

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Malcolm Spalding, Vice-Chairman (President, Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce)
Michael Bach (Chairman, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council (KCSC)
Councillor Judith Blakeman (Notting Barns Ward, RBK&C)
Gillian Bowen (VOF Children and Young People representative)
Tim Chidgey (Borough Commander, 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)
Dez O'Neill (VOF Arts and Culture representative)
Juliette Rawlings (Chairman, TMO Board)

Others in Attendance

Derek Myers (Town Clerk and Chief Executive, RBK&C)
Peter Okali (Member of Compact Implementation Group, Chief Executive, Age Concern)
Sheila Dane (Community Engagement Officer, KCSC)
Lin Gillians (Chief Executive, KCSC)
Joyce Roberts, Partnership Director, Learning and Skills Council – London Central
Tony Redpath (Director of Strategy and Service Improvement, RBK&C)
Rachel Smith (KCP Support Manager, RBK&C)
Jerome Treherne (Governance Services, RBK&C)

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

The Chairman welcomed Joyce Roberts and Peter Okali to the Steering Group.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2007

Amendments:

The spelling of *apprenticeships* was to be corrected in item 3 on page 2. On page 3, the second sentence under the heading Metropolitan Police should read 'Hackney was the top performing 'Borough as regards crime reduction'.' On page 5 the second bullet point under the heading Kensington and Chelsea Social Council should refer to 'BME' voluntary organisations and their activities. On page 6, in the last sentence about ADKC 'which ADKC may want to tap into', should be replaced by 'and hoped the borough would implement all its recommendations'. Under Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce on page 6, the word *New* should be deleted before Imperial College. In the last sentence under Any other Urgent Matters, *Empowerment* should be replaced by 'Involvement'.

3 Local Government White Paper

Tony Redpath delivered a presentation, noting that the wide-ranging nature of the provisions would effect all aspects of the Partnership and were likely to be implemented by the end of 2007. He thought that the Partnership should be able to define key issues and negotiate with central Government which (Local Area Agreement) LAA targets should retained. He believed it should be possible to preserve the Community Strategy Targets and comply with the new regime.

Malcolm Spalding drew attention to the emphasis in the White Paper on pressure from local residents to bring about change. Tony Redpath confirmed that the provisions within the Community Call for Action applied differently to the Police. He said the proposals formalised an informal process which if it had already been working effectively was unlikely to have a significant impact. It was likely that local determination would precede the setting up new parish councils and the extent of their powers was still unclear. The multi-area agreements were designed mainly for urban areas which were governed by more than one authority, and where a larger area could work together to deliver a set of targets.

The timetable for the new-style LAA was as follows: April 2008 for implementation; April 2009 for implementation of the final version.

In concluding, Tony Redpath said the bill presented opportunities for the Partnership to extend its range of partners, better harmonise its priorities and strengthen the delivery of its targets.

It was agreed that the Community Strategy Sub-Group should reconvene in April to examine the detailed implications of the new-style LAA for the Partnership's work and feedback to the main Partnership meeting in May.

Action by: Tony Redpath

4 Community Cohesion

Michael Bach updated members on feedback from the Notting Hill Housing Group which had identified the need to engage young people and representatives from the Forum of Faiths in exploring issues as seen from the community level. Dominic Clout believed it vital to clarify the definition of community cohesion and the aims and objectives linked to it. He noted that the Government often used the term community cohesion in the narrow sense of tackling extremism and disaffected youth. Councillor Blakeman suggested that young people could assist in defining the term. Malcolm Spalding thought that community cohesion was in part improved by involving a larger number of residents in activities and providing them with more of a chance to express their views on services and events.

It was agreed that more work was needed on definitions and that a wider event focusing on community cohesion should be hosted by the Partnership. Juliet Rawlings was to circulate details of an TMO Youth forum event on 11 April to which young people had been invited. It was noted that funding was available for work in exploring the issue of young people's involvement in extremism.

Action by: Tony Redpath

5 News and Views

Forum of Faiths

The Reverend John Davis announced that July's KCP meeting to be held in the Chelsea Methodist Church would be his last as the representative of the Forum of Faiths.

Kensington and Chelsea Council (KCSC)

Michael Bach reported that the voluntary and social enterprise consortium had been working with the older people's group to explore governance issues. The Chief Executive's post for the KCSC was to be advertised in the Guardian the week starting 19 March.

Learning and Skills Council (LSC)

Joyce Roberts drew attention to a new 'Choice' directory soon to be launched. A campaign promoting training using the caption 'Train to Gain', was to be advertised on buses. Expressions of interest in delivering basic skills training and apprenticeships for adults were to be invited as part of the tendering process. The LSC was to assist Kensington and Chelsea College to extend their programme for 16 to 18 year olds and offer specialist diploma courses.

