

# **The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership**

Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Steering Group  
held at the London Lighthouse, 111-117 Lancaster Road,  
London W11 1QT at 6.00 p.m.  
on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2003

## **PRESENT**

### **Members of the Steering Group**

Malcolm Spalding - Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce (Chairman)  
Zrinka Bralo - Representative for Education and Employment (VOF)  
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  
Cllr. Nicholas Paget-Brown - Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Community Safety &  
External Relations (RBK&C)  
Celia Rees-Jenkins - The Kensington and Chelsea Societies  
Moir Stewart – Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police  
Karin Woodley - Representative for Arts and Culture (VOF)

### **Others in attendance**

Graham Foster – Head of Forward Planning (RBKC)  
Royston John – facilitator (independent)  
Helen Kay – Partnership Support Officer (RBK&C)  
Christine Lawrence - Head of Regeneration and Partnerships (RBKC)  
Steve McCormack – Senior Planning Officer (RBKC)  
Jill McNiven – NRF Officer - Kensington and Chelsea Social Council  
Cllr Daniel Moylan – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning &  
Transportation (RBK&C)  
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)  
Karen Persuad – Education Business Links Officer (RBKC)  
Tony Redpath - Director of Strategy and Performance Improvement (RBK&C)  
Ainsley Walcroft – Governance Administrator (RBK&C)

## **A G E N D A**

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Judith Blakeman, Merrick Cockell, Timothy Coleridge and Dez O'Neill.

The Vice-Chairman in the Chair, Malcolm Spalding, requested the Steering Group's permission to invite Cllr. Daniel Moylan to the table to discuss item 5 on the agenda, which was to be moved before item 4.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2003**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Steering Group held on 17<sup>th</sup> September were confirmed as a correct record, subject to some minor changes. Progress on the following action points from the previous meeting were reported:

### **Re: Item 3 of previous meeting – Forward Plan for the Partnership**

#### **3. (i)**

Helen Kay reported that cluster co-ordinators did not feel that a separate Action Plan was necessary and were confident that they were already moving forward on the Priorities identified in the annual review last summer.

#### **3. (ii)**

The resolved action that 50% of meetings should be held at venues away from Kensington Town Hall was clearly on target given the venue of the current meeting.

#### **3. (iii)**

The undertaking that members of the Steering Group should visit other Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) had not yet been fulfilled due to the current lack of availability of volunteers. It was noted that Karin Woodley could be visiting Haringey LSP and Cllr. Paget-Brown said he was still happy to make a visit.

### **Re: Item 5 of previous meeting – Working Together to Improve the Environment**

It was agreed that the term ‘youths’ under the seventh bullet point should be replaced with ‘young people’ as it was deemed more appropriate.

Referring to the suggestion on page seven that lunchtime should be considered for future workshops or meetings, Cllr. Paget-Brown remarked that it might result in poorer attendance, as fewer partners would be available during the day. It was noted that Saturday mornings were unsuitable for officers. Malcolm Spalding added, however, that the away day was very successful so perhaps an occasional daytime meeting could be coupled with a development event.

#### **(i) Agenda planning day**

RESOLVED –

- (1) That a letter be circulated with ‘tick box’ options for Partners to indicate their preferences for the timings of meeting etc.

**Action by:** Helen Kay

## **Item 6 of previous meeting – Any Other Business**

### **Closure of the Community Language Centre**

Derek Myers informed the Steering Group that he had circulated a report to those that had requested it, outlining the continuing provision of English Language classes in the borough.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING**

### **Housing Representative Update**

Janet Davies, from Women's Pioneer Housing Association has been appointed by KCHAG to arrange a nominee but she is in hospital, so the Steering Group are still waiting for a representative.

### **Communications and Consultation Programme**

Menghi Mulchandani reported that the Communications Sub-Group had met recently. The fact that so many partners were busy would prevent the Steering Group from giving presentations at events.

The following action points were addressed:

#### *(ii) Presentations by Steering Group at events*

RESOLVED –

- (2) That officers would attend key events to give presentations.

*Action by: Helen Kay and Communications Sub-group*

Rather than a formal Annual Report, a short annual or twice-yearly newsletter would be published, with a tear-off slip for comments and contact numbers.

#### *(iii) Annual Report or Newsletter*

RESOLVED –

- (3) That the newsletter would be distributed probably with the Borough Newsletter, subject to costs, the first being published in Spring 2004.

*Action by: Helen Kay and Communications Sub-group*

#### *(iv) Key messages distributed via email, press releases and newsletters*

RESOLVED –

- (4) That e-mail alerts be sent to the 400 people on the Friends of the Royal Borough database, to include agendas and information on the structure, responsibilities, future plans of the Partnership and general news. The Strategies Implementation Group was also to be invited to use this facility and contribute to news.

*Action by: Helen Kay and Communications Sub-group*

#### **NRF Years 4 and 5 – Christine Lawrence**

Christine Lawrence reported that 133 expressions of interest had been received, with the sum of the bids totalling over £10.5 million, a large amount considering the £2million of available funds. Members of the assessment team scored each bid individually then brought their results together to identify a priority list for each cluster. These had then been submitted to Cluster Champions, so that their views could be taken into account.

