

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Steering Group
held at Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX at 6.00 p.m.
on Wednesday 9th July 2003

PRESENT

Members of the Steering Group

Cllr. Merrick R. Cockell - Leader of the Council (RBK&C) (Chairman)
Cllr. Judith Blakeman - Minority Party (RBK&C)
Zrinka Bralo - Representative for Education and Employment (VOF)
Cllr. Timothy Coleridge - Cabinet Member for Housing (RBK&C)
Steve Crow - London Central Learning & Skills Council
Jed Davis - Forum of Faiths
Paul Haigh - Kensington & Chelsea Primary Care Trust
Menghi Mulchandani - Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
Augustine Omara - Director Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
Dez O'Neill - Representative for Children and Young People (VOF)
Cllr. Nicholas Paget-Brown - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Community Safety & External Relations (RBK&C)
Celia Rees-Jenkins - The Kensington and Chelsea Societies
Karin Woodley - Representative for Arts and Culture (VOF)

Others in attendance

Vera Gajic - Economic Initiatives Co-Ordinator (RBK&C)
Helen Kay - Policy Officer (RBK&C)
Christine Lawrence - Head of Regeneration and Partnerships
Jill McNiven - Kensington and Chelsea Social Council
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)
Sophia Nasir - Governance Services (RBK&C)
Asi Panditharatna - Principal Regeneration Officer, Policy and Partnerships Unit
Tony Redpath - Director of Strategy and Performance Improvement (RBK&C)
Robert Sheppard - Governance Services (RBK&C)
Similola Towry-Coker - Kensington and Chelsea Social Council

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Moir Stewart, Malcolm Spalding and Doris Besant.

The Chairman welcomed Augustine Omara to his first meeting of the Steering Group.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH MAY 2003 AND MATTERS ARISING

The Steering Group noted that:

- Cllr. Judith Blakeman had been incorrectly recorded as Leader of the Minority Party; and
- In relation to the second paragraph on the Barandon Road Business Units (page 3), the Steering Group had asked that officers monitor whether or not these leases were allocated to local companies.

Subject to above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

The Steering Group acknowledged receipt of two applications for Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) Year 3 funding from Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea (ADKC) and the Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce, copies of which were circulated before the meeting and have been placed on the Minute Book. Menghi Mulchandani asked that the ADKC bid be treated as a true partnership bid so that maximum benefit might be derived and indicated that ADKC would establish a steering group to oversee the initiative, and would include on this representatives from K&CP partner organisations.

RESOLVED-

That the applications received from ADKC and the Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce be approved.

Action by: Christine Lawrence

3. COMMUNITY/NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL STRATEGIES YEAR 1 REVIEW

A 'Champion' from each of five cluster groups briefly summarised their Progress Tracker Summary (as included with the agenda papers), highlighting key issues. Each thanked the other members of their cluster group for their help.

3A Celia Rees-Jenkins - Environment & Transport

Several key issues were highlighted, as follows:

- The focus had been placed on improving the delivery of programmes in deprived areas and in supporting existing services and programmes already tackling problems there.
- Consultation in St. Charles and Golborne Wards had led to the identification of 11 key areas for attention, of which three were directly related to Environment and Transport. These three were - relatively

low satisfaction with the overall streetscape; the need for better public transport links; and the desire for improvements to parks and open spaces. These remain our priorities, including children's play areas as part of the improvement in open spaces.

- Specific initiatives to prioritise should include the 'Cleaner Greener' project encouraging landowners in the north of the Borough to improve the appearance of their land; and Wornington Green redevelopment, where liaison with Housing is required to identify environment and transport aspects. These are not necessarily dependent on NRF but may involve strategic working or lobbying by the K&CP.

Approval would also be sought for a small contingency fund of £30,000, to be used along with other partners for minor improvements, e.g. to green the environment around the entrance to Barandon Business Units.

A detailed look at all the 'trackers' monitoring the projects had been very enlightening and it was hoped they could be kept up-to-date and re-issued with a view to identifying areas for cross-sector working.

Cllr. Blakeman asked that St. Mark's Road and Bramley Road railway bridges, though outside the two NRF wards, be included amongst the proposed bridge improvement projects. Karin Woodley suggested consideration be given to seeking funding from the Arts Council or other arts funding schemes, so as to avoid using scarce NRF monies.

3B Paul Haigh - Health & Well-Being

Four main opportunities were highlighted, as follows:

- The Primary Care Trust's 3 year funding allocation included £3.6m to develop services locally;
- New public involvement strategies will be very helpful in terms of improving health and well-being in the Borough;
- New GP contracts from 1st April 2004; and
- Constructive work with the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committee, e.g. on Health Inequalities.

The key priorities were identified as follows:

- To obtain a better picture of underlying health inequalities.
- To develop the concept of 'healthy living'
- To focus more on access - e.g. for BME groups, in relation to waiting times, and to ensure equity of access across the Borough
- To better understand the needs of children and young people and improve services accordingly.

