

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

PROGRESS TRACKER SUMMARY – ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

Cluster Champions (KCP Steering Group)	Celia Rees-Jenkins Cllr Nick Paget-Brown	Cluster Co-ordinators (Strategies Implementation Group)	Mark Bennett David Rafael
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The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership steering group agreed that a Year 1 review of the Community and Neighbourhood Renewal strategies should take place. The review should

- identify **achievements** to 31 March 2002
- identify **issues** preventing implementation of particular objectives and actions;
- identify **new opportunities** which have arisen since the production of the strategies;
- Present the **priorities** to be adopted to 31 March 2005.

The main product of the review should be:

- a completed progress tracker for each cluster with updates for each target.
- a progress tracker summary for each cluster on achievements, issues, new opportunities and priorities.
- a brief and easy to read general report covering all the clusters.

This is the Progress tracker summary for Environment and Transport

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

Note: *Italics in the text show ongoing council work which also appears in the Strategies.* Non italics is new work resulting from the Strategies.

The Council commenced implementation of an Air Quality Management Plan (which was adopted in 2003).

The Council is supporting the development of a flagship energy efficient house in conjunction with Westminster.

The Council, in partnership with Westminster, implemented the Healthy Homes project, which is in its second successful year.

The Council was the lead borough in a consortium that established the London City Car Club

'Safer Routes to Schools' pilot projects have been initiated and other projects are being developed to improve primary school aged children's safety/awareness of cycling and walking. A brief for a Blue Bus feasibility study has been drafted with the aim of reducing the number of children driven to school. Consultation is on-going and the schemes should start in September, the start of the new school year.

The Kensington High Street improvement project was started and has been recognised as an example of good practice. Consultation has been carried out on traffic/environmental improvement schemes such as South Kensington and Sloane Square.

Recycling Wardens have begun operating borough-wide. They are distributing bag tags and information on where to purchase recycling bags.

1900 properties have had graffiti removed, a total of 6000 square metres.

In July 2002 the Voluntary Organisations Forum raised awareness to the Partnership of the benefits of the 'Percent for Art' scheme in the borough.

*The play area at St Marks Park was re-surfaced and improved.

*The completion of the consultants' report with recommendations for developing new arrangements to facilitate street cleaning on Portobello Road (Golborne Rd)

*38 trees planted in Golborne and St Charles wards.

*The completion of consultation work with the local community has led to the preparation of draft print and cladding designs for Portobello Road Bridge. London Underground has agreed to recommend approval of design and proposals to the company that maintains the bridge

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ISSUES preventing implementation of particular objectives and actions

- Awaiting national and London government decision making and financing which has prevented progress on major transport improvements, such as Cross Rail 2 (Chelsea Hackney Line). This has also delayed the Council's ambient noise strategy as the national guidance is being reviewed and the GLA is consulting on their strategy. The impact of the Congestion Charging Zone is being studied to see what will happen if it is expanded to include the borough.
- Activity of utilities (such as replacing gas pipelines) has prevented streetscape improvements being started in Earls Court/Courtfield.
- Negotiations with partner organisations such as London Underground on the NRF supported 'Improvements to Portobello Bridge' initiative has taken longer than anticipated due to a lack of understanding about organisational cultures and working practices. Additionally, questions have been raised about the structural ability of the Portobello Road railway bridge to support environmental improvements such as decorative hoardings.
- Commitments have been made under the heading of "poor condition of parks and public spaces" in the north of the borough. However these have to be supported with resources.

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New **OPPORTUNITIES** since 31st March 2002

The Government has allocated to the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership an additional £1.081 million from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund in 2004/05 and £1.081 million in 2005/06

Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) targets approved for increasing the proportion of households that recycle waste, improving bus reliability and improving the quality of public space

The Council is investigating ways to manage the activity of utilities (e.g. replacing gas pipelines) which interfere with streetscape improvements

The Council is investigating environment and transport aspects of the Wornington Green development.

The Government is changing the Planning Legislation to create a new development plan making system that includes a greater degree of public consultation (the Mayor of London's Strategic Development Strategy (SDS) should be adopted in 2003/2004 and this will also impact upon the Council's planning policies).

Implementation of projects under way to enhance the Borough's built environment & transport provision, e.g. Exhibition Way, S. Kensington Station.

A new bus route linking Lots Rd and the White City developments is being promoted by the borough and London Buses. It is hoped this will come to fruition once the developments are more advanced.

In 2004 the contract for 328, 28 and 31 buses are coming up for tender allowing the Borough to promote route changes to better serve north-south links. There will be consultation on this.

The council will be implementing the principle of car permit-free new residential development, to reduce on street parking stress. Consultation in the autumn will determine implementation criteria.

Implementation of a range of energy efficiency and fuel poverty projects that will further enhance the Borough's housing stock.

Possibility of foot/cycle bridge across M41 & West London Line increasing accessibility of North Kensington and linking residents to job opportunities in the new White City development.

The release of 'small area' statistics from the 2001 Census of Population, plus subsequent surveys, will allow an updating of the database and profiles of the areas and priority neighbourhoods described in the Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy.

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PRIORITIES to 31 March 2005 *indicates new (not in the strategies)

- *Promote the 'Cleaner Greener Project' - This scheme aims to encourage land holders to maintain their land in the north of the borough, so that it enhances the local environment.
- *Support the provision, maintenance and security of children's play areas.
- *Work towards achieving the LPSA (Local Public Sector Agreement) targets.
- Streetscape improvements in North Kensington such as 'Gateway to Kensington' improvements, e.g. Golborne Road Railtrack Bridge, and improvements in the appearance of motorway and railway bridges at Ladbroke Grove and Portobello Road.
- Improved transport links in the north of the borough, e.g. foot/cycle bridge across M41, north south bus routes, cycle ways, school bus schemes etc.
- Westbourne Park tube station – direct pedestrian access between station platform and Acklam Rd, W10
- Follow up environmental and transport aspects of the Wornington Green development.
- Continue to implement streetscape and transport improvements in rest of borough, e.g. Exhibition Way, Extension to existing Thames Path including a new pedestrian bridge across Chelsea Creek, Streetscape Improvements to Earls Court.
- The proposed wildlife area beside the canal at the Kensal Gas works needs to be progressed.
- Resources are needed to support commitments made under the heading of "poor condition of parks and public spaces" in the north of the borough.
- Improve recycling in the Borough through increasing awareness and facilities within K&C Partnership organisations.
- Follow up recommendations of the Council's review of consultation regarding engagement of harder to reach and marginalized groups.

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