

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Malcolm Spalding, Vice-Chairman (President, K&C Chamber of Commerce)
Councillor Judith Blakeman (Notting Barns Ward, RBKC)
Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown (Cabinet Member, RBKC)
Councillor Shireen Ritchie (Cabinet Member, RBKC)
Brian Deans (Borough Commander, LFB)
Chief Supt. Mark Heath (Borough Commander, MPA)
Ben Cann (Vice Chair, TMO)
Michael Sawyer (Forum of Faiths)
Jamie Renton (VOF Disability Issues representative)
Helen Leech (VOF Health and Wellbeing))
Joyce Roberts (Learning and Skills Council)
Mary Gardiner (K&C Social Council)
Michael Bach (Chairman, K&C Social Council)
Angela Spence (K&C Social Council)
Celia Rees-Jenkins (The K&C Societies)
Dr. Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health, K&C PCT)
Anna Porta (VOF Engaging Communities)

Others in Attendance

Councillor Barbara Campbell (Cabinet Member, RBKC)
Councillor Dr. Iain Hanham (Lead Member, RBKC - Regeneration, Environmental
Management and Leisure)
Councillor Charles Williams (RBKC)
Tot Brill - Executive Director, Transport, Environment and Leisure Services)
Tony Redpath (Director of Strategy and Service Improvement, RBKC)
Suzel Pitty (2012 Coordinator)
Di Robson (2012 Events Producer)
Nicola Weaver (KCP Support)
Cameron MacLean (Governance Services, RBKC)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND AGREEMENT TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

The Steering Group agreed the agenda.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 November 2008

The Steering Group agreed the minutes of the meeting of 12 November
and authorised the Vice Chairman to sign them as a correct record, subject
to the following amendments:

1. Page 1: Under "Members Present" -
 - Cllr Dr. Iain Hanham's name be deleted from Members of the Committee and be listed, instead, under "Others in Attendance";
 - Helen Leech's title be amended to "VOF Health and Wellbeing"
 - Michael Bach's title be amended to "Chair of KCSC"; and
 - Mary Gardiner's title be amended to Chief executive, KCSC
2. Item 4 - The State of the Sector, Page 3: The penultimate paragraph to be amended to read -

"1. In Kensington and Chelsea, earned income accounted for only 5% of the sector's income, which was meaningless when the effect of the national average was considered;"
3. Item 5 - News and Views, Page 8: Under the sub heading "Kensington and Chelsea Societies", the paragraphs be amended to read -

"Celia Rees-Jenkins reported that, along with the kitchen Garden scheme referred to by Councillor Paget-Brown, the North Kensington Environment Project was carrying out a pilot scheme, but staffing issues had meant that the Group had not met for a while, though it was hoped to have a meeting of the group in the New Year.";

3 2012 PRESENTATION

The Vice Chairman welcomed Councillor Warwick Lightfoot, the Council's 2012 Olympics representative.

Councillor Lightfoot gave a PowerPoint presentation on arrangements and finances for the 2012 Olympics and the Royal Borough's involvement in the celebratory arrangements.

Councillor Lightfoot then answered a number of questions from members of the Steering Group.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Councillor Lightfoot for his presentation.

4 PARTNERS' OUTLOOK FOR 2009/10

The Steering Group Members updated the Steering Group on their business and financial outlook for 2009/10 and reported on matters of current interest, as follows:

Kensington & Chelsea Social Council (KCSC)

Michael Bach, Chair of KCSC, reported that -

1. The overall priority for the local voluntary and community sector representatives was to ensure that the sector had a stronger voice, was better informed in local policy and was engaging with the work of Kensington and Chelsea Partnership (KCP); and
2. A top priority would be to ensure that the proposed new KCP sub-group (Community, Equality and Inclusivity) would provide real opportunities for KCP to learn much more about the sector, its values and visions and to reach all sections of the local community so that their voices could be heard; and
3. KCSC would like to see the sub-group led by the sector but also opening up greater opportunities for partnership working with statutory and private sector.