In response to a question from Jed Davis, Paul Haigh confirmed that better contact needed to be established between Health and other statutory programmes etc. such as Connexions.

3C Councillor Timothy Coleridge - Homes & Housing

Four main areas had been explored, namely existing housing, new housing, the Supporting People strategy and use of temporary accommodation. The following were particularly worthy of mention:

- The Tenant Management Organisation's 'ALMO' bid had been successful, gaining 2 star rating from the Audit Commission with 'excellent prospects for improvement'. This would enable the TMO to draw down £36m of Government funding. The TMO were aiming to achieve the National Housing Standard on all its homes by 2007, ahead of the national target of 2010;
- Participation in the West London Housing Strategy, a partnership with the neighbouring local authorities: this was the first such housing partnership in London and will lead to increased access to new homes as they are built across West London;
- The Supporting People Strategy which now drew together funding from many different funding schemes; and
- The Borough had successfully reduced the number of families in bed and breakfast accommodation from 250 to around 100.

Menghi Mulchandani expressed her concerns regarding shortage of suitability adapted accommodation for disabled people in the Borough and asked that an audit be undertaken to assess the current supply and the demand for further homes suitable for the disabled.

Celia Rees-Jenkins requested that the Environment & Transport interests in the Wornington Green and the World's End Piazza projects be noted in the Homes & Housing cluster.

3D Steve Crow - Learning & Leisure

A number of key issues were highlighted, as follows:

- Development of the libraries infrastructure as a key resource to improve literacy, numeracy, life skills and ESOL levels amongst target groups;
- Greater focus on the 14-19 year olds agenda, integrating better learning and skills strategies of different providers. The 14-19 Action Plan has successfully achieved Ministerial approval and will provide opportunities for development of the vocational curriculum and closer cross-agency and partnership working;
- A clear, strategic direction for community education, taking account of Government initiatives and children's issues; and
- Creation of a forum for adult learning (building on the success of the 14-19 Forum).

Karin Woodley reminded Members of her previous request for 'Arts' to be properly embedded within 'Learning & Leisure' and further indicated that the Notting Hill Carnival should be identified as a key priority, being one of the largest arts events in the Borough. She asked if she could move as a 'champion' from the Health & Well-being cluster to the Learning & Leisure cluster. She also flagged up as priorities:

- developing the Youth Parliament, engaging the young, and maintenance of local swimming pool provision.
- the potential benefit of drawing on the experience and energy of the large number and variety of arts practitioners within the Borough.

The work of the Westway Sports Centre was mentioned and Steve Crow said LSC would be interested to see what they had done, and might be able to contribute to the future development of a 'centre of excellence' for sports education.

3E Dez O'Neill - Safe Communities

Ongoing Police/Council objectives and achievements were summarised by Dez O'Neill (on behalf of Moir Stewart) as follows:

- Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) have been well received and a priority for the future will be to recruit locally;
- The number of burglaries in Golborne and St. Charles Wards has been reduced dramatically (by 68%);
- The Portobello Sector Working Group is seen as a prime example of joint working;
- The Police were looking to raise awareness to prevent auto-crime; and
- The replacement of unattractive security shutters was being considered as a way of improving perceptions of street safety.

Action by: Christine Lawrence/Helen Kay

4. NRF YEARS 4 AND 5 - DISCUSSION ON PRINCIPLES, PROCESSES AND PRIORITIES

Helen Kay introduced this item, running through some of the key points in the report. She invited Steering Group members to set the context against which the proposed Sub-Group might develop the Years 4-5 NRF Programme. Contributions from around the table were written-up on the flipcharts in the meeting room as follows:

PRIORITIES/ISSUES

- Supporting the Forum of Faiths and Schools Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE)
- Empowering communities to engage with public bodies.
- Integrate Race Equality Schemes of different agencies and publicise them

- Improve learning opportunities, achievements and participation through improving learning infrastructure.
- Appearance of area e.g. Wornington Green and Streetscape.
- Improve quality of parks, open spaces and children's play areas.
- Improve appearance of bridges.
- Participation, inclusion and access (should be apparent in all projects)
- Tangible benefits.
- Community Safety to enable access by residents, e.g. to parks and play areas.
- Visible benefits.
- Work that improves access for people with disabilities.
- Anti-burglary initiatives been successful and should continue – link to improvements to environment to make people feel safer. e.g. Portobello Road.
- Improve safety in Holland Walk area?
- Some funds to go to other deprived Wards
- Agree should keep key issues identified in consultation (Appendix B)
- Chamber of Commerce initiatives such as capacity building in N. Ken, harmonise waste collections for cleaner shopping streets etc.

In subsequent discussion the following points were added:

- Too many priorities, so must narrow them down and do something with measurable impact or that will be remembered, e.g. Community Safety, Learning & education, enabling people to take more control of their future (said three times)
- Should look at what worked last time.
- Should be based on need
- Focus on process, and prioritise projects that bring significant changes in practice.

