

## **PRESENT**

### **Members of the Committee**

Councillor Judith Blakeman (Notting Barns Ward, RBKC)  
Councillor Shireen Ritchie (Cabinet Member, RBKC)  
Anna Porta (Engaging Communities VOF)  
Angela Spence (VOF Children and Young People's representative)  
Barbara Perkins (Learning Skills Council)  
Brian Deans (Borough Commander, LFB)  
Ceila Rees-Jenkins (Kensington and Chelsea Society)  
Debi Gardner (Partnerships and Forums)  
Jamie Renton (Disability, Equality and Inclusivity representative)  
Helen Leech (Open Age)  
Malcolm Spalding, Vice-Chairman (President, K&C Chamber of Commerce)  
Manpreet Dillon (Managing Director, Kensington Housing Trust)  
Michael Bach (Chairman, KCSC)  
Mary Gardiner (Chief Executive, KCSC)  
Dr. Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health, K&C PCT)  
Peter Molyneux (Chairman, NHS Kensington and Chelsea)  
Jane Mather (Forum of Faiths)

### **Others in Attendance**

Tony Redpath (Director of Strategy and Service Improvement, RBKC)  
Graham Hart (Head of Regeneration, RBKC)  
Rachel Smith (KCP Support Manager, RBKC)  
Jon Wade (Policy Team Leader, RBKC)  
John Medlin (Planning Policy, RBKC)  
Hannah Hutter (Governance Services, RBKC)

## **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND AGREEMENT TO THE AGENDA**

The following Steering Group Members gave their apologies:

- Councillor Merrick Cockell (Leader, RBKC)
- Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown (Cabinet Member, RBKC)
- Joyce Roberts, being substituted by Barbara Perkins
- Zrinka Bralo (VOF Engaging Communities)
- Chief Supt. Mark Heath (Borough Commander, MPA)

The Steering Group agreed the agenda.

## **2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2008**

The Steering Group agreed the minutes of the meeting of 11 March and authorised the Chairman to sign them as a correct record, subject to the following amendments:

- Jamie Renton's title to be amended to 'Disability, Equality and Inclusivity representative.
- The following paragraph to read

### Item 5

#### Councillor Judith Blakeman (Notting Barns Ward, RBKC)

Consultation had been carried out on the Well London Kitchen Garden Project taking place in the Notting Barns ward. At a recent meeting Groundwork had given a presentation on how to engage with the community. It was noted that Groundwork undertake some great work with the community such as cooking, gardening and trips.

## **3 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (LDF)**

John Wade (Policy Team Leader, RBKC) gave a presentation on the draft Core Strategy. The presentation set out the history of the LDF and the Council's current position.

During the presentation it was highlighted that the Council's vision was to 'remain the best place to live in London'. The idea of the Core Strategy was that no Council would be similar.

The following topics were reviewed under the Core Strategy:

- Better Travel Choices;
- Renewing the Legacy;
- Diversity of Housing;
- Respecting Environment Limits;
- Keeping Life Local;
- Fostering Vitality;
- Better Travel Choices;
- Quality Public Realm.

It was stated that the final version of the LDF would be presented at the Cabinet meeting in September. The Core Strategy would be finalised in July

and would be available between July and September for public consultation.

John Medlin, Planning Policy Officer, RBKC gave a second presentation which outlined the LDF Infrastructure Study. It was noted that the infrastructure study was being undertaken as part of the 'evidence base' for the LDF.

Partnership working was highlighted, it was stated that the council needed to reach all local authority partners as they had a key role to play in the study. The Steering Group agreed to keep the infrastructure plan on the agenda and would discuss it at a later date.

The presentation was concluded by stating that the review was not a one off piece of work but would be undertaken annually. The Steering Group were invited to complete a questionnaire where they would be able to outline infrastructure requirements where possible and were asked to consider how best local partners could influence the delivery of infrastructure plans.

