

## **Kensington and Chelsea Partnership**

**July 16<sup>th</sup> 2008**

### **Theme Group on Community, Equality and Inclusivity**

This paper invites KCP Steering Group members to consider and comment on a proposal to form a new theme group. Each chapter in the Community Strategy has a related theme group. It is therefore proposed that a theme group be formed with remit to advise on and co-ordinate the delivery commitments of the Community, Equality and Inclusivity Chapter within the Community Strategy.

**FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In 2006, the KCP undertook a review and agreed that the previous 'cluster structure' be replaced by a series of theme groups linked to the KCP Steering Group. It was also agreed that these groups should demonstrate a direct relationship with relevant activity in the Community Strategy.
- 1.2 Members will be familiar with the KCP theme groups already in place. A simplified diagram of these is at Annex A. Members will also be aware that there is currently no theme group or forum representing the aims and ambitions of the Community, Equality and Inclusivity chapter of the Community Strategy where partners can come together to cross reference related activities.

#### **2. Community Empowerment sub group**

- 2.1 The Community Empowerment Sub Group was set up in 2006 to develop a programme of activities that would help the KCP meet a specific target within the existing LAA. Namely:

'To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services'.

This target is measured by a set of performance indicators, attached at Annex B.

- 2.2 The Council allocated resources, over the three years of the LAA, to support activities which the Sub Group were invited to develop. Proposals of the Sub Group were subsequently submitted to the KCP for approval and signed off by the Council as the accountable body for the funds. Programmed activities have included community empowerment training, supporting the Voluntary Organisations Forum and a series of business engagement seminars.
- 2.3 Because the Community Empowerment Sub Group was established to oversee a programme of activities related to the LAA target, it was always intended that it should be time limited. However, there is arguably a need for a theme group related to the Community, Equality and Inclusivity chapter of the Community Strategy.

### **3. Rationale for the new theme group**

- 3.1 This proposal highlights the need to facilitate and partnership working amongst key partners in relation to Community, Equality and Inclusivity to ensure synergy across the various borough initiatives. Moreover, there are a number of emerging national agendas which could usefully be addressed through partnership working. These include the overlapping agenda's of Place Shaping, Valuing Diversity, Combating Inequality and Community Cohesion and Engagement.
- 3.2 The Local Government White Paper – Strong and prosperous communities – anticipates a requirement to engage communities in developing local services, while the forthcoming CAA shifts the focus of Audit Commission regulation away from the Council and towards the effectiveness of all public service providers and the partnerships on which they sit. In addition a new Equality Framework for Local Government is anticipated shortly.
- 3.3 The new theme group will position partners to work together in responding to these new agenda's. Similarly Voluntary Sector partners will be able to share their expertise in engaging with their constituencies and networks. For example, the current work of the new Engaging Communities VoF could appropriately feed in to this Sub group.

### **4. Remit of the theme group**

- 4.1 It is proposed that the overall purpose of this theme group should be to cross reference and co-ordinate work relating to Community, Equality and Inclusivity. In particular it will include:
- Sharing knowledge, developing joint initiatives and ensuring synergy across the partners;

- Ensuring delivery of LAA and Community Strategy targets; and
- Advising and updating the KCP on issues relating community engagement, equalities and inclusivity.

## 5. **Tasks**

5.1 It is envisaged that the theme group would be responsible for the following tasks:

- Contributing to the delivery of the Community, Equality and Inclusivity Chapter of the Community Strategy, including monitoring performance;
- Supporting the work of and advising the Council's new Community Engagement Team; and
- Bringing a partnership perspective to groups such as the Council's Borough Community Relations Advisory Group and the PCT's Equality and Human Rights Group.

## 6. **Membership**

6.1 Membership of the group should be open to officers and/or individuals from KCP partner organisations of the KCP Steering Group which are particularly concerned with Community, Inclusivity and Equality.

Public sector:           The Council, Kensington and Chelsea PCT and Police

Voluntary Sector:    Voluntary sector and Voluntary Organisations Forum representation

Other partners:       Housing provider and Forum of Faiths

6.2 The individuals nominated from the above organisations should ideally be different to those who represent their sectors on the KCP Steering Group. This is in order to maximise the input of expertise and also to ensure that the demands of the KCP do not become too onerous for particular individuals.

## 7. **Duration of the theme group**

7.1 The establishment of the theme group will be reviewed as part of the bi annual KCP review.

## 8. **Governance/Administration**

- 8.1 It is proposed that the chair of the theme group be decided by the membership drawn from 6.1.

9. **Meetings and Decisions**

- 9.1 To hold three or four meetings a year, in line with scheduled KCP Steering Group meetings in order to feed into the current decision making process.

- 9.2 The theme group meetings will be serviced by the Council's Community Engagement Team

10. **Next steps**

The Community Empowerment Sub Group has been consulted on the contents of this paper and the proposed arrangements for the new theme group. The KCP Steering Group is invited to comment on the proposed new theme group.

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## Appendix A



## Appendix B

### Outcome 3: To empower local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services

Performance Indicators	Performance Baseline	Performance Target
i) The percentage of residents who agree that the Council involves local people in the decisions it takes	3 year average (of 2004-2006 surveys) to be established	6 percentage points increase
ii) The percentage of residents who agree that the Police involve local people in the decisions they take	As above	6 percentage points increase
iii) The percentage of residents who agree that the local National Health Service involves residents of Kensington and Chelsea in the decisions it takes	As above	6 percentage points increase
iv) The percentage of residents who agree that the Council consults local people on the decisions it takes	As above	6 percentage points increase
v) The percentage of residents who agree that all residents are encouraged to take an active role in their communities	As above	6 percentage points increase
<p>Note: The KCP is exploring the potential for a new measurement methodology to capture how effectively clients of voluntary organisations are empowered to have a greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services. Provided a successful methodology can be developed and delivered, the Partnership will propose that it should be added as a new indicator under this outcome as part of the Local Area Agreement review process.</p>		