

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Steering Group
held at the Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX
at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 18th May 2005

PRESENT

Members of the Steering Group

Cllr Merrick Cockell, Chairman - Leader of the Council (RBK&C)
Cllr Judith Blakeman - Minority Party (RBK&C)
Gillian Bowen - Representative for Children and Young People (VOF)
Zrinka Bralo - Representative for Education and Employment (VOF)
Steve Crow - London Central Learning & Skills Council
Fadi Itani - Forum of Faiths
Menghi Mulchandani - Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
Augustine Omara - Director, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
Dez O'Neill - Representative for Arts and Culture (VOF)
Cllr Nicholas Paget-Brown - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Community Safety and External Relations (RBK&C)
Malcolm Spalding - Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce
Celia Rees-Jenkins - The Kensington and Chelsea Societies

Others in Attendance

Cllr Miss Barbara Campbell - (RBK&C)
Cllr Dr. Iain Hanham - (RBK&C)
Mark Bennett - Environment Manager (RBK&C)
Christine Lawrence - Head of Regeneration and Partnerships (RBK&C)
Deborah Lewis Bill - Forum of Faiths
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)
Tony Redpath - Director of Strategy and Performance Improvement (RBK&C)
Rachel Smith - Partnership Support Manager (RBK&C)
Ainsley Walcroft - Governance Administrator (RBK&C)
Emma Gittus - Economic Development Co-ordinator (RBK&C)
Jill McNiven - Kensington and Chelsea Social Council
Phil Wells - Community Viewfinders

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Dominic Clout, Paul Haigh and Geeta Nanda. Similola Towry-Coker was due to introduce item 8 but was unable to attend the meeting.

The Steering Group welcomed Fadi Itani, who would be representing the Forum of Faiths while Jed Davis was on sabbatical.

The Chairman reported that Paul Haigh was no longer a member of the Steering Group as he was moving on from his previous position as Chief Executive of the Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust. The Steering Group thanked Paul for his work with the PCT and the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE KCP STEERING GROUP CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Cllr Merrick Cockell and Malcolm Spalding were re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 16TH MARCH AND 26TH APRIL 2005

The Minutes of the meetings held on 16th March and 26th April 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

MAIN BUSINESS

4. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

Presentation of Draft Bid by Tony Redpath

Tony Redpath reported that since early discussion at the previous Steering Group meeting, officers had been examining 20 pilot agreements. They covered a wide range of policy areas and were led by local strategic partnerships and local authorities. An incentive for forming an agreement was the availability of 'pump priming' funds to help reach targets. Based on similar funding for the existing Local Public Service Agreements this would be approximately £1 million.

The Council was generally in favour of pursuing an agreement, which was likely to take more than four months to finalise. An agreement would begin with the start of the next financial year and would continue for three years. The Chairman pointed out that a successful agreement would require a contribution from all members of the Partnership Steering Group. Also, there would be consequences for any organisation taking responsibility for the delivery of services in Kensington and Chelsea.

Mr. Redpath invited comments and suggested changes for the draft letter to Government Office for London (GOL). The letter would signal the Partnerships interest in an agreement. It was noted that the redrafted letter would increase the profile of voluntary sector, which was somewhat neglected in the current draft.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That an expression of interest in negotiating a Local Area Agreement be submitted to GOL.

Action by: Tony Redpath

- (2) That the final draft of the letter be signed by Cllr Cockell as Leader of the Council, Augustine Omara on behalf of the voluntary sector, Malcolm Spalding on behalf of the private sector, Dominic Clout on behalf of the Police, and an appropriate representative from the Kensington and Chelsea PCT.

Action by: Tony Redpath

5. SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Presentation by Phil Wells, Community Viewfinders

Phil Wells presented his findings after carrying out research that assessed Kensington and Chelsea's potential for social enterprise. The key objectives of the project were to identify the interest in and potential for social enterprise within the borough and to identify the main barriers limiting its successful development.

Key barriers preventing social enterprise were that individuals were unlikely to 'self-identify'. Also, 'social enterprise' was not a term people could easily relate to. Challenges faced at the start-up and development stages included the concerns over bureaucracy and the lack of skills and knowledge at Board level needed to manage funding and identify opportunities. It was difficult to successfully bring together the two worlds of enterprise and social concern. A culture change was important in raising in the awareness of social enterprise and overcoming barriers.

Social enterprise in Kensington and Chelsea was found to be poorly recognised or understood and few groups were known to organisations outside the borough. There was clearly a need to encourage more activity. In conclusion, Mr. Wells offered a number of recommendations and suggestions, including the following:

- Identify and target the support available to key areas and individuals
- Ensure better referral to external support
- Set specific targets for deprived individuals and communities
- Focus on the social mission and enterprising approach rather than a social enterprise as an organisation
- Pursue partnerships with Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) areas
- Use mentoring and peer-to-peer support
- Build contracting and funding relationships
- Create a 'talent scouting' arrangement to identify individuals who are angry and energetic enough to have an impact on local service providers
- Try to formulate an approach which allows strategic long-term support and minimises the risk for each individual
- Act as an intermediary for individuals who are insecure about accountability and targets

During discussion it was agreed that the Partnership's role would be to create a 'climate' in which social enterprise could be encouraged and supported. Immediate developments could be pursued with the SRB programmes and their successor bodies.