The list of agreed bids to be taken through to the second stage still had a total of £6 million so competition would be high. Letters would be sent out to all applicants explaining the situation and offering advice on strengthening their application. Malcolm Spalding added that even for the unsuccessful applicants the process is a learning opportunity. Ms. Lawrence thanked the cluster champions and everyone on the assessment team.

#### **RESOLVED –**

- (5) The agreed list of projects going forward, plus the proposed scoring system for stage 2, would be circulated.

*Action by: Christine Lawrence*

The pre-allocation to programme manage the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund has already been agreed but Ms. Lawrence requested a further £25,000 over two years for 'Learning and Skills' for example: Regeneration Exchange, the development of the Steering Group, training on sustaining NRF projects etc. The money could also be used to produce a guide to all development work going on throughout the Royal Borough. Councillor Paget-Brown suggested that one or two events could be organised to promote the Steering Group.

#### **Equalities Review – Karin Woodley**

Karin Woodley reported that the new Race Equality Partnership, Kensington & Chelsea (REP) may be willing to undertake an Equalities Review for the LSP in partnership with other relevant organisations (e.g. ADKC) and that such a review would scope the full range of equalities issues.

Ms Woodley reported that the REP could only complete such a commission if its operational infrastructure was funded in addition to the direct costs of the Equalities Review. She noted that the Police were the REP's sole funders.

Ms Woodley drew attention to the LSP's obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act and the Race Relations Act and their amendments, and also to Government Office for London requirements that LSPs support Community Empowerment Networks addressing race and disability equalities. Clarification on the LSP obligations was requested by a number of members of the steering group.

Malcolm Spalding said that given the responsibility, the Steering Group should consider performing an audit to uncover any deficiencies. He requested some specific proposals for the next meeting, such as defining the scope of the audit.

RESOLVED –

- (6) Ms. Woodley to provide the next meeting with a recommendation on the way forward.

**Action:** Karin Woodley

#### **4. WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT FOLLOW-UP**

Councillor Paget-Brown discussed the action points carried forward from the environmental breakout sessions at the previous meeting. He requested the agreement of the Steering Group so the proposals could be implemented.

The following action points were addressed:

##### *(i) Open Spaces*

RESOLVED –

- (7) That lead officers in the council working on 'Hear by Right' and the Youth Forum be approached to explore how environmental issues, especially graffiti, litter, vandalism and civic pride, can be raised and debated.

**Action by:** Helen Kay/Tony Redpath/Mark Bennett (cluster co-ordinator)

- (8) That lead officers from Partner organisations working on 'Junior Citizen' be approached to see how information on environmental issues, especially graffiti, litter, vandalism and civic pride, can be provided for their events.

**Action by:** Helen Kay/Mark Bennett

##### *(ii) Recycling*

Karin Woodley pointed out that the voluntary sector could find it difficult to pursue 'green purchasing' and it would be helpful if they had information on the Council's preferred contractors and suppliers.

RESOLVED –

- (9) That each partner will investigate what their Purchasing managers, office managers or equivalents are already doing regarding Recycling and 'green purchasing', and whether performance could be improved. Partners to report back to the steering group meeting in March 2004 for consideration.

**Action by:** Individual Partners and cluster co-ordinators

(iii) *Traffic and Transportation*

Expanding on Item 4.1 of the report, Cllr Paget-Brown said that the Council had already written to the Mayor of London requesting that the entire Royal Borough be included in the Congestion Charging Extension. The Mayor's consultation window would end on 10<sup>th</sup> December and it was suggested that the Partnership could repeat some of the key points of the Council's letter.

RESOLVED –

- (10) That the Partnership will write to the Mayor of London and Angie Bray, the local GLA representative, to request that the whole borough be included in any proposed extension to the congestion charging zone.

**Action by:** Helen Kay

An electronic draft of the letter was to be circulated by Helen Kay to all partners, who could decide if they wanted their names and organisations added to the letter. If all agreed the letter could be signed on behalf of the Partnership by Councillor Cockell and sent to the Mayor of London.

- (11) That the Partnership will write to the Mayor of London to request that the proposed Chelsea-Hackney line be routed through the south of the borough and that the timetable be brought forward (from scheduled date of 2016).

**Action by:** Helen Kay

- (12) That the Partnership will write to TfL and the Strategic Rail Authority to emphasise the need for extra stations on West London line, particularly in North Kensington, and to propose that a new Eurostar station be opened at Olympia.

**Action by:** Helen Kay

(iv) *Sustainable Development and Environmental Awareness*

RESOLVED –

- (13) That each partner organisation will nominate key persons (such as Head of Training and Head of Purchasing) to attend a course on Sustainable Development (including Environmental Awareness) with a view to rolling out a programme for their own staff where possible.

