

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Councillor Merrick Cockell, Chairman (Leader of the Council, RBKC)
Councillor Judith Blakeman (Notting Barns Ward, RBKC)
Zrinka Bralo, (VOF Education and Employment Representative)
Tim Chidgey (Borough Commander, Fire Service)
Cynthia Dize (Sixty Plus)
Mary Gardiner (Chairman, K&C Social Council)
Chief Supt. Mark Heath (Borough Commander, MPA)
Don McBean (Learning and Skills Council)
Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown (Cabinet Member RBKC)
Celia Rees-Jenkins (The K&C Societies)
Jamie Renton (VOF Disability Issues representative)
Dr. Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health, K&C PCT)
Malcolm Spalding, Vice-Chairman (President, K&C Chamber of Commerce)
Stephen Weil (VOF Children and Young People's Representative)

Others in Attendance

Councillor Dr Iain Hanham (Brompton Ward, RBKC)
Sheila Dane (Development Officer, K&C Social Council)
Joan McGarvey (Senior Policy Officer, RBK&C)
Anna Porta (VOF Engaging Communities Deputy Representative)
Tony Redpath (Director of Strategy and Service Improvement, RBKC)
Rachel Smith (K and C Partnership Support Manager, RBKC)
Cameron MacLean (Governance Services, RBKC)

1 Apologies for Absence and Agreement to the Agenda

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Shireen Ritchie (Executive Member, RBKC).

The Steering Group agreed the agenda.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2008

The minutes of the 14 May meeting were agreed as a correct record.

3 Climate Change Strategy

A draft version of the Climate Change Strategy was tabled. Joan McGarvey gave a verbal update on the Strategy.

In the discussion that ensued, the following points were made:

1. Councillor Paget-Brown noted that the Council would have to address the issue of carbon reduction commitment, noting that some companies were already carbon trading. To this end, he noted that the Council was working with the Carbon Trust and that the next few months would be an important time in this respect for the Council;
2. It was noted that the Strategy linked in with the Local Development Framework;
3. It was proposed that Council departments should liaise with the Council's planning department on matters relevant to the Strategy. To this end, it was noted that a "Green Guide" was being prepared for use by residents, businesses etc.
4. A recent EU Directive would make it harder to let energy inefficient buildings and the Council's Environment department was looking at making a model of an energy efficient building for referral to by interested persons;
5. Much of the work of the Strategy would involve influencing others relative to climate change and that this would be one of the first steps in implementing the Strategy; and
6. Opportunities for joined-up working would be highlighted.

Action by: Joan McGarvey

4. New Community Strategy

The Steering Group was asked to consider and comment on the draft Community Strategy. Copies of Chapter 7, which had been redrafted, were tabled.

Tony Redpath stated that the strategy essentially followed the same structure as the previous strategy, but with some additional features such as "sustainability wheels" relating to the interface between the Community Strategy and the Local Development Framework core strategy.

It was proposed that the new community strategy should include references, if it did not already, to the following items:

1. Adults with learning difficulties;
2. Single households and the particular problems this posed for elderly people, and safety issues for those living on their own;
3. Difficulties faced by young adults leaving Council care and going into the work market, thereby becoming a hard-to-reach group, and the role job fairs might play in addressing some of these issues;
4. Information on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, which was on the Council's website; and

5. The congestion charge.

RESOLVED -

That members of the Steering Group be sent a copy of the version of the Community Strategy to be considered by the Cabinet.

Action by: Tony Redpath

5 News and Views

The Steering Group Members reported briefly on matters of current interest.

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea:

1. Councillor Judith Blakeman reported that the recent Deputy Mayor's fundraising event had raised more than £4,000.
2. Councillor Paget-Brown reported on:
 - The Jobs Fair held in the Great Hall on May 21, noting that it had attracted over 600 visitors and 38 stall holders. The fair was jointly organised and hosted by RBKC, the Learning and Skills Council and Job CentrePlus ; and
 - Works being carried out or proposed for parks and open spaces within the Royal Borough including Little Wormwood Scrubs, for which a bid for £250,000 had been submitted, Sunbeam Gardens and St. Lukes.

Kensington and Chelsea Societies

Celia Rees-Jenkins informed the Steering Group about Green Partners that had been previously referred at KCP Steering Group meetings and reported on improvement works that had been carried out or were being carried out to make various parks and open spaces around the Borough more attractive.

