

PRESENT

Members of the Steering Group

Michael Bach (Chairman, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council)
Cllr. J. M. Blakeman (The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (RBK&C))
Gillian Bowen (VOF Children and Young People representative)
Zrika Bralo (VOF Education and Employment representative)
Chief. Supt. Dominic Clout (Kensington and Chelsea Police)
Steve Crow (London Central Learning and Skills Council)
The Reverend John E. Davis (Forum of Faiths)
Menghi Mulchandani (VOF Disability Issues representative)
Geeta Nanda (Notting Hill Housing Group)
Dez O'Neill (VOF Arts and Culture representative)
Cllr. Nicholas Paget-Brown (RBK&C Cabinet Member)
Celia Rees-Jenkins (The Kensington and Chelsea Societies)
Cllr. Shireen Ritchie (RBK&C Cabinet Member)
Dr. Melanie Smith (Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust)
Malcolm Spalding (Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce)

Others in Attendance

Sara Clarke (Economic Regeneration Officer, RBK&C)
Emma Gittus (Economic Initiatives Officer, RBK&C)
Jessie Hamshar (Policy Officer, RBK&C)
Councillor Dr. Iain Hanham (RBK&C)
Eleanor Hobart (Community Strategy Project Manager, RBK&C)
Steve McCormack (Planning Policy Team Leader, RBK&C)
David McDonald (Conservation and Design Team Leader, RBK&C)
Jill McNiven (Kensington and Chelsea Social Council)
Augustine Omara (Kensington and Chelsea Social Council)
Tony Redpath (Director of Strategy and Service Improvement, RBK&C)
Robert Sheppard (Head of Governance Services, RBK&C)
Rachel Smith (Partnership Support Manager, RBK&C)
Graham Taylor (Chief Community Safety Officer, RBK&C)
Hannah Terry (Policy Officer for Inclusive Communities, Disability Rights
Commission)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Merrick Cockell (RBK&C Leader of the Council), from Derek Myers (RBK&C Town Clerk and Chief Executive) and from Janine Jolly (Kensington and Chelsea PCT).

In Cllr. Cockell's absence, Malcolm Spalding took the chair for the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2005

Item 4, pages 2/3 - Michael Bach indicated that he had referred to and passed on some suggested changes: Tony Redpath confirmed this and indicated that he had these. Cllr. Blakeman commented that she had flagged-up the need for more secondary school places in the north of the Borough.

Items 6a/6b, pages 4/5 - Tony Redpath indicated that he had further explored the issue of accountability and legal/financial liability and was satisfied that these lay firmly with the local authority as the 'accountable authority'.

Subject to the above, the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 'INCLUSIVE KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA'

Menghi Mulchandani and Hannah Terry together gave a presentation on the ADK&C document, which had originally been commissioned by the Steering Group. The Steering Group noted that this piece of work was essentially a 'gap analysis' and was the starting point for further work, such as that currently being undertaken by a Sub-Group of one of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees, chaired by Cllr. Christopher Buckmaster.

RESOLVED-

- (i) That the document be endorsed for printing and publication, subject to any minor textual changes that might be required;
- (ii) That, subject to funds being available, up to £4,000 contribution be made to printing and publication costs; and
- (iii) That the Steering Group revisit progress in September 2006 to monitor progress.

***Action by:** Menghi Mulchandani/Rachel Smith*

4 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Steve McCormack summarised the main requirements of, and process for drafting of, the new Local Development Framework. He also made available in the meeting room leaflets and copies of the public consultation/feedback booklets. He indicated that there was a December deadline for responses, though comments received early in January would still be taken on board. All the Borough's residents associations had been invited to be involved in the process.

Cllr. Ritchie asked that all Ward Councillors be notified which of their residents associations had (and by deduction had not) asked to be involved in this process.

RESOLVED-

That - particularly in the light of the Steering Group's wish for firm evidence of community involvement - a further report be brought to the Steering Group in due course, once responses of the consultation exercise had been collated.

Action by: Steve McCormack (for EDP&C)

5 GOLBORNE ROAD STUDY

Cllr. Dez O'Neill commented that the report suggested that Golborne Road market was somehow separate from Portobello market, which was not entirely the case. He also reported local perceptions that decisions were already being made "behind closed doors". David McDonald explained that as yet there was no firm proposal to do anything, but that once proposals had been developed by the consultants, these would be subject to full consultation.