Mary Gardiner (Chief Executive, KCSC) reported that the KCSC's priorities would be to -

1. Continue to facilitate the involvement of local VCO's in the VOFs, raise attendance, particularly amongst small/ BME groups to ensure participation in local policy, organisation development and networking circles;
2. Produce State of the Sector report stage 2 – an in-depth analysis on the future sustainability of the local sector: the emphasis would be on trying to assess local attitude towards the transition of moving from voluntary sector to third sector status and the research would look at key indicators relevant to future developments such as income diversification, workforce development and civic engagement;
3. Continue to provide capacity building support necessary to meet strategic demands facing the local groups while continuing to work with the PCT through the commissioning round 2 process to support local groups; and
4. Continue to support the sector to understand and debate local policy issues.

Voluntary Organisations Forum (VOF)

Adult Health and Well Being: Helen Leech reported the following aims, to -

1. Support people to stay healthy, both mentally and physically through a variety of initiatives e.g. exercise sessions, social/learning groups, training etc.;
2. Tackle health inequalities through effective networking and outreach, e.g. information and advice, befriending etc.;
3. Support people to make the most of self-directed support individual Budgets etc.;

4. Recognise and support carers; and
5. Participate constructively in strategic developments led by the Council and NHSK&C, ensuring the contribution of service users.

Diversity, Equality and Inclusivity: Jamie Renton reported that -

1. Priority would be given to setting up of the KCP sub partnership and ensuring that the diverse nature of the sector, including hard to reach communities, were represented on all decision making forums;
2. To ensure the sector receives accessible support, information and training required to contribute to the forum effectively; and
3. All sections of the community were consulted and given adequate opportunities to comment on issues such as the community strategy.

Children, Young People and Families: Angela Spence reported the following aims -

1. To settle after contracting process;
2. To support unsuccessful groups to seek new funds;
3. To work with local authority officers to consider the next wave of contracting;
4. To support groups to go on courses relating to every child matters;
5. To consider ways to work to deliver services which add value but are harder to fund; and
6. To work with the Borough to reduce child poverty levels.

Engaging Communities: Anna Porta reported that it was the sector's aim to -

1. Maintain the infrastructure of community organisations at a time when funding cuts and changes in funding were taking place, noting that this was particularly challenging for disadvantaged BME groups;
2. Bring some coordination between different sectors such as health, social care, housing and police into the process of engagement with various communities so that policies become more resident and community focused and driven with improved use of statutory resources.
3. Improve understanding amongst all stakeholders in the process of engagement with communities.

In conclusion, Angela Spence reported on the financial health of the voluntary sector, as follows -

1. The sector had seen the financial allocation of funding from RBKC maintained although there were new processes in place. NHS Kensington and Chelsea has increased support in the last year after two rounds of investment aimed at local organisations;
2. As accessing funding becomes increasingly competitive, KCSC were aware that smaller groups, and groups who emerge to meet new needs, may find it harder to access funds;
3. Larger organisations may also be affected if they failed to win contracts, particularly where partnership working was ineffective. It would, therefore, be important for the voluntary sector to start coming together in consortia to enable both large and small organisations to bid for future contracts; and
4. The financial health of the sector for 2009/10 will also depend on all areas of the local VCS, including hard to reach communities being thoroughly briefed on matters such as the personalisation agenda to enable active participation in its delivery.

Learning and Skills Council (L&SC)

Joyce Roberts reported that:

1. Statement of Priorities was launched in November and budgets allocated to the region;
2. Current negotiation 16-18 volumes for Kensington & Chelsea College, St. Charles, Holland Park and Cardinal Vaughan;
3. As part of the Machinery of Government, colleagues from the Local Authority had been accompanying LSC staff on visits to providers, referred to as the 'Dry Run'; and
4. An invitation was extended to all providers of training who had expressed an interest in delivering LSC programmes. They had to complete a Pre Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ). Those that had been successful would then be invited to tender in the next round (due early February). European Funding will be strongly linked to employability skills.

Kensington and Chelsea Societies

Celia Rees-Jenkins reported on:

1. The Mayor of London's "Vote for Parks" scheme and provided details on how members of the Steering group could cast their votes; and
2. The London in Bloom awards, noting the number of awards received by the Borough.

Forum of Faiths

Michael Sawyer stated that the Forum of faiths had nothing to report at the moment.

