

# KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP

May 14<sup>th</sup> 2008

## THE NEXT COMMUNITY STRATEGY

This paper invites the partnership to note and discuss the progress made by the Community Strategy Sub Group in developing the next Community Strategy.

**For discussion**

### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Steering Group will recall the detailed work of developing the next Community Strategy has been delegated to the Community Strategy Sub Group. The Sub Group have been meeting monthly since January and have agreed a structural approach to the next strategy and it's accompanying documents.

1.2 This paper outlines some specific developments such as a preferred approach to incorporating sustainability in the next strategy, the interface with the new Local Development Framework, the incorporation of cross-cutting themes and the process which officers are undertaking to update the text, aims and objectives.

### 2. The new strategy and sustainability

2.1 A requirement of the Community Strategy is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the local area, and nationally. This has been strengthened through the new Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, as the Community Strategy is now defined as a Sustainable Community Strategy. This places a greater expectation on LSPs to ensure that the Community Strategy fully reflects principles of sustainability.

2.2 As a result, the sub group considered some approaches to sustainability including;

- **Bolt on**

A separate stand alone statement regarding the principles of sustainability and how these relate to the Community Strategy.

- **Pepperpot**

This builds on the 'bolt on' approach by using the statement of a sustainable community to then apply as 'criteria' to the detailed aims and objectives throughout the strategy. Aims and objectives which contribute

to the development of sustainable communities could then be denoted throughout the document.

▪ **Inter-connected**

This approach would focus on regarding sustainability as fundamental to the structure of the strategy. It would combine the previous approaches by providing an inter-connected package of balanced techniques to incorporate sustainability into the strategy. These could include explicit links to aims and objectives, dovetailing sustainability issues into policy priorities where appropriate, and features on specific elements of service delivery or priorities with statements highlighting how these contribute to building sustainable communities.

2.3 The Sub Group agreed that since there is such a strong emphasis on sustainability and the Community Strategy, it would be most appropriate to adopt a tailored version of the inter-connected approach. Officers presented some examples of what this might look like within the strategy and the Sub Group agreed on a 'Sustainability Wheel'. The wheel would appear in each chapter, with that particular chapter heading at the centre and every other chapter would be represented as a slice of the wheel. Text within each of these slices would outline some sustainability challenges and specific sustainable aims or objectives relevant to that chapter. A separate statement of what a sustainable community means and/or looks like would also appear in the introduction to the strategy, as it does in the existing Community Strategy. An example layout of a chapter within the new strategy appears at Annex A, which shows a mock version of the sustainability wheel.

### **3. The new strategy and the LDF**

3.1 Steering Group members will be aware that the new LDF is set to be the spatial expression of the new Community Strategy. The two therefore need to be closely aligned and it will be important to ensure any thematic representations in the Community Strategy make sense in the context of the LDF. As a result, officers have recommended that the new strategy is aligned with the principles reflected in the core strategy of the LDF. These include;

- Keeping Life Local
- Fostering Vitality
- Public Realm
- Renewing the Legacy
- Diversity of Housing
- Securing Children's Future

3.2 Officers carried out an analysis of how these principles relate to the existing chapters within the Community Strategy and put some suggestions forward to the Sub Group regarding possible interfaces between the two. The Sub Group agreed that a text box should appear in each of the chapters within the new strategy titled 'Keeping Life Local/Fostering Vitality'. In this

box, the main policy objectives within the core strategy of the LDF that relate specifically to that chapter would appear. An example of this appears in the mock chapter layout at Annex A.

3.3 Other elements of the LDF would be subsumed within the text and/or aims and objectives of specific chapters, or may be highlighted in separate text boxes as appropriate. Examples of these elements could be the North Kensington Area Action Plan and recommendations from the Commission for Retail Conservation.

#### **4. The new strategy and cross-cutting themes**

4.1 Steering Group members will recall that the existing Community Strategy contains two cross-cutting themes; Health and Well-being, and Equalities and Inclusivity. These themes were chosen based on the following criteria;

- The theme/issue/policy area is genuinely wide reaching or all encompassing and can have an impact or be impacted upon by each of the stand alone chapters.
- The theme/issue/policy area could not be achieved without being reflected in each of the stand alone chapters.

Reasons for earmarking these themes as cross-cutting are outlined in the initial pages of the strategy, and aims and objectives which relate to them are then denoted throughout the strategy using a symbol.

4.2 At a recent LAA/Community Strategy stakeholder event held on April 11, officers posed the question of cross-cutting themes to a wide range of colleagues across partner organisations. Colleagues were asked if they thought the approach to cross-cutting themes in the existing strategy was a good one and how it could be improved upon. Feedback showed that people generally felt the 'symbol approach' worked well and suggestions for future cross-cutting themes included retaining Health and Well-being and Equalities and Inclusivity but also adding Safer Communities.

4.3 This feedback was put to the Sub Group who largely agreed with these views but felt that Equalities should appear separately as a cross-cutting theme and that 'Inclusivity' should be broadened to put up with wider issue of successful communities. The Sub Group therefore propose 4 cross-cutting themes; Health and Well-being, Safer Communities, Equalities and a 4<sup>th</sup> theme capturing successful communities. Officers are working on appropriate wording to capture the final cross-cutting theme. As example of how cross-cutting themes will be represented in the next strategy appears in the mock chapter at Annex A.

#### **5. The new strategy and next steps**

5.1 Officers across the Council and other partner organisations are currently working on the re drafting the text which will appear in the new strategy, including an updated set of aims and objectives. This will be shared with and draw input from the variety of other partnerships, sub groups and forums across partner organisations such as Family and Children's Strategic Partnership, Learning, Work and Business theme group, Community Safety Partnership Board, Health and Well-being partnership, VOFs etc.

5.2 The deadline for final submission of updated text to PPU is June 18. Messages from the consultation activity undertaken for the next strategy are currently being drawn together by officers and will be fed into the drafting process. A draft version of the strategy for consultation will then be produced for sign off and published late July.

## **6. Conclusion**

6.1 The KCP is asked to note progress made by the Sub Group in developing a new Community Strategy. The partnership is also asked to discuss and comment on the approaches outlined above.

**For discussion**

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