PRINCIPLES/OBJECTIVES

- Should not be used to support mainstream services. Should be used to add value to mainstream services, i.e. enabling communities to improve their areas and organisations that enable community empowerment
- Should support organisations that border Kensington & Chelsea (too)
- Must demonstrate partnership working
- Innovative partnership working that involves residents
- Highly visible, high impact projects, preventative projects
- Must fit within consultation and provide for feedback
- Stick to 5 areas (7 clusters) and integrate Race Equality and Disabilities into all projects
- Should not use NRF for projects or programmes that are the statutory obligations of statutory partners; or that other budgets could deliver
- Should enable communities to engage in regeneration activities
- Sustainability should be ensured by supporting people's capacity
- KCP should bring added value to mainstream services

- Agree with all objectives in Appendix A
- Don't spread too thinly over whole of Borough.
- Prioritise NRF wards

In subsequent discussion the following points were made:

- NRF wards should receive 90% of all funding. Proposed by Cllr Paget-Brown and seconded by Cllr Blakeman.
- Second priority should be next most deprived wards, third priority should be for initiatives that are not in deprived wards and who meet Community Strategy objectives.
- Learn from what happened in years 1-3. Prioritise areas that made impact.
- NRF should make a difference, be visible and have tangible benefits (said twice)
- Encourage cross fertilisation and collaboration amongst sectors and promote innovative partnership working amongst public-voluntary sectors-residents.
- To help organisations improve mainstream services and engage with mainstream services.
- Race equality/disability/equalities in general should be a cross cutting theme.
- NRF should focus on prevention, e.g. PCSO's.
- Safeguarding existing NRF initiatives that make a difference and are still required (related to Environment and Transport)

PROCESS/CRITERIA

- How are Race, Disability and Equality going to be addressed in the NRF process?
- All bids should be considered in a formal public bidding round and tested to see if they meet disability and race equality objectives and to see if they illustrate partnership working.
- Should consider a partnership champion for each bid/project.
- Integrated approach across different sectors and 'themes'.
- Role of Sub-group needs to be clearly defined.
- Monitoring of progress and feedback to residents and stakeholders.
- Opportunity for residents to give feedback to the KCP.
- Agree on issues and strategic approach beyond NRF and develop a broad programme looking at the big issues.
- Projects that are (or should be) outreach and grass roots.
- When allocating money, there should be clear criteria, open bidding and transparent process (said twice)
- Should encourage bids from Steering Group members to reinforce responsibility (interests should be declared)
- Be flexible re delivery agencies, but steering group to approve and monitor

In subsequent discussion the following points were added:

- Should also look at lobbying opportunities.
- National government criteria as shown in attached paper part A2 important especially last three points.
- Assessment criteria in layers – look at most deprived wards first.
- NRF support to be based on how an initiative can sustain progress beyond NRF, i.e. sustainability of funding
- During summer sub-group should whittle down priorities into areas or themes
- Should agree issues and strategic approach, then pull in all resources. Use NRF to fund shortfall only
- Some funds to be ‘ring-fenced’ e.g. for improving access.
- General mood of the meeting was that open bidding was preferred method of allocation
- Assessment Criteria – look at Bridge House Estate Fund and City Parochial Fund as examples of good practice.

RESOLVED-

- (i) That the principal area of benefit **not** be widened from the St. Charles and Golborne Wards but that projects adjacent to these Wards that might have tangible benefit within them should also be considered, on their merits, alongside other projects. At least 90% of funding should directly benefit these two Wards.
- (ii) That a Sub-Group be established to respond to the Year 3 NRF underspend and to develop the Steering Group’s outline aspirations for the Years 4-5 NRF Programme and report back to the Steering Group’s next meeting;
- (iii) That the Sub-Group be comprised of Augustine Omara (Social Council), Menghi Mulchandani (VOF), Cllr. Paget-Brown (RBK&C), Moir Steward or a designated deputy (The Police), Karin Woodley (VOF) and Doris Beasant (representing local residents) if available;
- (iv) That the Sub-Group be given delegated authority to take decisions, prior to the next Steering Group meeting, so as to minimise any Year 3 underspend;
- (v) That, for the Years 4-5 Programmes, an open (but **focused**) bidding process be used, subject to the Sub-Group narrowing down further some **clear assessment criteria** to be applied (developed from the Steering Group’s objectives identified above) so as to facilitate the assessment of bids received;
- (vi) That the Sub-Group consider, as part of its deliberations, any readily available ‘off the peg’ assessment criteria available from the City Parochial Charities etc.; and
- (vii) That, as requested by Menghi Mulchandani, the Sub-Group consider setting aside a ‘ring-fenced’ pot of NRF money specifically for access projects.

Action by: Christine Lawrence/Helen Kay

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.