Cllr. Blakeman commented that there was a difference between consulting and **involving** people and her personal preference was for more of the latter. Zrinka Bralo highlighted the need actively to involve BEM residents.

Menghi Mulchandani asked that a full access audit be undertaken as an integral part of the Golborne Road study.

RESOLVED-

That the consultants report, with recommendations, be reported to the Steering Group when it becomes available.

Action by: David McDonald (for EDP&C)

6 NEWS AND VIEWS

Steering Group Members to reported briefly on matters of current interest. In particular it was noted that:

- The Learning and Skills Council would shortly be restructured and lose some 25% of its staff nationally. A full consultation was expected. The new Regional Director, David Hughes, started in post on 28 October;
- Further disability training sessions would be arranged shortly;
- Good progress was being made on the Dalgarno Estate with closer joint working on stock management between the different landlords;
- The Police's 'safer neighbourhoods' initiative would be rolled-out in the Royal Borough by the end of 2006, several months ahead of the March 2007 target date;
- The Council's new Director of Children's Services, Anne-Marie Carrie, would take up her post in February;

- The current NHS reorganisation was likely to result in one Strategic Health Authority for London. Whilst the local PCT would have to divest itself of provider services, its boundary was likely to remain the same for the time being; and
- Many of the Christmas night shelter places were already taken by migrant workers. The lack of suitable accommodation for migrant workers was becoming a real problem.

7 LOCAL ENTERPRISE GROWTH INITIATIVE - UPDATE

In response to a question from the Steering Group, Emma Gittus indicated that the funding split between the Royal Borough and Westminster was around 30%:70%.

RESOLVED-

That the report be noted and the proposed delegation agreed.

Action by: Emma Gittus

8 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT - UPDATE

Tony Redpath circulated copies of (i) 'Voluntary/Community Sector (VCS) Proposals to Support the 'Stronger Communities' LAA Target; and (ii) an e-mail exchange dated 16 November between himself and Michael Bach, a copy of which has been placed on the Minute Book. He also provided some of the missing 2005 figures for the table at paragraph 4.5 as follows:

INDICATOR	2005
% agree that the Council involves local people in the decisions it takes	43%
% agree that the Police involves local people in the decisions it takes	25%
% agree that the PCT involves local people in the decisions it takes	41%
% agree that the Council consults local people on the decisions it takes	46%
% agree that residents are encouraged to take an active role in their communities	43%

The Steering Group noted the substance of the Social Council's comments (as per Michael Bach's e-mail). Michael Bach added that the voluntary sector simply wanted to be able to operate on an "equal playing field" but felt that, at present, it kept having to "prove itself".

It was noted that continuing money for the Community Empowerment Network (CEN) would, as things stood, mean less money for achievement of the first mandatory target on Community Safety. Tony Redpath added that any such decision could only really be made following consideration of an evaluation of CEN.

Voluntary sector representatives on the Steering Group asked that careful consideration be given to establishing a better way of discussing and resolving funding issues affecting partner groups/organisations.

Tony Redpath indicated that he was open to suggestions as to the work programme for the new Council employee proposed at paragraph 4.3.

RESOLVED-

- (i) That the list of proposals at paragraph 3.1 be included in the LAA;
- (ii) That **no decision** be taken at this stage on the indicators to be used to measure the outcome on "empowering local people to have a greater voice and influence over local decision-making and the delivery of services", **but that these indicators should be kept to a minimum** and decisions remitted to the Community Strategy Sub-Group;
- (iii) That **no decision** be taken until the January meeting on the funding proposed by the Social Council under the 'Safer and Stronger Communities' heading;
- (iv) That LAA lead officers work with colleagues and partners to refine the details of the proposals;
- (v) That authority be delegated to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman (in consultation with Michael Bach and Melanie Smith) to sign-off the Draft Agreement, on behalf of the Partnership, before the November deadline; and
- (vi) That a report on (a) progress on negotiations with Government on the Agreement; and (b) an assessment of options for achieving community empowerment; be made to the January meeting.

Action by: Tony Redpath

9 FORTHCOMING MEETING DATES

It was noted that meetings would be held during 2006 on 18 January, 15 March, 17 May, 5 July, 13 September and 15 November.

The meeting ended at 8.00pm