Fire Service

Brian Deans, Borough Commander, LFB, reported that:

1. The Fire Service plan for 2009/10 was to continue to improve performance in the following areas:
 - % of time spent by station based staff on Community Fire Safety.
 - Home fire safety visits carried out by station based staff.
 - Calls to primary fires.
 - Injuries arising from primary fires.
 - Arson incidents.
 - Accidental fires in dwellings
 - Arson in dwellings
 - Vehicle arson
 - Shut in lift incidents
2. Kensington and Chelsea were ranked the number one performing Borough in London against the areas above in the Quarter ending 31 December 2008;
3. The brigade would look at ways to assist the partnership with improving performance in all LAA indicators where it was not the main lead, an example being the funding of 20 LiFE courses, covering all aspects of youth engagement and youth anti-social behaviour, for young people in the Borough;
4. The brigade would continue to fund the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) post through early release of LAA1 Performance Reward Grant money and explore funding an assistant to the CLO post; and
5. During the past week the brigade had been carrying out visits to business and domestic premises in the High Street Kensington area giving advice and reassurance in relation to the current demonstrations in the area.

Metropolitan Police Service

The Borough Commander reported on the following items:

Kensington High Street - Middle East Demonstrations

It was reported that up to 20,000 demonstrators had taken part in the recent demonstrations resulting in criminal damage, three police officers being hurt and 25 arrests.

Police investigations into the riots were ongoing in conjunction with New Scotland Yard. The Borough Commander reported on arrangements that were being made to maintain public order relative to further demonstrations that were planned.

Resolved -

That the Steering Group's best wishes be sent to those police officers injured in the demonstrations.

Police Priorities

1. To continue to meet national targets, but with an emphasis on drug related crime and an effort to reduce the overall reduction in crime within the Borough; and
2. Restructuring of police staff in alignment with budget requirements;
3. The appointment of a New Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police;
4. A focus on acquisitive crime, broadening out meeting national targets; and
5. Ending the financial year on budget.

TMO

Ben Cann stated that there was nothing to report at the present time. He noted that he would be attending future meeting of the steering group in place of Juliet Rawlings, Chair of the TMO.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea:

On behalf of the Council, Tony Redpath reported, as follows -

Cabinet Business Plan

That the Cabinet Business Plan proposals had now been published, the focus of which was on finance and the Council's response to the economy. Tony Redpath then detailed the proposals and answered member's questions on various aspects of the business plan.

Chamber of Commerce

Malcolm Spalding reported that on various events that were scheduled and which involved the Chamber of Commerce. He also reported on:

1. The Chamber of Commerce's bid for Network for Business Innovation and Sustainability (NBIS) funding;
2. Proposals seeking the introduction of byelaws governing the use of megaphones in Old Palace Court;
3. The difficulties experienced in meeting certain LAA targets; and
4. Proposals for a further market in the Borough.

5 COMMUNITY STRATEGY MONITORING PLAN/FULL NEW LAA

The Steering Group considered a paper that invited it to consider a first draft of the delivery plan for the new community strategy, titled Delivering for Our Community (D4C), also known as the full new Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Tony Redpath then went through the Annex detailing the various aims of the LAA and noted comments made by members. He stated that detailed comments could be sent to him for inclusion in an amended version of the New LAA.

6 MAKING USE OF LAA1 PERFORMANCE REWARD GRANT

The steering Group considered a report that invited it to consider what use it wished to make of the anticipated £2.6 million that it would receive as its share of the performance reward grant for achieving LAA1 targets.

An initial funding bid was made by the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council who requested £42,000 to support the delivery of community engagement targets by continuing dedicated officer support to coordinate and strengthen the Voluntary Organisations Forum. The proposal was agreed.

After discussion of the report's contents, it was proposed that any decisions be deferred to allow members to consider further the proposals set out in the report

Resolved -

That members of the Steering Group be invited to attend the next meeting of the Community Strategy Sub-Group, scheduled for Wednesday, 4 February 2009 in the Town Hall at 3.30pm where the detail of the proposals would be considered.

FORWARD PLANNING

The Steering Group noted forthcoming meeting dates (all Wednesdays):

1. 11 March 2009 - Meeting to start at **4.00pm**
2. 13 May 2009
3. 15 July 2009
4. 16 September 2009
5. 11 November 2009

ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS

There was none.

The meeting ended at 7.15pm

CHAIRMAN