

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Malcolm Spalding, Vice-Chairman (President, Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce)
Michael Bach (Chairman, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council)
Councillor Judith Blakeman (Notting Barns Ward, RBK&C)
Gillian Bowen (VOF Children and Young People representative)
Tim Chidgey (Borough Commander of the Fire Service)
The Reverend John E. Davis (Forum of Faiths)
Chief Supt. Dominic Clout (Borough Commander, MPA)
Don McBean (Partnership Manager, Learning and Skills Council - London Central)
Jamie Renton (VOF Disability Issues representative)
Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown (Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environmental Management and Leisure, RBK&C)
Celia Rees-Jenkins (The Kensington and Chelsea Societies)
Councillor Shireen Ritchie (Cabinet Member for Family and Children's Services)
Dr. Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health, K&C PCT)

Others in Attendance

Councillor Dr Iain Hanham, (Lead Member, RBK&C)
Lin Gillians, (Chief Executive, KCSC)
Asha Gupta (Governance Services, RBK&C)
Lyselle Kensall (LSC)
Tony Redpath (Director of Strategy and Service Improvement, RBK&C)
Rachel Smith (KCP Support Manager, RBK&C)
Deborah Wallworth, (Head of Regeneration and Partnership, RBK&C)
Nicola Weaver (Partnership Research and Information officer, RBK&C)
Khalilullah Nomane (LEC College)
Saleh Saleh (LEC College)
Ramesh Subramaniam (LEC College)
Cameron Waitt (LEC College)

1 Apologies for Absence

Received from Councillor Merrick Cockell (Leader of the Council, RBK&C); Zrinka Bralo, (VOF Education and Employment representative); Geeta Nanda (Notting Hill Housing Group); Dez O'Neill (VOF Arts and Culture representative); Juliette Rawlings (Chairman, TMO Board); and Derek Myers (Town Clerk and Chief Executive, RBK&C).

In the absence of Councillor Merrick Cockell, the Vice-chairman, Malcolm Spalding, chaired the meeting.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2006

Amendments:

Apology of absence from Tim Chidgey was noted.

The spelling of Lin Gillians' name on pages 1 and 4 was corrected.

Item 4, paragraph 1 and 4 should read "Whole Foods Market".

Subject to the above amendments the minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed new members Tim Chidgey, Don McBean and Jamie Renton to the Steering Group.

3 What's new for 2007/08 from all partners

Malcolm Spalding invited the partners of the Steering Group to give a short oral presentation on their financial outlook, key policy priorities and action plan for the year ahead. Following each presentation, Steering Group members were invited to ask questions.

Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

Don McBean reported that the Learning and Skills Council was in the middle of its planning cycle for 2007/08. In 2007/08 the organisation would be focusing on the following activities:

- Increasing service provision for 16-18 year olds;
- Reducing funding available for adult learning services as a result of budget cuts;
- Increasing investment in additional learning support, work based learning activities and the 'train to gain' initiative;
- Increasing the range of services for apprenticeships, including more public sector apprenticeships, for local residents up to the age of 25.
- The adult and community learning budget would remain the same but the LSC would be refocusing its services to target the most deprived wards.

Councillor Shireen Ritchie said that she was interested to know how the Learning and Skills Council planned to work with the Council and other agencies in tackling youth unemployment in the Borough. She requested that the item be put on a future Steering Group agenda for discussion.

Action by: Rachel Smith

Fire Service

Tim Chidgey gave an overview of the Fire Service provision in the Royal Borough. He reported that there were no immediate plans to change the number of Fire Stations in the Borough and that Kensington Fire Station would reopen in March 2007 following the completion of its refurbishment. He tabled information on the London Safety Plan consultation and requested Steering Group Members to submit their comments by 16 February. The local Fire Service priorities for 2007/08 were as follow:

- Reducing residential fires by increasing home fire safety checks.
- Developing datasharing partnerships. The most successful partnership to date has been with Social Services.
- Implementing the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 whereby all businesses employing staff would need fire safety checks carried out on their premises. The local Fire Service would be working jointly with Environmental Health Officers to delivery this.
- Lobbying local schools to include adequate sprinkler systems in their plans for refurbishment and new buildings.
- Educate and raise awareness on the storage and maintenance of settling cylinders. These are potential bombs and a number of recent incidents in Hammersmith and Fulham and King's Cross Station have led to a wide area being closed down for up to 24 hours causing major disruption. The Fire Services would be targeting premises with locked up garages. The Borough Commander suggested that the Safer Neighbourhood Teams could assist the Fire Service by providing intelligence.

Councillor Paget-Brown requested that an item on dealing with terrorist alerts be brought to a future Steering Group meeting for discussion.

Action by: Rachel Smith

Metropolitan Police

Chief Supt. Dominic Clout reported that 2007/08 would be the final year of the Governments' four year plan to reduce reported crime figures by 20 per cent. The Royal Borough was the second best performing Local Authority in the whole of London. Hackney was the top performing Council. He reported that the operations priorities for 2007/08 were as follows:

- Tackling motor vehicle crime and theft from motor vehicles.
- Ensuring PCSOs had a more visible presence.
- Deploying at least six PCSOs per ward.

- Establishing jointly with the Council on how The Police and Justice Act's (2006) "Community Call for Action" (whereby local residents can ask the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee to investigate local crime and disorder issues) will work in practice.

In response to Cllr Judith Blakeman's question, Chief Supt. Dominic Clout said that the single non-emergency phone number pilot had failed and therefore the scheme had been scrapped.

