

COMMUNITY STRATEGY MID-TERM REVIEW

The Future of Our Community, Community Strategy 2005-2015, prepared by the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership, sets out a ten year plan to improve things for people who live in, work in, or visit the Royal Borough. The Kensington and Chelsea Partnership will undertake a full review of the priorities which the strategy sets out, when the third Community Strategy is published in November 2008. In the meantime, this is a review of the eight themes within The Future of Our Community, capturing updated information since publication in November 2005.

The Future of Our Community contains eight chapters providing a description of services within that theme in the Royal Borough, views of local people and relevant national factors, together with a set of specific aims and objectives. Since publication, some aims and objectives under these themes have changed; some have been achieved and some have been replaced with new or updated aims and objectives. This mid-term review sets out these changes and updates to each of the eight themes within the community strategy. It is intended to be read in conjunction with The Future of Our Community.

NEW PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Since 2005, many new strategies and work plans have been published by organisations across the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership. This section gives a brief description of the ambition within some of these key plans and strategies.

The **'Environment Strategy – for a more sustainable future – 2006-2011'** was published by the Council in April 2006, after consultation with partners in the public and independent sector, and with local residents. It outlines proposals to advance environmental sustainability in Kensington and Chelsea and builds on some of the ambitions already captured in the community strategy. Climate change, energy efficiency, waste minimisation and encouraging good practice in procurement all feature in the Environment Strategy and an additional aim plus some new objectives focussing on this activity, appear under the Environment and Transport theme.

The **Play Strategy** was published in June 2006 which captures the very wide range of community based youth, play and learning opportunities for children and young people in the borough. The strategy draws on issues across each of the eight themes within the community strategy, including the provision and protection of high quality, accessible, public open and play spaces. It has a focus on

positive preventative activity and the role that play and early intervention activities can have in children and young people's lives in helping them to stay safe and be healthy. Importantly, it also focuses on the provision of play and learning opportunities for children and young people with disabilities.

The **Children and Young People's Plan** published in April 2006, focuses on a range of priorities for children, young people and their families. This builds on the ambitions already set out in the existing community strategy. As part of this, work to progress the introduction of extended services in schools has been underway since 2005. This has resulted in several commitments such as, providing comprehensive study support programmes for children and young people including out of hours learning in the community; ensuring formal and informal learning opportunities for children, young people and their families in children's centres and extended schools; and enhancing the role and function that extended schools can play in supporting community cohesion, through the provision of learning, study and family support opportunities for all. Some of these ambitions are captured by new objectives which appear under the Health and Social Care theme.

The **Public Health and Well-Being Strategy, 'Choosing Good Health Together – 2007 to 2012'** was developed by the Primary Care Trust and the Council and published in 2007. It emphasises the wide range of influences on our health and the importance of developing healthy sustainable communities as well as the need to facilitate healthy choices. The Strategy identifies seven priority issues: Alcohol and Drugs; Nutrition; Physical Activity; Mental Health and Well-being; Sexual Health; Smoking; and the Wider Determinants of Health – work, housing and the environment. It draws on existing plans, strategies and services from within the Council, across partner organisations and within the voluntary and community sectors, and is concerned with identifying and making use of all the opportunities for improving population health within those plans. The delivery plan for 2007-08 identifies some key areas for achievement which include: developing a mental health strategy; developing a food and nutrition strategy which addresses obesity; supporting opportunities for health improvement within the sports strategy; improving opportunities for involvement in arts and cultural activities; supporting the creation of healthy workplaces; helping to address housing needs for vulnerable people including promoting affordable housing for older people; promoting cleaner air; and reducing harmful emissions and improving smoking cessation services. As with the existing community strategy which identified health and well-being as a cross cutting theme, the Kensington and Chelsea Partnership recognise that improving health

requires joint thinking and working across the “business” of different organisations and sectors because there is a wide range of factors which effect people’s well-being. So ‘Choosing Good Health Together’ cuts across each of the eight themes within the community strategy. Some specific issues are drawn out in the addition of some new objectives under the Health and Social Care theme.

The **Joint Older People’s Strategy, ‘A bright future for all’** was developed by the Council and the Primary Care Trust, published in March 2007. It is a ten-year strategy for older people’s services and has four key aims cut across the eight themes within the existing community strategy, as older people contribute to each of these themes. The aims of the strategy are ensuring that existing services become more joined up and when commissioning new ones, they are joined up from the start; developing a wider range of housing options for older people and more services to support them at home and reduce social isolation; preventing older people’s physical and mental health from deteriorating, by developing a variety of projects that offer options for well-being and staying independent; and ensuring that older people get help when and where they need it, at a convenient time, from people they trust. The strategy also underlines a commitment to develop a one-stop approach to access, assessment and information for services across the Council and the Primary Care Trust. This is reflected in some amended objectives which appear under the Health and Social Care theme.

