

Council – 7 November 2007
Opposition Business
Issues paper prepared by the Labour Group

The Future Of Enfield

The subject that has been chosen as Opposition Priority Business is the Enfield Plan. The purpose of choosing this subject is not for the Council to debate the way in which the London Borough of Enfield should develop in the next 20 years, but to ensure that there is proper overview of the process by which the Plan is developed and adopted.

In order for the plan to be properly accepted by all those with an interest in it, there is a necessity for there to be genuine consultation and engagement with all sectors and sections of the borough. This in our view will include other public sector agencies, the private sector, the third sector, local communities and individual residents of the borough.

There are a number of community and voluntary organisations who are in a position to speak for parts of the local community but who may not have the capacity to properly engage with the process. The Plan needs to be acceptable to the parts of our community that such organisations represent and it may therefore be necessary to assist those organisations to build their capacity to properly engage in the process.

It is essential that developments in the plans of other public agencies are properly linked to those of the Council. This would include the Lee Valley Regional Park, the Mayor of London and the GLA, and North London Waste amongst others.

In developing the Plan there was a need for the Council not only to consult with people and organisations, but also to be prepared to work in partnership. It should be aiming to achieve consensus as far as possible.

It is important that the Plan is debated as it evolves not only at the Cabinet but also in all the Scrutiny Panels etc. It will not be acceptable if the only Council forum for discussion is single party and not accessible to the public.

We are concerned that so far matters have not progressed well and would therefore ask the Council to approve the following motion: "This Council regrets the lack of progress in the production for effective plans for the development of Enfield and asks its Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate the position and report back to the Council in time for its meeting on 23 January 2008."