Kensington and Chelsea PCT

Dr Melanie Smith reported that the PCT was working towards paying off its deficit in the next two years. The PCT's long term strategies were as follows:

- To expand services for care closer to home;
- To access hospital treatment faster. There was a target that the maximum patient waiting time from referral to treatment is 18 months.
- To tackle health inequalities.
- To work with the Council to jointly deliver services under Children's Trust arrangements.
- To carry out consultation on the changing use of St Charles Hospital.
- To work with the Council to jointly deliver the Public Health Strategy this is linked to the Community Strategy.

Dr Smith invited the Steering Group to attend a public health conference at the Town Hall on 12 February. Over 60 public health champions from across the PCT, voluntary sector and Council would be attending the event.

In response to Gillian Bowen's question, Dr Smith said the PCT would not be looking to commission work to the voluntary sector in this financial year.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown was pleased to report that there would be a zero increase in the local Council Tax. Services would continue to be delivered through existing resources and cost savings. The Council would be retaining its three 'R' aims - Really Good Services, Responding to residents and Renewing the legacy.

The Council would achieve Really Good Services by:

- Improving inspection results;
- Delivery the Local Area Agreement; and
- Redesigning front line services through the 'hear to help' initiative.

The Council would Respond to Residents by:

- Adopting a Corporate Equality Scheme; and
- Progressing its Community Engagement initiative.

The Council would Renew the Legacy by:

- Progressing its major capital projects programme: Holland Park School, Chelsea Academy, Exhibition Road, Sloane Square and Parks Improvement Strategy. It would also be increasing investment in the Arts and Regeneration.
- Strengthening Partnerships: developing new Statutory Health and Wellbeing Partnerships, New Children's Trust arrangements, delivering the Environmental Strategy and renewing the Community Strategy.

Councillor Paget-Brown invited Steering Group Members to submit their comments on the draft Cabinet Business Plan for 2007/08 by 22 February.

Don McBean was most interested to learn that the Council was establishing a Regeneration Team. He informed the Group that the Learning and Skills Council would be having a bidding round for employment and worklessness projects. He was keen to work with the new Regeneration Team to link up on opportunities.

In response to Malcolm Spalding's question on the Council's plans for Business Crime Partnerships, the Borough Commander said that the PCCG was holding a meeting on 31 January which would be focusing on Retail Crime. Plans for a Shopwatch scheme, whereby retail staff would be allowed to train and act as special constables, would be discussed at the meeting.

Kensington and Chelsea Social Council

Lin Gillians gave an overview of the major issues the voluntary sector would be facing in the forthcoming year. She reported that the Social Council's priorities for 2007/08 were as follows:

- To open and foster dialogue between the statutory bodies and voluntary sector in respect to commissioning and to lobby for a mixed economy of grants funding and commissioning.
- To expand the Social Council's advocacy and campaigning role particularly by engaging small and BMI voluntary organisations in their activities.
- To look beyond partnership arrangements and form consortiums across borough boundaries.
- To ensure the voluntary sector retains its independence and responds to local needs.

- To look at external opportunities other than those that exist with statutory partners.
- To increase financial efficiency by getting to grips with cost recovery and charging policy.

ADKC

Jamie Renton reported that equality and independent living were high on the national disability agenda. Locally ADKC would be:

- Looking to make the Royal Borough more inclusive and equal by providing training, skills and knowledge to its partners.
- Promote independent living by developing user led services.

Councillor Judith Blakeman informed Mr Renton that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recently produced a report on access to services which ADKC may want to tap into.

Forum of Faiths

The Reverend John Davis reported that his operation priorities for 2007/08 were as follows:

- To build relationships between women from different faith groups.
- To build relationships between young people of different faiths. The Forum and Faiths and the Council's Community Relations Team would be holding a lecture on this subject.
- To promote workplace chaplaincy.
- To hold an 'open week' in September 2007 whereby faith community buildings would be open to the public to visit.

Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce

Malcolm Spalding reported that the Chamber of Commerce would be delivering two seminars: One called 'Have your Say' on 6 March at New Imperial College which is aimed at the Business Community and a second in the first week of May on Business Community Empowerment.

Kensington Society

Celia Rees Jenkins outlined the aims of the Kensington and Chelsea societies. She reported that the North Kensington Environment Project had had its funding mainstreamed by the Council.

The Chairman thanked everyone for the presentations.

4 Local Area Agreement (LAA) update

(a) LAA Progress Report April-September 2006

Malcolm Spalding introduced the item and invited Members of the Steering Group to note the contents of the report.

Mr Redpath reported that Liz Daughters, Community Engagement Officer would be attending the next meeting to talk about Community Empowerment projects. He added that only one third of the community empowerment budget had been committed and there was scope to take on new projects.

The Steering Group noted the report.

(b) LAA annual refreshment exercise

Mr Tony Redpath introduced the report. He reported that a full report would be coming to the March Steering Group Meeting.

The Group discussed the measurability of some of the targets. Councillor Shireen Ritchie commented that all the resident perception targets needed to be managed carefully. Malcolm Spalding added that public relations and marketing exercising was key to changing the perception of residents.

The Steering Group noted the report.

5 NRF Evaluation Report

Tony Redpath introduced the report. He said that it was important to reflect on what had been achieved and what had not worked well during the NRF programme. Steering Group members were welcome to seek further information on specific projects outside of the meeting.

In response to Michael Bach's question, Nichola Weaver said that where funding had been subsequently mainstreamed it had been mentioned in the report. She added that some projects had been rolled into LAA targets.

6 Forthcoming meeting dates

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 14 March 2007.

Further meeting dates are on 16 May, 4 July, 12 September and 14 November (all Wednesdays).

Any other urgent matters

The Chairman reminded Members of the Steering Group that the closing date for receipt of comments on the Statement of Community Empowerment is 19 February.

The meeting ended at 7.23pm

CHAIRMAN