



TOWNS AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB- COMMITTEE

REPORT

3 March 2016

Subject Heading:

Harold Hill Ambitions Programme

CMT Lead:

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Policy context:

Harold Hill Ambitions Strategy
Harold Hill Ambitions Cabinet Reports
April 2007, February 2008 and November
2008, March 2010, January 2014

SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Harold Hill Ambitions Programme report to Cabinet in January 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to review the report and note its content.

REPORT DETAIL

This paper seeks to provide an update since January 2014 on the main projects within the Harold Hill Ambitions Programme

1.0 Background

The January 2014 Cabinet Report on the Harold Hill Ambitions Programme provided an update on the 30 recommendations established in the November 2008 Cabinet report.

The Programme formed part of the ten Strategic former Administration Projects and involved capital and revenue enhancements to the Harold Hill Area. The aim of the programme was to work with the local community to transform Harold Hill and open up new and exciting opportunities for local people to improve their lives. The long term ambition for Harold Hill, expressed in the November 2008 Cabinet Report is to; create more opportunities for local people; to work with the police to stamp out unacceptable behaviour and crime; to build a learning village to provide a centre of educational excellence on Harold Hill; modernise and improve community facilities for everyone; create new housing opportunities; improve health and wellbeing; and provide excellent new sports and recreation facilities.

The Harold Hill Ambitions Programme was drawn up following an extensive initial consultation with the community and key stakeholders in the summer of 2007 when a range of ideas and options were developed. Progress was reported to Cabinet in February 2008, and in August 2008 the Deputy Leader gave approval to consult the public on specific proposals to address the key priorities and opportunities which had been identified by the community and stakeholders. This report sets out progress since this date.

The Programme have been highly successful in delivering and initiating a complex series of physical change projects which have improved the built environment.

The report noted the next step in the delivery of the programme what to deliver the remaining physical projects, while sustaining an even stronger focus on opportunities for local people, particularly through the development of the focussing on jobs, education, skills and health.

2.0 Current position

The key recommendations in the report and their updates include;

Gooshays Drive Site

The site which was sold to Persimmon Homes to enable the main capital projects in the programme to be delivered is now complete, delivering 240 family homes in the locality and securing significant S106 contributions

Hilldene Shopping Centre

The Shopping Centre through a phased approach has seen a variety of investment since 2009, with the initial phases mentioned in the January 2014 Cabinet Report. Phase 3, which is currently underway includes £150k of TfL Local Implementation Plan investment. These works due to complete by the spring of 2016 will seek to improve the public realm in the Shopping Centre and will support the new library currently under construction and the new Housing in Hilldene North and East. Work includes enhancing the public realm on Farnham Road, improved parking bays, improvements to pedestrian safety, installation of a taxi rank and investment in the green space.

Harold Hill Library

Construction on the new Harold Hill Library, located in the East Dene Arcade funded from the Gooshays receipt has begun and is due to complete in early summer 2016. When complete, the new library which will be 50% bigger than the present building and will continue to be a centre of community activity and provide a range of upgraded facilities including a mezzanine floor. The scheme will improve the public realm of East Dene Arcade and complement works in the Hilldene Shopping Centre.

Learning Village

A separate report is presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee on the 3rd March, titled 'Learning Village update' which provides an update on the project.

Whitworth Housing and Broxhill Park

Construction has begun on the Broxhill Sports Park, with the new pavilion currently underway. The tender for stage two of the work is due to complete shortly which will include a 3G sports pitch, a multi-use games area, tennis courts and car park. All works are due to complete by the summer of 2016.

Whitworth phase one housing is now complete, with phase two properties currently being marketed

Central Park

The £1.5million project is now fully complete and operational, with the park achieving a gold award in the London in Bloom 2015 competition. Improvements include a state of the art skate and bmx park, 'parkour' course, flood lit multi-use games area, kiosk managed by a third party operator and a new bridge linking the park with Myplace (another project delivered as part of the programme).

Community Programme

The January 2014 Report noted that the principle focus of the programme moving forward would involve improving social aspects of Harold Hill including skills and employment.

To quantify the issues and establish a strategy for future delivery the Council commissioned a comprehensive survey of skills and employment in Havering that led to a detailed focus on Harold Hill. The reports, which involved statistical analysis, also included extensive consultation of providers and professionals but also primary research with those seeking employment to understand the issues they faced.

A short term recommendation to establish a post that co-ordinates the employment and skills agenda in Havering to ensure it is focussed and duplication is avoided has been established utilising New Homes Bonus funding.

Longer term recommendations such as changing attitudes to the workplace and obtaining European Funding are also being delivered by the Council's Skills and Business Engagement Manager and are expected to begin June 2016 subject to approval by the Greater London Authority.

We have been successful in obtaining ESF funding which will include direct delivery in Harold Hill through the Routes to Engagement funding programme. This will provide intensive Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) via the assignment of dedicated key workers to support and track participant progress through a menu of motivational training, work preparation, pre-employment training and work tasters, customised sector training and jobs underpinned by functional skills and ICT training at the appropriate levels.

The council will deliver this project itself through its Economic Development , Adult Education and Housing departments, we will develop this project to produce a jobs and training brokerage to support work experience and entry level positions within the council. The ultimate aim would be to create an infrastructure from which the council can directly deliver employment and skills support to residents and employers in the borough.

The project will engage a total of 162 participants and deliver the following outputs:

- 100 participants receiving 6 hours plus of IAG support.
- 39 participants achieving basic skills qualifications.
- 15 participants attending work placements.
- 12 participants starting full time education.
- 46 Participants start full time employment
- 29 participants remain in sustainable full time employment after 26 weeks.

The cost of the project is £228k. 50 % of this will be funded through ESF and 50% will be funded through the Harold Hill Ambitions and Gooshays S106 funding of £114,000. We aim to deliver the project at community sites in Hitchin Close, St George's Church, the Children's Centre and My Place.

There may some additional costs that are not eligible under ESF to support the cost of connectivity, small items of equipment and furniture. Costs for these are being sought and will be purchased from the remaining Harold Hill Ambitions funds.

Target Participants :Residents with greatest barriers to employment, including

- Young people aged 15- 24 including care leavers
- Those affected by Welfare Reform and long term worklessness (including lone parents, carers, ESA claimants and those aged 50+).
- Under employed
- Low wage and low skilled residents

3.0 Next steps

The Programme continues to deliver a series of significant capital investments in to the Harold Hill area which were recommendations in the November 2009 Cabinet Report.

The capital programme agreed by Cabinet is now largely complete or significantly advanced and has involved the Council or the private sector.

The residual elements of the programme which include a focus on the community of Harold Hill continue to be the delivered through a borough wide strategy that seeks to improve the level of resident's skills and maintain the high levels of employment which Havering currently benefits from. Projects such as increased engagement with businesses, engagement with JobCentre Plus and seeking large regional funding programmes will be the focus for the coming years.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

There are no financial risks associated with the on-going delivery of the programme with the significant capital programme elements underway and funded.

Legal implications and risks:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Human Resources implications and risks:

There are no HR implications arising directly as a result of this report.

Equalities implications and risks:

These are covered in the programmes separate EQiA document which reviews programme wise Equalities implications and risks.

BACKGROUND PAPERS