Learning and Skills Council (L&SC)

Don McBean reported that:

1. This would be his last meeting at the KCP Steering Group as he was about to take up a post with RBKC;
2. The Job Fair held in the Great Hall at Kensington Town Hall as referred to by Councillor Paget-Brown.

Joyce Roberts reported that:

1. The L&SC had informed its providers regarding allocation matters;

2. The open and competitive tendering round had now been completed – the key theme being worklessness and enabling individuals to progress within their workplace;
3. "Machinery of Government": the consultation period had closed and a summary of points was to be issued the following week; and
4. The Regeneration Exchange event held in January and hosted by Councillor Paget-Brown had resulted in follow up visits with Harvey Nichols. Also, the RBKC Connexions team had arranged a number of events for local young people which has resulted in five catering apprentices being taken on, three of them RBKC residents.

Kensington and Chelsea PCT

Dr Melanie Smith reported that, at its next Board meeting the PCT would be considering three important strategies:

1. Primary Care: the vision was for a "hub and spoke" model of primary care which was sensitive to the different local needs (and available sites) rather than the standard "polyclinic" model;
2. End of Life Care: the Board would consider significant investment in services in the community to enable more people to achieve their wish of dying at home (rather than in hospital); and
3. Mental Health: the Board would be considering a joint strategy with the Borough which included the promotion of mental well being as well as the treatment and care of people with mental illness.

Fire Service

Tim Chidgey reported:

1. The Chelsea Fire Station Open Day on 21 June raised just under £1,000 for the Royal Marsden Hospital; and
2. He would be leaving as Borough Commander and moving, possibly in September of this year, to the Health & Safety Department in LFB HQ at Union Street.

Metropolitan Police Service

The Borough Commander reported that:

1. An arrest had been made in connection with a recent high profile attack on a person within the Borough;
2. Crime figures for the Borough were down by 9%, with robbery and burglary figures down by 20%;

3. The Police had used "Borough Involvement Days" as a means of addressing violent and drug related crime, including knife crime, and other illegal activities such as cycling on pavements; and
4. There had been a significant increase in the recruitment of Volunteer Police Officers who had been involved in the policing of Portobello at weekends.

Chamber of Commerce

Malcolm Spalding thanked Councillor Paget-Brown for meeting with representatives of the Trader Associations and addressing their concerns regarding what was perceived as heavy handed enforcement by Council officials.

He reported that:

1. Small businesses were concerned about proposals in the Local Development Framework regarding spacing requirements for tables and chairs on footways; and
2. There were concerns amongst traders about having to apply for appropriate planning permission each year, along with licence applications.

Voluntary Organisations Forum (VOF)

Representatives reported, as follows:

Zrinka Brola (Engaging Communities): That -

1. The new grant application process may favour small and BME groups, and that there was a place for them in planning services for the future;
2. Discussions about a local approach to single issue funding had not been held with this sector;
3. There was interest in knowing what was planned for the resilient communities fund this year;
4. MRFC had brokered talks between their members and larger deliverers of services to older people to encourage partnerships to develop; and
5. MRFC and KCSC were working in partnership on a number of initiatives including Grass Roots Grant, the new grant process and the governance project, which had recruited 54 new trustees to 13 local VCO's

Helen Diaz (Adult Health and Well-being): That -

1. The older people's consortium had now reached the next stage and was running a feasibility study into how viable it might be and how current informal relationships may or may not need to change in order for contracts to be delivered;
2. ULOs and the personalization agenda were now a main topic in discussions and the opportunity to scope the future with Adult Social Care was eagerly awaited so that all might contribute to a balanced set of services for local people; and
3. Focus K&C had received funding from RBKC for one year to support its development as the local community foundation.

Jamie Renton (Diversity, Equality and Inclusivity): That -

1. The Disability Network shared information from people focused on disability and the main topics of discussion had been:
 - Key areas that affected local disabled people?
 - Transport
 - Individual Budgets
 - Accessible Information
 - Employment Education and Training
2. The Engaging Communities network had discussed cohesion issues and had fed into the community strategy. The next topic for discussion was the Notting Hill Carnival. It was noted that ADKC and KCSC were involved in the emerging user led organisation work with Adult Social Care (ASC);
3. ASC met with MRCF groups to discuss capacity needs;
4. KCSC were capacity building a number of BME groups to prepare them for commissioning from the PCT; and
5. A number of voluntary sector organisations had attended a PCT seminar on community engagement recommending to decision makers that a joint strategy be developed across the KCP membership.

