p>Target June 2009</p>	<p>Keith Balmer</p>
<p>7. That the StreetCare, Food Safety and Environmental Health Teams report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the scope for developing a performance indicator around ensuring that all local shops are compliant with waste</p>	<p>The StreetCare service operational plan includes an enforcement performance indicator for the inspection of businesses with regard to compliancy. The target is 1500 EPA (DOC) inspections per year which is achieved.</p>		<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Keith Balmer/ David Thrale</p>

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management regulations.	Compliance monitoring is an ongoing component of StreetCare's business compliance inspection programme.			
<p>8.That the transportation unit investigate the possibility for introducing more dual car parking bays close to town centres and where feasible and agreed in consultation with residents, enable paid short stay use by shoppers.</p>	<p>Transportation Unit's has a remit to continuously review the existing CPZ's , some of which may include the town centre areas. One of the objectives of the reviews is to maximise the number of the residents and dual use parking bays. The implementation of such changes is subject to both satisfactory public and statutory consultation. Transportation carried out the Neasden Town Centre and Kingsbury town Centre reviews recently and the outcome was that the existing arrangement for residents, visitors and businesses were satisfactory. This year, 2009/10, we will be carrying out the review of the Willesden High Road parking scheme in which its outcome will be reported to the Highways Committee.</p>		Ongoing, subject to funding	Phil Rankmore

