

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP
20 March 2002

**Joint report of the Acting Director of Notting Hill Social Council and the RBKC
Research and Consultation Manager**

**REPRESENTATION OF RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS
ON THE PARTNERSHIP STEERING GROUP**

1. SUMMARY

This report makes recommendations for filling the second place reserved for residents on the Kensington & Chelsea Partnership Steering Group.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Steering Group decides whether to

a) ask the Kensington & Chelsea Residents Association to nominate a representative to the Kensington & Chelsea Partnership Steering Group

or

b) delay the appointment of the second residents representative until a Forum for residents and tenants groups in the North of the Borough is established and ask the Forum to appoint a representative to the Kensington & Chelsea Partnership Steering Group

or

c) invite representatives from both the Kensington & Chelsea Residents Association and the new Northern Forum to join the Steering Group.

3. BACKGROUND

Since its launch on 27 June 2001, the Kensington & Chelsea Partnership Steering Group has been concerned to involve local tenants and residents groups in the work of the Local Strategic Partnership. Special events for residents groups were held in the autumn of 2001, people from residents associations took part in the two Borough conferences held last October and three consultation meetings (North, Central and South) took place as part of the consultation on the draft Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy. Two places on the Steering Group are allocated to residents.

4. RESIDENT REPRESENTATION ON THE STEERING GROUP

- 4.1 At its meeting on 22 January 2002, the Partnership Steering Group agreed to ask the Kensington Society and the Chelsea Society to nominate a representative jointly for one of the residents places and to reserve the other

place for someone who can represent residents living in social housing in the Borough.

- 4.2 It is considered important that the residents representative should have a mechanism for seeking the views of and reporting back to other residents, rather than just being an individual with an interest in the LSP.
- 4.3 The Kensington & Chelsea Residents Association (KCRA) has been in existence for at least thirty years and adopted its current constitution (attached as appendix A) in 1995. Membership is open to both individual residents and residents associations and it currently has some thirty members, mostly associations of tenants and residents in Council and housing association property but also including some private tenants.
- 4.4 Discussions have taken place with the Chair of KCRA, Mrs Doris Besant, who has agreed to recommend to KCRA that, if invited to do so by the Partnership Steering Group, the Association should nominate a representative to the Group. Information about the LSP has been given to KCRA and the RBKC Research and Consultation Manager and the Acting Director of Notting Hill Social Council have arranged to attend a KCRA meeting on 28 March 2002 to provide any further information which may be required. If invited to put forward a representative, KCRA will be encouraged to nominate someone living in social housing in the North of the Borough.
- 4.5 A Forum for local residents and tenants groups is being set up in the North of the Borough to cover the five regeneration wards of St. Charles, Golborne, Kelfield, Colville and Avondale. The aim of the Forum is to provide a voice for local people in the neighbourhood renewal initiative and to ensure that they are fully engaged and involved in the renewal of their neighbourhoods. While this is still in the planning stage, it is envisaged that the Forum would meet on a regular basis and could possibly elect a representative to the Steering Group.

5. GOL REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1 In the accreditation letter dated 28 February 2002 from the Government Office for London (GOL) it is stated in relation to resident and community members of the Steering Group that "at least one of the two members should be selected from a deprived area within the Borough." This could be achieved either through KCRA or through the new Forum.
- 5.2 GOL also stipulates that "The emerging community empowerment network should be involved in developing the selection procedures. " The community network in Kensington & Chelsea is the Voluntary Organisations Forum (VOF). There is a VOF meeting on 12 March which will be asked to express a view about the method of selecting the second residents representative, so that this can be reported verbally to the Steering Group on 20 March.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Both KCRA and the new Northern Forum could appoint someone to the Partnership Steering Group who can represent residents living in social housing in the North of the Borough and who can seek the views of and report back to other residents. The advantage of KCRA is that it is an established organisation and the advantage of the Northern Forum is that it will operate specifically in the five regeneration wards. The Steering Group may wish to consider the benefits of inviting both organisations to make a nomination.

For decision

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