

RBKC/17
REP/197 185/5

ROYAL BOROUGH OF KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA

STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

And

Kensington and Chelsea Social Council

For consideration at examination in
Matter 1 on 20th July 2010
Matter 4 on 21st July 2010

Draft 6
19th July 2010

Signed by:

Penelope Tohitt

on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Dated 20 07 10

Ray C

on behalf of the Kensington and Chelsea Social Council

Dated 20.7.10

Introduction

The RBKC met with KCSC (representor number 197 185) on 22 June 2010 as part of a meeting to discuss concerns about the effectiveness of community consultation in the preparation of the Core Strategy.

The position of RBKC is that the consultation undertaken on the Core Strategy was good, and in many ways better than the standard approach taken to involvement by many boroughs. The 'front loading' of consultations, to gather community views prior to the issuing of documents is welcome, along with the general willingness to hold face to face workshops with residents. However, the approach once documents have been issued needs reviewing, as does the approach to workshop facilitation.

In terms of reaching hard to reach groups, RBKC worked with KCSC on a joint consultation event for both the Community Strategy and the Core Strategy, but further work on this aspect would have been beneficial.

KCSC has suggested some consultation methods which RBKC is willing to consider for future consultations, which will enhance the LDF consultation process:

- widening the pool of those who are invited to meetings, by going beyond the existing data base
- facilitation of workshops by the Council's Community Engagement Team, or by others with appropriate experience in a localism and a community development approach which emphasises that everyone can take part in the issues that affect their lives, starting from the principle that within any community there is a wealth of knowledge and experience which, if used in creative ways, can be channeled into creative action.
- reaching out to residents not in clubs and societies, particularly residents in North Kensington
- ensuring the accessibility of workshops for hard to reach groups
- RBKC suggests holding a range of types of events, including early days 'issues' workshops to feed into the preparation of any document, as well as during the consultation period when the document would be central to the workshops. Drop-ins and surgeries might also be useful approaches.

RBKC and KCSC have agreed by way of this statement of common ground some minor changes to the Core Strategy and joint working on LDF documents, including the SCI. These are set out below.

RESOLUTIONS

A. Minor changes to the Core Strategy: Matter 4.

Chapter 30, Keeping Life Local:

Add under the "Corporate or Partnership Actions for Keeping Life Local":-

The Directorate of Planning will work with KCSC to ensure there is effective consultation with hard to reach groups on the ongoing production of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. These to be monitored as part of the Annual Monitoring Review.

B. LDF preparation and planning decisions

RBKC and KCSC agree the following guiding principles should apply to the preparation of all documents in the Local Development Scheme:

- RBKC will work with KCSC to broaden participation in future consultations
- Information provision will continue to be accessible to those for whom English is a second language, including the arrangement of simultaneous translations for public meetings if there is a known requirement within any specific community
- Consultation will be accessible to disabled people (accessible as defined by KCP's **Inclusive Report: Removing the barriers that prevent people from engaging in consultation. These include physical barriers (such as inaccessible buildings), barriers to accessing information (e.g. small font size or use of jargon) and attitudinal barriers (such as devising activities within workshops that prevent people from taking part). Removing these barriers ensures that the process is inclusive for all: disabled people and non-disabled alike.**)
- Local issues are taken into account in planning policies when these are raised by people at consultation meetings.
- Monitoring data will be gathered to allow analysis of the socio-demographic make up of those (including young people, ethnic groups and disabled people) who have i) been involved and ii) made comments during the consultations
- Feedback will be sought from participants at all events to allow lessons to be learned to improve future events as appropriate.

C. Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

RBKC will ask KCSC to undertake work to ensure early engagement and effective consultation with hard to reach groups regarding the revision of the SCI. This will require a variety of approaches, including workshops. It will also consider resources for the voluntary and community sector to support community planning aid work. Proposals from this work (including a timeline for the formal review of the SCI) will be incorporated into the AMR 2010 as an annex to the SCI, pending the formal review of the SCI.