The Steering Group noted both presentations and reports and the following points were raised:

- Responses to the questionnaire needed to be received by 16 June 2009;
- It was stated that the third sector would be included in the social infrastructure but they were harder to engage with;
- The questionnaire was just given to the Steering Group, other organisations would be approached separately;
- A cross section of the community were engaged with during the consultation process. Attempts were made to visit secondary schools and the youth forum was addressed. The Steering Group urged the officers to continue to engage with young people, especially around the community safety aspect;
- The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) would replace a large amount of Section 106 monies but would not replace it. The regulations would empower, but not require local authorities to implement CIL through charging schedules as part of their LDF's;
- A Statement of Common Ground would not be required of the Partnership, however officers would keep the Steering Group informed of anything it could endorse or support.

#### **4 RESPONSE TO THE RECESSION**

Graham Hart, the Head of Regeneration, RBKC, gave a presentation which outlined recession responses at a national, regional and local level.

It was stated that the last time unemployment reached the current levels was in 1981.

The following topics were highlighted as initiatives being undertaken at all three levels to help combat the recession:

National Response: Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme; Additional funding for employment and training measures; Job Centre Plus (JCP) and Business Link's "Rapid Response" service.

Regional and Sub Regional Response: Mayor of London's Economic Action Plan; Joint Investment Plan from the London Development Agency/Learning Skills Council/JCP; London Councils – Collation of data, sharing information and responses.

Local Response: Council Tax Rebate; Free Parking, Recession dashboard and intelligence; Business Recovery advice; Life Coaching; Apprenticeship Programme; Loyalty Card Scheme

It was stated that the impacts of the recession have seen the local job seekers claimant count at 2.6% of the working age population. The rate in deprived areas was up 49.7% from August 2008 until April 2009. The JCP was under pressure to provide its services to the unemployed and it was having to work in partnership with key players.

The Council had developed a recession dashboard. The dashboard highlighted 36 measures which gave a monthly change/trend. It was currently in prototype format and would be refined. Graham Hart tabled an example of the dashboard.

It was stated that the Learning, Work and Business Sub Group had been doing work around the recession as well, including an interest in volunteering to keep recently unemployed people 'skilled' and apprenticeship schemes.

Other aspects were being developed such as Fit for Work scheme and the Regeneration Exchange. The next Regeneration Exchange would be taking place on 10 June.

Interest was shown regarding the Regeneration Exchange and the Jobs Fair. It was highlighted that the voluntary/third sector wanted to be part of the apprenticeship scheme.

It was noted that there was not one overlying reason why the unemployment figure had risen.

It was concluded that all the different themes needed to be brought together to set clear local priorities which needed to be agreed. The Steering Group thanked Graham Hart and endorsed the recession measures that were being put in place.

## **5 NEWS AND VIEWS**

Each Member of the Steering Group gave an update from their organisation.

#### Helen Leech (Open Age, Adult Health and Well-being)

It was reported that the Age Concern Way Finders project had gone live. Referrals were coming through for the new pilot brokerage services. The Older Peoples partnership board was focusing on tackling isolation led by the older people's champion.

An activity session with occasional health related activities for linguistically marginalised elders within the Somali community was being delivered in a partnership between Midaya and Open Age, which was funded by The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The new government champion for digital inclusion was being revealed from Open Age IT suite at Thorpe Close within the next two weeks. The Minister for Digital Inclusion would also be present together with the press.

A new NHS Kensington and Chelsea funded project "My Memories" led by Age Concern and in partnership with Open Age would deliver memory sessions across the Borough and run a dementia cafe from New Horizons.

#### Angela Spence (Children, Young People and Families VOF)

The next meeting of the Children, Young People and Families VOF was scheduled for Thursday 28 May 2009 at 10.00am. Ian Elliott would be attending the meeting to deliver a presentation on Kensington and Chelsea Children's Trust. The VOF would also hold a discussion focusing on local safeguarding issues as well as the end child poverty government target to halve child poverty by 2010. This had not been met and had been moved to 2020.

