

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Malcolm Spalding, Vice-Chairman in the Chair (President, Kensington and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce)
Michael Bach (Chairman, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council (KCSC))
Tim Chidgey (Borough Commander, Fire Service)
Chief Supt. Mark Heath (Borough Commander, MPA)
Councillor Judith Blakeman (Notting Barns Ward, RBK&C)
Helen Leech (VOF representative for Adult Health and Well-being)
Don McBean (Partnership Manager, Learning and Skills Council - London Central)
Jane Makower (Forum of Faiths 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, RBK&C)
Jamie Renton (VOF Disability Issues representative)
Dr. Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health, K&C PCT)

Others in Attendance

Mary Gardiner (Substituting for Stephen Weil)
Anna Porta (Substituting for Zrinka Barlo)
Councillor Barbara Campbell (Cabinet Member for Corporate Service, RBK&C)
Councillor Dr Iain Hanham (Brompton Ward Councillor)
Sheila Dane (Development Officer, Kensington and Chelsea Social Council)
Clive Mentzel (Scrutiny Development Manager, RBK&C)
Derek Myers (Town Clerk and Chief Executive, RBK&C)
David Prout (Executive Director of Planning and Borough Development, RBK&C)
Tony Redpath (Director of Strategy and Service Improvement, RBK&C)
Joyce Roberts (Partnership Director, Learning and Skills Council)
Melisa Savic (Service Improvement Manager, RBK&C)
Asha Gupta (Governance Services, RBK&C)
Andrew Curry (Henley Centre Headlight Vision)

1 Apologies for Absence. Agree Agenda

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting especially the recently appointed new voluntary sector representatives. He informed the Partnership of a new arrangement whereby members of the Steering Group could send substitutes to meetings if they were unable to attend themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Merrick Cockell (Leader of the Council, RBK&C), Zrinka Bralo (VOF Education and Employment representative), and Steven Weil (VOF representative for Children and Young People).

The Steering Group agreed the agenda.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2007

The minutes of the 14th November meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 2028 – Developing the Strategy

Mr Andrew Curry, Henley Centre Headlight Vision gave a presentation on the emerging vision for the 2028 strategy, a copy of the slides have been placed on the Minute Book. He outlined the process, the emerging six themes of the vision and next steps. The Steering Group would receive an update at its March meeting. Following his presentation, Mr Curry invited questions of which the following main points were noted:

- The emerging vision was not an existing model but tailored specifically to the Royal Borough.
- The vision would be going for extensive consultation to improve and tighten the language and metaphors of the themes.
- Visually a central point to tie the six themes together made sense but for the consultation process this may restrict discussion and close the vision therefore it had been purposely left out.
- There would be supporting material under each of the six themes to unravel the vision.
- Topics around identity, change, sense of purpose would be mapped out to identify issues and opportunities for the Royal Borough.

Dr Melanie Smith was interested to hear how the different themes interacted with each other and overlapped. In response, Mr Curry said that the next stage was to work on that particular element by firstly taking it to consultation and then looking at in the context of strategic implications and action planning.

Malcolm Spalding made the comment that the Royal Borough has a strong sense of identity with a strong voice and cultural richness. He thought the emerging vision was creative but questioned if it would be effective in influencing strategic planning. In response, Mr Redpath said that the Royal Borough was keen to connect the vision to the delivery of its Community Strategy, Local Development Framework and other documents and systems and was seeking to embed it into its activities in the next 3-5 years. Mr Curry added that the value of the vision was to embed it into long-term strategic planning.

Mr Spalding went on to say that although the vision was being led by the Council all the statutory partners and voluntary sector were buying into it by participating in the consultation. He encouraged partners to maintain a two-way commitment to the vision by taking it back to their organisations and building it into their own strategic plans.

Jamie Renton supported the vision but felt that many organisations may not be around in 3 years time and asked what they could do now to support it. In response, Mr Redpath said that organisations could leave guidelines, expertise and get involved in the consultation process to leave a legacy. Mr Curry added that once the vision was agreed there would be clarity on short term issues and what activities needed to take place now to ensure the Royal Borough was where it wanted to be in 2028.

Michael Bach welcomed the initiatives and thought it was a great opportunity to see work in progress. However he asked if the Steering Group could be involved in the action planning stage. In response, Mr Redpath said that:

- i) it was up to the Agenda Planning Group to decide how much time the Steering Group spent on the vision at its March meeting.
- ii) the vision would translate into the 3rd Community Strategy at which stage the Partnership would have an opportunity to get involved and influence action planning.

The Steering Group asked Mr Redpath to circulate the list of drivers of the vision in advance of the March meeting.

Action by: Tony Redpath

4 Community Strategy Consultation

Mary Gardiner introduced the report which gave an update on the joint consultation programme approved by the Community Strategy Sub-group and the Local Development Framework Advisory Group. She invited the Steering Group to take part at the 10th March wider consultation event and asked for their comments on the plans for the day.

The Steering Group raised some concern on how the information collected would be stored and used so that the feedback was not lost. It also felt that collecting information from a variety of sources and making comprehensible sense out of it would be a challenge.

In response, Mary Gardiner said that the questionnaire for the event had been developed in conjunction with Family and Children's Services and kept simple to contain the answers. Mr Redpath added that the internet would be used to store feedback such as videos and results of questionnaires, which the public could access. He was looking at creative ways of presenting the information to get the most meaning from them to ease its translation into the 3rd Community Strategy.

5 News and Views

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

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

- The Family and Children's Services commissioning process was up and running.
- OFSTED have written to the Royal Borough confirming an 'Excellent' result for its Children's Services.
- Cabinet had approved tendering for the St Luke's Garden Renovation Project.
- The Arts Strategy was out for consultation.
- The next Regeneration Exchange on Employment and Worklessness was being held on 31st January. All were welcome to attend.
- The Steering Group would be invited to attend a session with the Audit Commission.