DEVELOPING PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Many other plans and strategies are currently being developed or refreshed in Kensington and Chelsea, some of which are outlined in this section. These, plus many other new developments, plans and strategies, will be reflected in more detail in the third Community Strategy.

The new style **Local Development Framework** is currently work in progress and part of this has involved producing the Local Development Framework Core Strategy. This includes some key themes which once again, very clearly cut across each of the chapters within the existing community strategy. These are improving the quality of life for residents; providing housing to meet community needs; preserving character and ensuring high standards of quality and design; contributing to the wider economic success of London; and enhancing the borough’s significant contribution to sustainability. The process of developing the Local Development Framework involves wider consultation with residents and the final product will be reflected in the third community strategy.

An important part of establishing the Core Strategy for the Local Development Framework has been the development of the **North Kensington Area Action Plan**. Some of the issues that will be examined in this plan include improving transport links to and within North Kensington; improving links with adjacent boroughs; development of major sites in North Kensington that meet the needs of the area; the future of the Employment Zones; retailing in Portobello Road and estate redevelopment. This list is not exhaustive and options for consultation will be developed in spring 2008.

An independent **Commission on Retail Conservation** was set up in July 2006 in order to examine whether more could be done to preserve the Royal Borough's town centres and to protect and promote the diversity of retail opportunities available. Of the forty five recommendations made by the Commission, forty have been supported by the Council and will be published shortly. These recommendations will be picked up in the third community strategy.

A new **Arts and Cultural Strategy for Kensington and Chelsea, 2008-18**, is currently in development. It includes a ten year vision that will build on the strong foundations already laid in respect to information provision and support for the infrastructure of the arts sector in the borough. Much of this is highlighted in the existing community strategy but the new arts and cultural strategy will also detail efforts to maximise opportunities for encouraging participation and capacity building presented by the forthcoming Cultural Olympiad, which commences in August 2008.

The Council's existing **Visitor Management Strategy**, published in 1999 is currently being reviewed with a view to producing a new strategy in 2008. The Council recognises that tourists and visitors are an important feature of life in the borough and will remain key to the prosperity of the local area. An updated arts and cultural strategy and opportunities provided by the Cultural Olympiad make this a good time to take stock.

The Supporting People Programme will be updating the **Supporting People Strategy** during 2007. The annual budget for the programme has been reduced from £11.66 million to £11.2m, though the programme is still providing services to 3549 people. The Council is also developing a Housing Strategy for Older People to look at a range of housing and support options including identifying how best to support the most vulnerable older people. In addition, as a response to the recognition of the link between improving health through providing better housing options and improving housing conditions, a healthy living centre for vulnerable

people is proposed to be opened in 2008, with the Council and the Primary Care Trust jointly delivering services from the site. More of the detail regarding changes in approaches to housing across the borough will be reflected in the third community strategy.

The Community Safety Programme Board, which is a partnership between the local Police, the Council, the Primary Care Trust and the local Fire Service, will publish a new **Community Safety Strategy** in 2008. Since 2005, a good deal of progress in the field of community safety has been made but efforts to ensure that residents and visitors feel safe in the borough still remain a high priority. The plan will update many of the objectives in the Safer Communities chapter within the existing community strategy and this will be drawn upon in the third community strategy. In the meantime, the emphasis on supporting and protecting young people and children is reflected in some amended objectives under the Safer Communities theme.

ADDITIONS AND UPDATES

The following are changes made to the aims and objectives within each chapter of the existing community strategy. *They are intended to be read in conjunction with the community strategy and therefore only mention current additions and updates.* As a result, not all chapters appear in this section, only those where amendments reflect current activity. **Changed text is highlighted in bold.**

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT

There is a strong commitment to improving waste and recycling options for residents. This is reflected in the updated objective below;

Aim 4: To promote energy efficiency, recycling and the reduction of pollution;

Objective ii.

*improving the borough's waste and recycling collection services, **including proposed thrice weekly collections for households with the least amount of storage space**, and ensuring that high standards are maintained by SITA..*

Work has also progressed under aim 4 to encourage people to take measures to minimise the environmental impact of transport. A new parking permit charging scheme for residents is set to be introduced in April 2008. Charges will be based on vehicle emissions and there will also be the introduction of a supplementary charge

ANNEX A

for second and subsequent parking permits in a household to discourage car ownership.