#### Anna Porta (Engaging Communities VOF)

A meeting of the Engaging Communities (EC) VOF was held on 13 May 2009, which was attended by a wide range of VCS and statutory organisations. A presentation was received from Stephen Morgan on the Community, Equalities and Inclusivity Partnership (CEIP). It was agreed that there needed to be a close working relationship between CEIP and EC VOF. CEIP was to be a standard agenda item for future EC VOF meetings.

As part of the discussion about CEIP, EC VOF discussed surveys such as 'Placed' and that there were normally only issued in English. The forum said that it was necessary to look at how non-English speaking communities could be properly engaged and represented in such processes.

There had been a long discussion on the closure of the Race Equality Partnership and how this work could continue in the Borough. Although some areas had been covered by other forums it was felt that a number of areas would not be covered, for example, addressing issues for BME

communities such as Stop and Search, lack of confidence in the Police etc. One way of meeting local needs was to provide training on third party reporting. KCSC was going to investigate how this could be delivered to the sector via the EC VOF.

Concerns were also raised about this year's Notting Hill Carnival and how areas previously the remit of the Race Equality Partnership KC would be dealt with, e.g. community mediators.

The EC VOF discussed the £50 council tax rebate paid to all residents. Members questioned whether this should have been paid to all residents and felt that, perhaps, the money could have been better spent on local services and resources.

EC VOF recommended that community safety was discussed at the next Kensington and Chelsea Partnership Steering Group.

#### Jane Mather (Forum of Faiths)

It was reported that Rachel Smith gave a presentation to the Forum of Faiths meeting on April 29, on the roll of the Forum in contributing to the new Community, Equalities and Inclusivity sub partnership.

There was a Family Tea Party taking place on Sunday 7 June between 2.30pm and 5.30pm in the Small Hall at the Town Hall. Admission was free, the theme of the party would be Angels and how they are represented in differing faith traditions. Activities would include make an angel workshop, music and story telling, refreshments would be provided.

#### Celia Rees-Jenkins (Kensington and Chelsea Society)

It was reported that the Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea gave a reception for the achievements of the North Kensington Environment Project. Sunbeam Gardens officially opened on 18 April. London in Bloom had started and was marked by an event on 21 April in the Orangery. It was stated that it was hoped the walkway to Latimer Road Station would be improved.

#### Dr Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health, K&C PCT)

It was reported that there was 71 confirmed cases of swine flu nationally and there was large numbers of potential cases. It was a challenging time for the health service.

The first case of swine flu had been confirmed in the Borough. Guidance had just been issued about what happens next. The guidance stated that in the next phase if you feel unwell you should remain at home. A new campaign was being released where 'flu friends' would be identified. The 'flu friends' would go to the antiviral collection points. The collection points would be staffed 24 hours a day. The Police had been consulted and security measures had been put in place. There had been a clamp down on

private prescriptions and it was noted that there were ample stocks of the antivirus.

#### Barbara Perkins (Learning and Skills Council (LSC))

The LSC had started the first part of the MOG matching process, five steps would follow; staff were being matched to jobs within the Local Authority, Skills Funding Agency and Young Peoples Learning Agency.

Response to Redundancy Open Competitive Tendering (OCT) appointed two providers for London Central Region – City and Islington (Consortium) would cover the Central district.

The LSC had secured additional funding for 16-18 year olds, which meant the LSC could support the growth for School Sixth Forms.

St Charles College won the sub-regional round of the Young Enterprise of the Year Award and would represent London Central at the regional finals on 18 June.

Kensington and Chelsea College were launching its Motor Cycle training Centre this month.

The OCT should go out at the end of May for the ESF for That ain't to Gain.

#### Mary Gardiner (KCSC)

It was reported that Rachel Smith and the London Empowerment Partnership (LEP) presented at the main VOF on 4 March on National Indicator 4 and 7. A discussion followed regarding how local groups could work together with local statutory bodies to create a thriving third sector and influence decisions locally. Following this, the social council organised a series of four half day workshops in partnership with LEP between 16 and 27 April to up-skill people coordinated by public sector bodies.