Adult Health and Well-being

- There were now sports and physical activity provisions for excluded groups such as older men and BME women.

Learning and Skills Council (L&SC)

- A Jobs Fair was being held on 21st March at the Town Hall. The event was being jointly organised by the L&SC, Job Centre Plus and the Council.
- The Learning, Work and Business Group would be meeting on 25th January to develop a local employability framework.

Forum of Faiths

- The Government was undertaking a nationwide consultation on interfaith dialogue within the local community. The Royal Borough was looking to the Forum of Faiths to undertake this work and submit its report to Government by 20th March.

Kensington and Chelsea Societies

- 45 Residents Associations have contributed responses to the Council's proposal to establish a Gold Standard scheme for tenants and residents associations. Cllr Ahern was deciding on a way forward. The Awards would be issued during Local Democracy week in October.

Fire Service

- The Fire Bridge's 3rd London Safety Plan was out for consultation.

- There were plans to restructure local support staff in April. This would not affect front-line services.

The Steering Group thanked and applauded the Fire Services for its excellent response to the Royal Marsden Hospital fire.

Kensington and Chelsea PCT

- Healthcare for London – a framework for action was out for consultation. The Steering Group received an oral briefing on the highlights of the framework and were invited to a consultation event at the Town Hall on 28th January from 2-8pm.

Metropolitan Police Service

- Chief Supt. Heath was still settling into his new role.
- The annual target setting round was coming up in March. The 'basket of 10' performance indicators may be changing.

Chamber of Commerce

- The Chamber was widening its representation and membership. There was a 50% reduction in fees for the voluntary sector and charities and more seminars would be held in the north of the Borough.

6 LAA

a) 6 Month progress report on existing LAA

Mr Redpath introduced the report and invited the Steering Group for their comments.

Celia Rees-Jenkins said that the cluster system seem to have faded away and asked how the targets were going to be monitored. Mr Redpath said that Ms Rachael Smith, KCP Support Manager, was working on building groups and partnerships which would be responsible for monitoring each of the targets. She was currently away but would be able to provide a more detailed response.

In respect of target 2a - empowering local people, Mr Spalding made the comment that new proposals were being developed for hard to reach, new/emerging, and/or small community groups to apply for community grants. He thought this would contribute to improving performance in this target area.

In respect of target 8, Dr Smith said that although the PCT was doing well in undertaking intervention work to reduce childhood obesity it was struggling to meet the target. This was a national issue and may result in a Government rethink.

Mr Redpath thanked everyone for their comments and said a detailed fuller report was available at request.

b) Proposals for the new LAA

Mr Redpath introduced the report outlining the Royal Borough's current position regarding the development of a new LAA and a proposed way forward.

The Steering Group noted that the current LAA finishes in April 2009. The Government wants the new LAA to start in April 2008. Therefore for the final year of the current LAA the Royal Borough would have two LAAs running simultaneously. The Council's preferred option was to set the new LAA targets based on the 3rd Community Strategy therefore it was seeking to develop an interim LAA for the first year focusing on targets transferred from the existing LAA, supplemented by new targets addressing climate change, worklessness and child poverty. These targets would be set for three years rather than one, but the Government would be pressed to agree to a revision of these as necessary during the annual LAA refreshment process.

The Steering Group discussed Annex B of the report: Proposed National Indicators in detail.

Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown asked why the indicators focused on perception and not actual figures. In response, Mr Redpath said that there has been a shift in Government thinking to focus on the customers view and perception of services. It was part of a wider initiative to close the gap between reality and perception.

RESOLVED:

The Steering Group:

- i) Noted the current state of play with LAA.
- ii) Agreed the approach recommended in paragraph 2.3 of the report.
- iii) Agreed the next steps to develop the new LAA as stated in paragraph 3.1 of the report.

Action by: Tony Redpath

7 Partners' budgets for 2008/09

The Steering Group received an oral update from partners on their financial outlook for 2008/09.

Learning and Skills Council

The L&SC's statement of current priorities and national budget was tabled. Mr McBean highlighted the following:

- An increase in spending on the train to gain and worklessness programme.
- The London Skills and Employment Board was looking at how it could work with partners to deliver its agenda.
- An increase in work with employers to invest in upskilling.

Kensington and Chelsea PCT

The Steering Group welcomed the news that the PCT was in a stronger financial position and able to pay off its £25m deficit this year with a surplus in the pot. The position had improved due to the following factors:

- Delivery of efficiency savings through robust recovery and repayment plans
- 7.9% increase in growth funding in 2006/7 and 2007/8
- A freeze on spending new money
- Profit on disposal of Princess Louise Hospital
- Cancellation of the debt penalty charge
- Improvement in the financial position of NHS London therefore a return.

Dr Smith outlined the priorities for 2008/09. She reported that the Kensington and Chelsea PCT had a budget of £297m the majority of which would be spent on acute care services. It would be spending £20m on specialist care services such as HIV and bone marrow; £66m on non-acute care such as mental health; £25m on community services and £5m on other services such as dentistry.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Derek Myers reported that the Council was publishing its Cabinet Business Plan in the next few days which set out its priorities and budget. He invited the Steering Group to submit comments to Mr Redpath or himself. There would also be a facility on the Royal Borough website to leave comments.

8 Forthcoming meeting dates

The Steering Group noted forthcoming meeting dates: 12 March 2008, 14 May 2008, 16 July 2008, 17 September 2008 and 12 November 2008 (all Wednesdays).

The meeting ended at 7.31 pm

CHAIRMAN