The following new aim and some objectives have been established, drawing on the environment strategy that captures ambitions concerning climate change and good practice in procurement;

Aim 5: To minimise the impact on climate change by those living and working in the borough by;

- i. working to reduce the Council's carbon footprint to zero by 2015;*
- ii. encouraging local residents, businesses and organisations to recognise and respond to the impacts of climate change;*
- iii. seeking to achieve a significant reduction of greenhouse gases within the borough through promoting alternative solutions to energy sourcing and use, travel and transport options and waste production and disposal.*
- iv. encouraging sustainable procurement practices across the Council, Primary Care Trust, police, businesses and the voluntary and community sectors through promoting sustainable procurement policies including participation in the Mayor of London's Green Procurement Code.*

SAFER COMMUNITIES

The emphasis on supporting and protecting young people and children is strengthened through the following amended objectives;

AIM 1: To ensure that residents are, and feel, secure in their homes and daily lives;

Objective ib.

Reducing the number of;

*violent crimes, particularly domestic violence and offences that involve the use of knives and guns, **and where young people are involved**;*

Objective vi.

*improving support for vulnerable adults **and children** at risk of becoming victims.*

ANNEX A

The nature of criminal activity and disorder in the borough changes over time and the following objective aims to address more recent concerns;

AIM 3: To reduce the number of young people involved in crime and disorder either as victims or perpetrators;

Objective vi.

*providing effective support and diversionary activities for those at risk of becoming offenders **and/or getting involved in any type of gang activity** and dealing effectively with those who are already offending;*

Similarly, the nature of substance misuse changes over time and the objective below addresses recent concerns accordingly;

AIM 4: To tackle the use illegal drugs and the misuse of alcohol;

Objective iv.

*developing effective education programmes for young people about avoiding the harm caused **by cannabis and other** illegal drugs and the misuse of alcohol*

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The following new objectives reflect some of the ambitions outlined in the new Joint Public Health Strategy;

AIM 1: To improve and protect the overall health of the population and reduce health inequalities;

Objective iv.

by ensuring compliance with the smoke free legislation and to use the opportunity presented by the legislation to reduce the burden of tobacco related ill health.

Objective v.

by working with businesses to ensure that tobacco is not sold to young persons under the age of 18.

Work has progressed to provide more opportunities for people to have choice and control over services which they receive and to improve support available for carers in the borough. This is reflected in the amended objectives below;

AIM 3: To improve the experience of patients, carers and users of local health and social care services;

Objective iii.

*making services more responsive to the needs of users, **offering people greater choice and control by providing self directed support options, such as Individual Budgets**, and an opportunity to choose between different services and providers wherever possible, **including support to access user led organisations**.*

Objective iv.

*supporting carers, **including young carers**, so that their quality of life, and their relationship with the person being cared for, are maintained.*

The following new objective emphasises a commitment to providing appropriate support to children and young people and their families;

AIM 4: To help children and young people to stay safe and be healthy;

Objective vi.

Develop a borough wide offer of parenting support accessible for all parents who live in the borough or use our services, and ensure the effective assessment and referral within schools of young people and families who have additional needs.

Similarly, support for children with disabilities and their parents is emphasised by the new objective below;

AIM 5: Working in partnership to improve residents' independence and quality of life;

Objective vi.

improving the provision of respite for carers of children with disabilities, including school and holiday activities for children with disabilities and complex health needs.

COMMUNITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSIVITY

Across the Council and partner organisations, work to advance the principles of community engagement has been underway since publication of the community strategy. This includes the development of a strategic commissioning approach to work with and support voluntary organisations. The revised objectives below reflect this new work, and also draw attention to the support

ANNEX A

provided by the Volunteer Centre (previously the Volunteer Bureau) and the borough's many advice agencies;

AIM 3: To support and develop community life and leadership by;

Objective iv.

*helping people to get the advice and information they need, **such as independent social welfare advice**, to tackle challenges, including dealing with harassment and discrimination;*

Objective x.

*nurturing training to support active citizenship, **including volunteering opportunities** and widening participation in community decision-making, especially among young people and others who are often under-represented on **decision-making bodies**.*

Capturing the commitment to build the capacity and infrastructure of the voluntary and community sector, the following objective replaces the existing objective xi.;

Objective xi.

adopting a strategic approach to commissioning services from the voluntary sector, involving assessing and analysing needs, identifying organisations which meet these needs and ensuring support for small organisations and flexible services which meet fluctuating needs.

WORK AND BUSINESS

The new JobCentre Plus office in North Kensington opened in summer 2006 and since then, opportunities to boost employment options in the area have significantly increased. Other partnerships with organisations such as the Learning and Skills Council and the Primary Care Trust have also strengthened during this time, reflected in the revised objective below;

AIM 2: To improve the employment prospects of residents, including young people, creating opportunities and tackling barriers which make it difficult for them to gain or retain employment;

Objective ii.

*working with JobCentre Plus, **the Learning and Skills Council, the Primary Care Trust** and other public and voluntary sector organisations to address the needs of unemployed and under-employed residents and households, and to promote effective links*

ANNEX A

with employers within Kensington and Chelsea and in neighbouring boroughs.