

COMMUNITY / NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGIES 2002-2005 – YEAR 1 REVIEW

PROGRESS TRACKER – WORK & BUSINESS

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The actions and targets dispersed throughout the Community Strategy and the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy have been reformatted in a set of progress trackers. This is the tracker for the Work and Business theme or cluster. Similar trackers have been produced for the other six.

The left-hand column reproduces text as set out in the strategy documents. Two columns have been added. The first identifies against each aim, action or opportunity the **Lead Contact** (a named individual); the second provides an **Update as at 31 March 2003**.

The tracker concludes with a two-page overview, which presents

- **Achievements** to 31st March 2003,
- **Issues** preventing implementation of particular objectives and actions
- New **opportunities** since 31st March 2002; and
- **Priorities** to 31st March 2005.

Together, the overview pages will make up the Year 1 Review.

FOR INFORMATION AND APPROVAL

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ACHIEVEMENTS to 31st March 2003 (* indicates NRF supported)

- * Start on site of £856k contract to convert derelict garages to provide 39 start-up business units on Lancaster estate, W11, and provide an income stream to support economic development projects in long term; £320k support provided by the LDA
- Publication of Supplementary Planning Guidance to protect work and business uses in the Borough's three employment zones
- Agreement between RBKC, City of Westminster and Transport for London to expressions of interest to work up proposals for improvements to Exhibition Way and the pedestrian tunnel linking the museums and South Kensington Tube station
- * Launch by PCT of programme to attract local people into NHS jobs
- Completion and final evaluation of seven year SRB programme, Fighting Unemployment in North Kensington
- * Key FUNK-funded projects to receive NRF support in 2003/04 as part of their 'exit strategy'
- * Secondment to North Kensington Opportunities Centre of two employment and childcare advisers from the Employment Service
- Hosting by Kensington and Chelsea College of a Regeneration Exchange event on the theme of Learning Communities
- High commendation by independent consultants of the Council's small business support arrangements, through Portobello Business Centre

ISSUES preventing implementation of particular objectives and actions

- There is no medium term prospect of Employment Service locating JobCentre Plus facilities in the Borough. Benefit claimants must travel to Westminster, Shepherds Bush or Fulham
- The robustness and sustainability of arrangements to provide support service to local unemployed people, remain in doubt.
- Management information systems in most organisations do not permit assessment of the proportion of work-related trainees who are from black and ethnic minority groups
- The investment required for existing Tube and Rail systems are delaying commitment by the Government to the construction of the Chelsea-Hackney line
- Resources have not yet been identified to set up an electronic panel to be used to consult and communicate with businesses
- There are doubts over the viability of Business Improvement Districts, based on legislation which will place liabilities exclusively on property occupiers rather than owners.

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New **OPPORTUNITIES** since 31st March 2002

- The London Development Agency has launched its LDA2 programme to further local and regional economic development objectives. Funding of £125,000 over 3 years has been secured for Kensington and Chelsea under stage 1
- The Council has carried out a review of economic development and regeneration, including external scrutiny of support arrangements for small businesses; special needs training and employment services.
- The Government has made an additional allocation to the KCP of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund of £1 million in 2004/05 and £1million in 2005/06
- Outline planning application for development of Bard Rd site (Freston Rd) received.

PRIORITIES to 30th June 2004 *indicates new (not in the strategies)

- Implement the findings of the Council's review of economic development and regeneration
- Relaunch the Council's Training for Skills centre for 16-19 year olds as a vocational youth college
- Refocus services to assist special needs training and employment
- Identify location / premises for a JobCentre Plus office in the Borough
- In the meantime, consolidate the capacity of North Kensington Opportunities Centre to provide locally appropriate guidance and support for vulnerable unemployed residents
- Establish procedures and an accountable body for allocating monies from the Economic Development Fund
- Promote business / shop Neighbourhood Watch schemes
- Develop business units at Kingsdown Close, Silchester estate, W10, to produce an income for the Economic Development Fund.