

KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS

18th May 2005

This paper:

- Asks the KCP Steering Group to decide whether to seek to negotiate a Local Agreement with Government. Further information on these Agreements will be provided at the meeting
- Invites comments on a draft letter to the Government Office for London (GoL).

FOR DECISION

1. The KCP Steering Group had a preliminary discussion on Local Area Agreements at its meeting on 26th April. A further oral report will be made at the meeting on 18 May. The Steering Group will then be asked to decide whether it wishes to submit an expression of interest to GoL that Kensington and Chelsea should be included in the second tranche of negotiations.
2. In the meantime, a draft letter to GoL has been drawn up and is attached at Annex A. Should the Steering Group decide to proceed, comments on the letter would be welcome.

FOR DECISION

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APPENDIX A

DRAFT LETTER TO LIZ MEEK, DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE FOR LONDON:

Dear Liz

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN NEGOTIATING A LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership is very keen to negotiate a Local Area Agreement (LAA) with Government.

The Council and the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership have longstanding ambitions to make Kensington and Chelsea a safer and more pleasant place to live; to give children and young people the best possible start in life; to deliver excellent and integrated health and care services; and to tackle the deep-seated problems of deprivation which characterise some of the borough's neighbourhoods.

Over the last year the Partnership has consulted extensively to identify what local people want, and has recently published a draft community strategy which sets out an ambitious set of 10-year goals and three year aims and objectives to tackle the issues that matter most to local residents. The partnership intends to develop an Action Plan to deliver the objectives in the strategy for publication next spring.

The negotiation of a Local Area Agreement to be in place from 2006/07 fits perfectly with these plans. The negotiation of a joint LAA/LPSA would draw on the strategy and help the Partnership to determine clear targets, to identify areas where performance should be stretched, to align mainstream resources and to examine, with government, any freedoms and flexibilities and pump-priming resources that could support delivery.

LPSA1 has had an invigorating effect and delivered real achievements, and we want to maintain momentum. The Council expects to receive between £2 million and £4 million in reward grant for the achievement of LPSA1 targets. Grant will be payable in 2006/07 and 2007/08, the first two years of any three year Local Area Agreement. The Council and the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership would like to discuss with Government how reward grant could be used to support the delivery of LAA targets and LPSA stretch performance. Other resources that could contribute include a possible further £2.5 million Council investment in PCSOs and the Council's new £2 million voluntary sector grants scheme, which will operate from 2006/07 and be based on priorities drawn from the strategy.

We welcome GO-L's leadership of the negotiation process. The Partnership has benefited from GO-L's advice and guidance in relation to issues such as partnership development, NRF, the Safer Stronger Community Fund and the Community

Empowerment Network. Local partners have a good track record of successful negotiations with Government, and we are confident that we could work successfully with GO-L on a joint Local Area Agreement/LPSA and deliver this to the required timetable.

To assist this and get off to a prompt start lead officers have been identified to head negotiations on each of the four LAA blocks, as follows:

- Mike Howard, Superintendent for Partnerships in the local Police Force
- Christine Lawrence, the Head of Regeneration and Partnerships at the Council
- [Melanie Smith, Director of Public Health at the PCT] and
- John Wilkinson, Head of Policy and Performance, Housing and Social Services at the Council

These officers will be supported by a team led by Tony Redpath, the Director of Strategy and Service Improvement and by finance officers in the Council, the Police and the PCT. A specially constituted Steering Group of Cabinet and KCP representatives (including the voluntary sector) would oversee the process. We could put these arrangements in place very shortly after the selection of the new Local Area Agreement areas, if that suited GO-L's timetable for the roll-out of negotiations.

The borough is already served by a number of strong partnerships -including a "green rated" Local Strategic Partnership, a well - established Joint Health Partnership Board and a very strong Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. A Local Area Agreement would provide a strong catalyst for strengthening strategic and operational partnership working in the borough, and in particular for establishing strong and effective links between the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership and the new Children's Services Partnership - as well as with the established partnerships mentioned above.

We are aware that negotiations of some pilot LAA's have left the voluntary and community sector feeling marginalised. We would work hard to avoid this, and see these Agreements as an opportunity to build stronger roles and responsibilities for local voluntary organisations and to strengthen our links and our work with local neighbourhoods and communities.

The Council and the partnership is keen to work with GO -L to develop forms of partnership, representation and governance that will deliver these ambitions, and to build on our already-effective performance management systems to establish streamlined and effective reporting arrangements that meet the needs of all partners, including Government.

In summary, we believe that Kensington and Chelsea has a strong claim to be included in the second tranche of LAA negotiations because

- our ambitions to improve the borough will lead to an exciting and important Agreement that will make a real difference to local people;
- we have a track record of success in delivering stretching performance under LPSA1;
- the timing of the Agreement would dovetail perfectly with the roll -out of our new community strategy and our ambitions to build on our successes under LPSA1;

- we are willing to bring resources to the table to assist the delivery of LAA and LPSA2 targets;
- we have the officer teams and relationships necessary to work with GO -L and negotiate an Agreement successfully; and
- the borough has strong partnerships that can then deliver success against the Agreement's targets.

If you would like any further information about Kensington and Chelsea's proposed approach to a Local Area Agreement, do please get in touch.

Yours sincerely

[Multiple signatories]