VOF (Disabilities Issues)

Jamie Renton noted that the ADKC was to facilitate a workshop at the national conference as a representative of the Kensington and Chelsea

Partnership which was considered as a model for mature partnership work. He invited all members to attend a seminar on 'making consultation accessible' on 28 March at the PDC.

The Fire Service

Tim Chidgey reported that a specialist unit had been set up comprising seven officers to fight terrorist threats. In April Chelsea Fire station would operate with new fire engines. Kensington Fire Station was to open in May and members would be invited to visit it near the opening date.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Councillor Paget-Brown had visited the new Jobcentre Plus in Kensal Road and had been impressed by the commitment of commercial companies to the services offered and the comprehensive nature of these services. A range of events were to take place across the borough during London Sustainability Week in June including dissemination of advice on energy saving. The wide use of orange sacks continued to have a positive impact on recycling figures.

Kensington and Chelsea Societies

Celia Rees Jenkins reported that two full-time officers were working for the North Kensington Environment Programme to clean up grot spots. New panels would shortly be erected on the Ladbroke Grove Bridge. A wildlife garden was planned for the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre. Garden plots as part of the Pupil Referral Unit were planned to encourage pupils to garden.

VOF (Arts and Culture)

Dez O'Neill reported that the search for new management for the Tabernacle also provided an opportunity for a rethink on where arts and culture would fit into its future programme. He welcomed the Council's decision to investment more in the Arts.

Metropolitan Police

Dominic Clout drew attention to the Business Crime Reduction Forum launched on 6 March that had been well attended by business representatives. He saw the Forum as a way of improving practical intelligence sharing between retail sector and other organisations. He also praised the work of the Woman's Trust, whose advocacy service had been launched on 2 March, for making a real difference to victims of domestic violence.

VOF (Children and Young People)

Gillian Bowen reported on a change of funding for Campden Charities and that a number of groups had attending a meeting to explore the

accessibility of grants. Feedback on the training for a common assessment framework for the assessment of risk had been very positive.

TMO Board

Juliet Rawlings noted that the Mayor of London's office were setting up planning events following the Kay Review which encouraged more control by residents of their housing stock.

Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce

Malcolm Spalding reported on the successful seminar on 6 March titled 'Have your Say'. He noted that voluntary sector organisations joining the Chamber of Commerce were eligible for a 50% reduction in the fee. He had attended a meeting with Ealing, Hammersmith and West London College and these institutions had expressed interest in closer links with Kensington and Chelsea College. Finally he referred to the orange sack scheme for recycling, local businesses could save money as they no longer needed to use blue sacks for which there was a charge. Councillor Paget-Brown was to ask officers to provide Juliet Rawlings with more orange sacks which could then be used by caretakers to increase recycling from TMO properties.

Action by: Cllr Paget-Brown

6 Compact

Peter Okali introduced the final version of the Compact. The intention was for a combined document of the four previous documents so that information was more accessible. He noted that although a final draft, it would be reviewed annually.

Don McBean welcomed clauses 6.2.3 and 7.3.5. Dominic Clout questioned the claim that all the partners referred to in the document were of equal status. He drew attention to the different responsibilities and resources of certain organisations. It was agreed that the statutory responsibilities of the Police and PCT, amongst others, should be explicitly acknowledged in the introduction. Reference to the frequency of reviews should also be stated to assist in ensuring that the document remained up to date.

Dominic Clout had reservations on the commitment to consultation which could hinder quick and effective commissioning of work. Members were reminded that the document was not legally binding but represented a code of practice. It would have to be kept under review and reflect the changes expected over the commissioning of services.

Councillor Paget-Brown requested that somewhere in the document the democratically elected nature of the Council was reflected. Tony Redpath clarified that section 5.3.2 referred to the Council's good practice guidelines for consulting the public which had been in use for some time.

Celia Rees Jenkins asked for the document not to exclude residents associations that did not deliver services or for residents associations and other agencies who did not act as advocates for user groups.

Michael Bach believed the document reflected a restricted view of the Voluntary Sector. He asked for a broader definition of these organisations so that they could be incorporated into the document.

In the wording of 3.3.1, 'equal' was to be replaced by 'appropriate'.

Sentence 3.5.1 was to be re-worded. Sentence 5.4.4 was to have additional words to indicate that residents associations were included in any consultation response.

With these amendments the document was endorsed by the Partnership.

Action by: Cllr Paget-Brown

7 Forthcoming meeting dates

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 16 May 2007 in committee room 1.

Future meeting dates were: 4 July (in the Chelsea Methodist Church), 12 September and 14 November (all Wednesdays).

Any other urgent matters

There were none.

The meeting ended at 7.15pm

CHAIRMAN