The KCSC held a 'recession proofing' workshop on Friday 8 May which was attended by organisations from across the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

The KCSC also held a seminar on generating income for local groups on Thursday 7 May which encouraged organisations to think about social enterprise model and new ways of diversifying income.

There was to be a Personalisation Breakfast Meeting to be held on 3 June at London Lighthouse with local commissioners and the voluntary sector for a 'catch up' and discussion on the future journey of personalisation in the Borough.

A trustee conference was being held on 13 June which would provide an opportunity for trustees to gain best practice insights on governance and leadership.

Lastly there was an informal tour of local organisations for anyone new to working in or with voluntary organisations, followed by a reception on 19 June.

Mike Howard (Metropolitan Police Authority)

The following performance figures were reported:

The year ending 31 March 09, for the fifth year running crime had been reduced. It had gone down 6.7% on last year. The issue now, was to concentrate on improving the public's confidence in the police.

There were a group of community advisors who undertook 'stop and search'. Concerns were raised regarding PCSO's and how they interact with the community. Mike Howard would take this concern away.

Manpreet Dillon (Managing Director, Kensington Housing Trust)

It was reported that Graham Hart would be speaking at the next Homeless and Housing Group. It was the first attempt to pull in experiences across the Borough.

Jamie Renton (Disability, Equality and Inclusivity)

The inaugural meeting was held on 22 April, the terms of reference were presented and suggestions were made that they be amended to reflect the delivery role of the sub-group. Jamie Renton was elected Chair and Melanie Smith, Vice-Chair. The Director General of the Department of Health would be holding a visit in the near future. A small Working Group had been set up to look at individual budgets.

Tony Redpath presented on the aims and goals of the community, equality and inclusivity strand of the community strategy which was followed by a debate on the work of the sub-group and its role in delivering on the relevant LAA indicators. However, Tony felt that the sub-group should not focus just on the national indicators as they were narrowly focussed perception indicators only.

The sub-group agreed that a small working group could be formed to look at drafting a work programme.

Brian Deans (Borough Commander, LFB)

The performance figures were reported. It was stated that all nine performance indicators were met, this was the only fire brigade in London to achieve this. It was noted that accidental fires were down by 7.7 percent. There was only 1 fire related death in the Borough last year and 24 people had been rescued.

Malcolm Spalding (President, K&C Chamber of Commerce)



It was reported that Malcolm had spent a day with Hazel Blears at an event. The event covered topics such as LAA, resource efficiencies and delivering effective services.

The Chamber of Commerce would be holding an evening event on 2 June at the Holland Park Opera which would be preceded by a reception at the Kensington Roof Gardens.

## **6 MAKING USE OF PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT FROM LAA1**

The report sets out the proposals from the Community Strategy Sub Group (CSSG) on the allocation of Performance Reward Grant (PRG) of between £1.5m and £2.2m from the first Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Rachel Smith, KCP Support Manager, RBKC, outlined the background of the report and highlighted the two options the sub-group members wished to investigate further. The options were:

- Increasing volunteering opportunities; and
- Partnership apprenticeship scheme.

Discussion took place around the outline of the options. Concerns were raised regarding the quality control of the apprenticeship scheme.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Steering Group would endorse the projects as outlined in paragraphs 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 for further development and agreed that the small grants programme option should be considered once the first two options had been further developed and the KCP had a clear picture of the amount of PRG likely to be received. The Partnership also agreed that a proportion of the PRG should be reserved for projects or services which could alleviate the negative impacts of the recession.

## **7 KCP REVIEW**

The Steering Group had before it a paper which identified some of the actions taken by the CSSG to move forward the priorities arising from the KCP review and the proposed actions to deliver them.

The Steering Group noted the contents of the report and noted that the CSSG had agreed all recommendations, particularly 2.6.4.

Discussion took place regarding the away day and it was noted that it would be an away afternoon with a social event in the evening.

The meeting ended at 7.21pm

**CHAIRMAN**