6. NEWS AND VIEWS

Inclusive K&C

Menghi Mulchandani reported that the Inclusive K&C consultation had reached the next stage, but members were still welcome to make comments.

Learning and Skills Council

Steve Crow reported that the 14-19 Forum was entering the last year of its action plan. A 14-19 Strategy for the borough was in development and any comments from the Steering Group were welcomed.

The LSC had taken over responsibility for Offender Learning and arrangements would be in place by August 2006. Steve Crow had the regional lead and was developing a model with the prison and probation services. Procurement for the new service would take place in the autumn.

The London Resettlement Board was hoping to finalise the strategy on education, training and employment for released prisoners. The pilot would see all prisoners moving to eight boroughs (including Kensington and Chelsea), with employment supplied where possible. Prisoners would be moved to Wormwood Scrubs three months before their release.

Forum of Faiths

Fadi Itani reported that the Forum of Faiths was currently reviewing its Action Plan for the next two years and would be happy to receive any comments from the Partnership.

Housing

Cllr Coleridge reported that the Housing Strategy was currently being rewritten, including helpful suggestions from Menghi Mulchandani.

The new under-occupation scheme had encouraged responses from 50 people and currently eight residents had been re-housed. Cllr Coleridge also gave an update on the rent deposit scheme.

Work and Business

Malcolm Spalding reported that the Baseline Business Studios would be officially opened on Tuesday 24th May. Approximately 100 guests were expected to attend the event.

The next Regeneration Exchange, with the title Youth and Regeneration, would be taking place on Friday 22nd July.

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs)

Cllr Paget-Brown had recently attended a six-monthly PCSO review meeting. There had been a delay in recruitment throughout London. The Council was putting

reasonable pressure on the MPA and had offered accommodation in the borough for the PCSOs.

Health

Zrinka Bralo reported that a new Health minister had been appointed. She hoped that the previous minister's policy of going to India to employ doctors and dentists instead of employing immigrants already living in the Britain would not continue.

Zrinka also expressed concern at the large deficit suffered by the PCT, the resultant cuts to important services and the consequences for the entire Partnership.

The SpaceKC

Gillian Bowen reported that The SpaceKC was currently undertaking a wide scale consultation exercise. This would eventually lead to a strategic plan. Researchers were consulting with the PCT and young people's service providers.

The organisation was also engaging with young cannabis users in Cremorne Ward, working in partnership with the police and the Community Anti-Social Behaviour Action Team (CASBAT).

Kensington and Chelsea Social Council - 'Change-Up' Initiative

Augustine Omara reported that information obtained from questionnaires and telephone interviews was currently under analysis. Support would soon be sought from the Partnership at a future meeting.

INTERNAL BUSINESS

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND – FUNDING DECISION FOR YEAR 5

Discussion led by Christine Lawrence

Christine Lawrence apologised for the confusion that had arisen over the final stage of the funding process. The Steering Group was reminded that in previous reports and minutes, the underspend earmarked for the Race Equality Partnership (REP) and the Environmental Improvements Programme had always been provisional. Some members had been concerned that the most recent funding decision had overlooked these two projects.

After explaining the background to the recent developments in the allocation process, Miss Lawrence reminded the Steering Group that at the April meeting the small panel consisting of voluntary and statutory representatives with no interest in any of the applications were asked to reconsider its recommendations. The panel had since met on 10 May and formulated four options for a final decision by the Steering Group.

The Steering Group thanked Miss Lawrence and her team for their efficient facilitation of the process. The unfortunate confusion in the final stage had arisen through a lack of clarity from the Steering Group about the required course of

action. It was agreed that to avoid similar situations in the future, a formal process and terms of reference should be formulated.

Those members of the Steering Group with an interest in the competing projects were asked to leave the room while the remaining members came to a decision. It was agreed that Option 2 in the report was the fairest method of distributing the remaining budget. This would permit the following awards:

REP:	£26,000
Environmental improvements:	£20,341
Dalgarno Neighbourhood Trust	£39,500
MRCF:	£20,000
Total:	£105,841

RESOLVED –

- (3) That a high degree of priority for underspend be accorded to the REP and the Environmental Improvements Programme, but at a slightly lower figure to allow the Dalgarno Neighbourhood Trust and MRCF to be funded at realistic levels.

Action by: Christine Lawrence

8. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT NETWORK

Update from the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council

This item was deferred, as Similola Towry-Coker from the Social Council was not able to attend the meeting.

FORWARD PLANNING

9. FORWARD PLAN FOR NEXT TWO MEETINGS

The draft agendas for the July and September Steering Group meetings were noted.

The meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman