

The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership

Minutes of the meeting of the Partnership Steering Group
held at the Town Hall, Hornton Street, London W8 7NX
at 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th July 2005

PRESENT

Members of the Steering Group

Malcolm Spalding - Kensington & Chelsea Chamber of Commerce
(Vice Chairman in the Chair)
Michael Bach - Chairman, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council
Cllr Judith Blakeman - Minority Party (RBK&C)
Gillian Bowen - Representative for Children and Young People (VOF)
Dominic Clout - Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police
Cllr Timothy Coleridge - Cabinet Member for Housing (RBK&C)
Menghi Mulchandani - Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea
Geeta Nanda - Notting Hill Housing Group
Dez O'Neill - Representative for Arts and Culture (VOF)
Cllr Nicholas Paget-Brown - Cabinet Member for Regeneration,
Community Safety and External Relations (RBK&C)
Celia Rees-Jenkins - The Kensington and Chelsea Societies

Others in Attendance

Lorraine Gilbert - Race Equality Partnership Kensington and Chelsea
Cllr Dr. Iain Hanham - (RBK&C)
Christine Lawrence - Head of Regeneration and Partnerships (RBK&C)
Derek Myers - Town Clerk & Chief Executive (RBK&C)
Augustine Omara - Director, Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
Audley Philips - Race Equality Partnership Kensington and Chelsea
Tony Redpath - Director of Strategy and Performance Improvement (RBK&C)
Rachel Smith - Partnership Support Manager (RBK&C)
Similola Towry-Coker - Kensington & Chelsea Social Council
Ainsley Walcroft - Governance Administrator (RBK&C)

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Zrinka Bralo, Cllr Cockell, Steve Crow and Fadi Itani.

Similola Towry-Coker will shortly be leaving the Social Council and the Steering Group thanked her for the important work she had completed for the Partnership.

The Vice-Chairman introduced Michael Bach, the Chairman of the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council, who would be replacing Augustine Omara on the Steering Group. Augustine would still be attending future Steering Group meetings as an officer.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 18TH MAY 2005

The Minutes of the meetings held on 18th May 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the addition of Cllr Coleridge to the list of attendees.

MAIN BUSINESS

3. VISION FOR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Paper Presented by Olivia Butler

Olivia Butler introduced Kensington and Chelsea's draft Vision for Families and Children in preparation for implementation of the Children Act. The Act requires contributions from the statutory partners, including the PCT and the Police.

The Vision will result in a set of key outcomes drawn from the need to help children and young people to:

- Respect themselves and others, and to engage positively with society;
- Be enquiring and keen to learn, to help others and to enjoy life;
- Grow up safely and healthily;
- Get the extra help they need if they are in difficult circumstances;
- Have their achievements recognised and built upon; and
- Be prepared for active, economically independent, participative adulthood

The Act seeks to encourage services to work together closely, for example in co-located teams to achieve a better shared understanding. In addition, Kensington and Chelsea's vision seeks to strengthen families and create family networks at the heart of the community.

The Steering Group agreed that in essence the draft vision was a solid document, but the following changes and additions were suggested:

- Reword to emphasise the willingness of the voluntary sector to work alongside the statutory partners;
- Add a sentence to demonstrate the wish to reach out to the community for partnership working;
- Change 'recognising diversity' to 'recognising different needs' or similar, as disability was often overlooked when using the term 'diversity';
- Include the aim of 'strengthening partnerships' which was mentioned in the presentation but absent from the draft vision; and
- Include a mention of housing and the important role of Housing Trusts.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the Vision for Families and Children be redrafted based on the Steering Group comments outlined above.

Action by: Olivia Butler

4. RACE EQUALITY PARTNERSHIP

Presentation by Lorraine Gilbert and Audley Philips

Lorraine Gilbert, co-chair of the Race Equality Partnership (REP), and Audley Philips, also a REP Board member, gave a presentation on the history and work of the REP, which was fully constituted in October 2004. The fundamental aims of the Partnership include:

- Community working
- Promoting diversity, justice and equality of access among residents and workers in Kensington and Chelsea
- Identifying, highlighting and tackling racism
- Monitoring and responding to statutory policy and services impacting on the BME communities in the borough

Current work of the REP includes the Race Equality Action Group, a Housing Sub-Group, a database mapping project and a website project. Future initiatives include an education project with schools, a third party reporting project and training seminars for residents and staff.

The Steering Group discussed the importance of the REP's work with Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) in influencing and helping people to understand housing allocation policy.

5. CHANGE UP

Presentation by Augustine Omara

Augustine Omara gave an update on the local voluntary sector's response to the 'Change Up' initiative. He clarified that of the funding available locally, £100,000 had gone towards regional level work. Following concerns raised by the Steering Group, frontline services that also provide some infrastructure support will be addressed in the plan.

Augustine will return to the Steering Group with a draft plan for agreement at the next meeting in September.

6. NEWS AND VIEWS

Inclusive K&C

Menghi Mulchandani suggested that a member of her staff working on Inclusive K&C should be invited to speak at the November Steering Group meeting.

The Steering Group were reminded that they had made a commitment to Government Office for London (GOL) to complete disability equality training. A new date for the training would be circulated shortly.

Housing

Cllr Coleridge highlighted the current housing issue of homelessness. The Council was seeking the cooperation of residents and the police in discouraging rough-sleeping. A poster campaign will be introduced to highlight the dangers facing rough-sleepers if the public continue to give them money.

Notting Hill Housing Trust

Geeta Nanda reported on probationary tenancies and added that audits indicate that under-occupation was currently a bigger problem than sub-letting.

The Government will be introducing a 'home buy' scheme with housing associations, which will allow residents to buy a share in their home.

Community Safety and Regeneration

Cllr Paget-Brown reported that he and Dominic Clout were lobbying the Metropolitan Police Authority for 30 trained Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), who should have been recruited by April.

The theme for the forthcoming Regeneration Exchange on 22nd July is Young People.

Cllr Paget-Brown reported that Environmental Management had recently been added to his Cabinet portfolio, and he introduced Cllr Dr Iain Hanham, his new Lead Member.

Police

Dominic Clout reported that the newly refurbished public reception at Kensington Police Station will reopen on 25th July. Continuing reductions in crime levels were also reported, although there had recently been a significant rise in residential burglaries.

Work and Business

Malcolm Spalding reported that 70 people had attended the launch event for Baseline Studios business units.

The ODPM's Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) was highlighted.

INTERNAL BUSINESS

7. UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

Presented by Tony Redpath

The update on the Community Strategy was presented to the Steering Group, who were then invited to discuss it. The paper provided information on the consultation responses to the draft Strategy and also provided an overview of the activities planned to launch the Strategy.

Tony Redpath clarified that the final draft of the Community Strategy, the Summary Booklet and the Fact File will be launched after the Council has signed off the final version of the Strategy at the 21st September Council meeting.

Following suggestions from Steering Group members, Mr Redpath agreed to reassess the consultation methods for future versions of the Community Strategy.

8. RESTRUCTURING THE KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA PARTNERSHIP

Presented by Tony Redpath

As Kensington and Chelsea has been selected for phase two of negotiations for a Local Area Agreement (LAA), it was suggested that the Steering Group revisit the current structure of the Partnership. This also seemed appropriate in light of the new Community Strategy and the conclusion of the NRF programme.

The LAA will be in place for three years and consist of an agreed set of outcomes and targets, with an additional six 'stretch' targets and a six-monthly report to GOL. Approximately £1 million of 'pump-priming' would be available to assist in completing the stretch targets and reward grant at the end of the three year period for stretch targets that have been met.

It was agreed that further work on revisiting the partnership structure would be the responsibility of the Community Strategy Sub Group. In future, all sub group papers would be circulated to Steering Group as well as sub group members. Also, Mr Redpath would provide regular updates on progress.

It was also agreed that members of the Steering Group should be invited to join the sub group. Cllr Blakeman nominated Michael Bach who agreed to join the group.

RESOLVED –

- (2) That further work on the LAA and the restructuring of the Partnership be carried out.

Action by: Tony Redpath

RESOLVED –

- (3) That the terms of reference of the Community Strategy Subgroup be extended to cover this work, and that Michael Bach join the group as a new member.

Action by: Tony Redpath

FORWARD PLANNING

9. FORWARD PLAN FOR NEXT TWO MEETINGS

The draft agendas for the September and November Steering Group meetings were noted.

The meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.

Vice-Chairman in the Chair