

## **KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP**

**19<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2003**

### **The New Planning System and the Community Strategy**

Steve McCormack, Policy Team Leader in the Council's Planning and Conservation Business Group, will be in attendance at the meeting to give a short presentation on the Government's proposals for planning reform.

The Government intends that a new style 'local development framework' should be a key component in the delivery of the community strategy, setting out its spatial aspects where appropriate. It should also provide a long term spatial context for the community strategy.

**FOR DISCUSSION**

#### **Background**

The town planning system in England is currently undergoing major reform. The Government is taking forward legislation to change the current system of development plans to one based upon 'Local Development Frameworks'.

The process of reform began with the Planning Green Paper 'Planning – Delivering a Fundamental Change', published in December 2001. This Green Paper set out the principal aim of creating a quicker and more accessible planning system, which meets the needs of business and the wider community.

Following consultation, the Government's proposals were carried forward into the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill, which was introduced into the House of Commons on 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2002. At the time of writing this report, the Bill was still undergoing Parliamentary scrutiny. The new development plan system is expected to receive Royal Assent sometime during the Spring of 2004 and to come into force in June or July of that year. Further details regarding the new system have been set out in draft regulations and draft guidance, both of which are currently the subject of public consultation.

In the new system, local planning authorities are asked to adopt a spatial planning approach to local development frameworks to ensure the most efficient use of land by balancing competing demands. The approach should not just be concerned with the physical aspects of location and land use but also economic, social and environmental matters.

Local planning authorities will be expected to involve the community at an early stage in the preparation of the local development frameworks and to keep the community engaged throughout the preparation process.

The Government is to publish guidance on the relationship between local development frameworks and community strategies.

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