

## Consideration of Topic for Second Major Review

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### REASON FOR ITEM

To provide Members with background information on a potential topic for their next major review.

### OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

1. To consider the information presented and to decide upon the Committee's next major review which will enable officers to draft a scoping report.

### INFORMATION

1. At this Committee's meeting in June 2009 Members received information on two possible review topics the **development of super hubs and looking at the wider rejuvenation of Outer London's town centres** and **the Economic downturn and the Council's response to it**.

#### Super hubs

2. The concept of super hubs was borne out of the Outer London Commission (OLC) which had been set up by the Mayor of London to look at how London Boroughs could play a part in the City's economic success. OLC was set up to deliver an aspiration of the London Plan which was to address more positively the quality of life, social, environmental and transport challenges facing outer London.
3. The initial findings of the OLC have been published and can be found at <http://www.london.gov.uk/olc/docs/interim-conclusions.pdf> but the conclusions were as follows:
  - Outer London does have potential to contribute more strongly to growth of London and the wider city region –but this needs to be considered in terms of its residential and environmental as well as its economic functions
  - Outer London is not homogeneous and requires specific spatial policies –and flexibility to apply them locally : 'fuzzy' boundaries

- Holistic approach needed –closer integration of strategic transport, economic development, spatial and other strategies and associated investment, as well as local plans including Community Strategies
  - Constellation of centres/hubs is a sounder basis for fostering OL's broadly based and varied contributions to London's growth rather than a few very large scale growth hubs
  - Improvements to connectivity and movement within regions is crucial –but realism needed over large scale investment capacity -considerable potential in smaller scale improvements
  - OL competes with IL only to a limited degree, but much more directly with OMA
  - Town centres need to become stronger focus for their communities
  - Current residential patterns/densities considered a key component of quality of life –but need not be compromised by growth provided this is accommodated sensitively
  - Effective mechanisms to ensure social infrastructure to support this growth and maintain quality of life are essential
4. The Mayor of London has also produced a draft London Plan which is out for consultation. Officers are in the process of considering a response from LBH. The draft Plan can be found at <http://www.london.gov.uk/shaping-london/london-plan/>

### **The Economic downturn and the Council's response to it**

5. Another possible area for the Committee to review is the Council's approach and response to the economic downturn in relation to businesses in the Borough's town centres. The Council with its key Local Strategic Partners have undertaken a wide range of measures aimed at supporting residents and businesses and these are included as **Appendix 1**.
6. The Council led Credit Crunch Group has brought together key Council services, key Local Strategic Partnership groups which includes the Citizens Advice Bureau, Age Concern, Hillingdon Chamber of Commerce, Ruislip Chamber of Commerce, Uxbridge College and Business Link. The group has carried out some work in conjunction with planning and town centre managers to monitor shop vacancies across the Borough and is actively encouraging the temporary use of empty premise frontages. For example for information displays for

Uxbridge College who are displaying training opportunities and courses. A potential review could be to look at the range of measures the Council is taking to support businesses and town centres during the recession.

## **PAPERS WITH THE REPORT**

Hillingdon Partners Action Plan - Appendix 1