Steven Weil (Children, Young People & Families): That -

1. The Families and Children process of contracting was underway, but there were no new proposed contracts as yet. There was concern that the exercise was weakening the sector and the possible delivery of services. New local groups delivering services were welcomed, but overall it seemed that the budget was too small and some work should be funded from elsewhere within mainstream budgets;
2. Concern was growing locally about what the summer may be like given that it seemed there was little planned activity for young

people over 13. There was a sense of growing unease reported from members in particular in the south of the Borough and concern was being expressed about the lack of youth services undertaking preventative work;

3. There was some discussion taking place about knife crime and early gang activity which was not being picked up by the sector but may be being noticed by others. The sector would like to be made more aware of what statutory youth services were planning and the connections between police community safety and youth work. As a sector it was concerned about the impact of Wornington Green Detached Project not being successful in the tendering process and wished to see the Golborne Youth Forum strengthened to deliver more detached work; and
4. The sector was pleased to be part of a discussion with Well London about health interventions on Lancaster West and it hoped that the new resources would go to locally based groups to enhance what was already happening in that area.

Mary Gardiner: That -

1. All the VOFs continued to be lively and well attended. The K&C Social Council (KCSC) had kept to the format of inviting guests to the first half and then running a closed session for the sector in the second half;
2. KCSC were currently working with planners to offer a series of opportunities for local groups and individuals to feed into the comments on the LDF, and were also planning to complete research on the state of the sector by the autumn;
3. The sector took part in the consultation on the community strategy and were now requesting sight of the final draft in September; and
4. KCSC had two new members of staff and would like to invite KCP members to a garden party on 7 August 4 – 7pm to say hello to Lauretta and Angela, and goodbye to Sheila.

6 The Place Survey

It was reported that a new performance management framework for local public services had been proposed in the Local Government White Paper – “Strong and Prosperous Communities” including the introduction of a new National Indicator set of some 200 performance indicators.

The Steering Group was invited to note the contents of the report and to consider recommendations on whether to include additional questions in the questionnaire and the branding of “The Place” survey with the KCP logo.

Tony Redpath apprised the Steering Sub Group of the background to the new indicators, noting that the proposals in the white paper extended to organisations and bodies beyond local authorities. He noted that central government's intention was that various organisations to be associated with The Place survey and there was an opportunity for the Partnership to add questions to the survey questionnaire.

During the discussion that followed the presentation of the report, it was proposed that the following items be raised with government regarding the questionnaire;

1. The letter accompanying the survey should explain the origins of the survey and the Council's association with the survey;
2. The availability of data collected from the survey for use by other organisations;
3. The format and phrasing of Question No. 33 on employment and No. 36 on ethnic origin question were outdated; and
4. That the survey be made available through "Language Line".

RESOLVED - That:

1. No additional questions be proposed;
2. Both the KCP and RBKC logos should appear on the survey as local branding;
3. Enquiries be made to determine if the survey data would be available to others; and
4. The points made on the terminology and language used in some of the questions be raised with government.

Action by: Tony Redpath

7 Community, Equality and Inclusivity Theme Group

The Steering Group considered a proposal to form a new theme group to advise on and co-ordinate the delivery commitments of the Community, Equality and Inclusivity Chapter within the Community Strategy.

The Steering Group considered how the proposed group might affect the work of other groups and what its membership should be, including local business and resident representation, as well as those who work in the Borough.

After further discussion, it was -

RESOLVED -

That the Steering Group approve the proposal to set up a new theme group as recommended in the report.

Action by: Tony Redpath

8 Community Strategy Monitoring Report

The Steering Group considered a report updating the Group on progress made against aims and objectives within the existing Community Strategy.

Rachel Smith stated that information would be provided on how targets were met along with an audit of performance. She stated that she could provide more information should any members of the Steering Group require it.

NOTED

9 Forthcoming meeting dates

The Steering Group noted forthcoming meeting dates (all Wednesdays):

1. 17 September 2008
2. 12 November 2008
3. 14 January 2009
4. 11 March 2009
5. 13 May 2009
6. 15 July 2009
7. 16 September 2009
8. 11 November 2009

The meeting ended at 6.44pm

CHAIRMAN