**Action by:** All Partners

- (14) That this should be part of a learning programme under the 'Skills and Knowledge' cluster for key staff in all partner organisations running from January 2004 to Dec 2005. The learning programme will also include issues of Disability and Race Equalities

**Action by:** Menghi Mulchandani/ Karin Woodley/ Helen Kay/ Jill McNiven

There were some reservations from the Voluntary sector as to whether they could spare staff resources for such courses.

## 5. THE NEW PLANNING SYSTEM AND THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Steering Group welcomed Councillor Daniel Moylan, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Planning Policy and Transportation and Steve McCormack, Policy Team Leader in the Council's Planning and Conservation Business Group.

Mr. McCormack thanked the Steering Group for agreeing to discuss the Government's proposals to replace current Unitary Development Plans (UDP) with Local Development Frameworks (LDFs). He explained how the Government was promoting substantial change and how LDFs could be part of the delivery mechanism for Community Strategies. A Green Paper seeking fundamental changes to planning delivery was published in December 2001 and the current 'Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill' was at present going through Parliament. Likely to gain Royal Assent in March 2004, it would come into force no earlier than June 2004.

Councillor Moylan emphasized the importance of planning policy in the Borough. He explained there was a high level of development pressure to build nothing but high-end accommodation and restaurants, but the Council is staunch in retaining a balance. The Government's proposals to replace the current UDP system has been brought about to speed up the planning process and it could be seen as giving in to development.

Referring to Mr. McCormack's presentation, he reiterated that Government had said that an underlying purpose of the new style development plan was to give spatial expression to those elements of community strategies that relate to the use and development of land.

At present, however, there was very little in the current Community Strategy that relates to planning, so it had no real impact in planning terms. Councillor

Moylan said that there was therefore an opportunity to have a profound influence over planning, if the Community Strategy was revised in the correct way. This would require a lot of hard work and attention to detail, and training sessions would probably be necessary. As well as providing officer support, Councillor Moylan said he was happy to meet with a Sub-group once it was set up so the Partnership could familiarise itself with the existing parts of the UDP. This could inform the revision of the Community Strategy. He added that although the consultation does not have to begin until September 2004, it would be wise to start planning now. The revised Community Strategy was due to be published in 2005, with the publication of the LDF scheduled for 2007.

It was proposed that volunteers from both the voluntary and statutory sectors come forward to form a Sub-group, which would:

- Steer the revision of the Community Strategy,
- Help design the consultation, which would inform the Community Strategy, and
- Look at opportunities to link the Community Strategy to the LDF.

RESOLVED –

- (15) That approximately five volunteers come forward to form a sub-group to address the revision of the Community Strategy in light of the new Local Development Framework.

*Action by: Helen Kay*

## **6. EDUCATION 16-19 REVIEW**

Steve Crow from the London Central Learning and Skills Council (LSC) spoke to the Steering Group about the Strategic Area Review (StAR), which was to examine and improve the effectiveness of all post-16 learning apart from universities and private colleges. Although artificially divided into five LSC sectors, London was seeking to work together to achieve consistency. The review focussed mainly on:

- The pattern and mix of provision
- Responsiveness of provision
- Choice and confidence in provision
- Strengthening links with higher education

Following the preparatory stages, developing and appraising options would take place between February and October 2004, formal local consultation would occur from October 2004 until January 2005 and planned outcomes would be published in March 2005. These outcomes would then be implemented in April 2005.

Upcoming public LSC events in central London included three Open Agenda events: one focussed on young people on 10<sup>th</sup> December, one on adult learning on 21<sup>st</sup> January and an event aimed at employers in early February. The intention was to attract a wide range of interested parties to each event,



including learners, parents, teachers and other stakeholders and partners. Mr. Crow said the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership might wish to have an input in these events.

The Steering Group was asked to consider what level of involvement it wanted to have in the Review process. As a strategic body with learning as part of their remit it seemed an ideal opportunity for at least some partners to play a significant part. Suggested areas of involvement included workshops and discussion papers. Alternatively, involvement could be limited to receiving regular updates for information.

It was agreed that a new sub-group was unnecessary and it was the responsibility of Cluster Co-ordinators to identify key areas for involvement. Mr. Crow added that there must be a group in Kensington and Chelsea that is already looking at adult education and employment with which the Partnership could become involved.

Councillor Paget-Brown said that a lot of reviews are taking place one step removed and what was desperately needed was getting people into work, adding that there was no Job Centre Plus in North Kensington. Involvement in StAR could be an opportunity to influence jobcentre provision in that area of the Borough.

RESOLVED –

- (16) That a half-day event would take place between February and October 2004 to provide input to the StAR review as a Partnership.

*Action by: Helen Kay and Steve Crow*

## **7. CITIZENSHIP**

It was agreed that a full hour was needed discuss the issues in sufficient depth, and given the time available, the item was postponed until the next Steering Group meeting or a suitable daytime meeting. The Steering Group gave their thanks and apologies to Royston John who had attended the meeting to facilitate discussion around the item.

Councillor Paget-Brown led the Steering Group in thanking Malcolm Spalding for chairing the meeting in the absence of Councillor Merrick Cockell, Leader of the Council.

The meeting ended at 8.15 p.m.