

LONDON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Full Commission Meeting, Friday 19th September
10-1pm, Committee Room 2

Draft minutes

Attendees: Paul de Zylva (Chair), Tony Medawar (part), Robert Runcie, Sue Riddlestone, Samantha Heath (part), Adrian Gurney, Pamela Gardner, Maria Lee, Shaun McCarthy, Robin Stott, Mike Tuffrey, Chris Church, Helen Davies, Bryony Mathie, Patrick Feehily, Nusrat Yousuf

Apologies: Peter Head, Richard Stephenson, Penny Bramwell, Andrew Pakes

1. Minutes from the last meeting

Virtuous cycle report – correction to minutes, ‘virtuous’ not ‘virtual’. BM updated Commissioners on the completion of the report. SH commented that it would be useful to incorporate the findings of the research into the SD Framework review.

Action: BM to circulate final report to Commissioners and invite comments for future work.

Local Area Agreements – SH gave a brief update on her recent meeting with the Audit Commission and BM gave an update on the recent meeting with Denny Gray at the UK SDC.

Action: BM to arrange next LAA Partnership meeting to take forward these updates.

2. Update on QOL Approach and LSDC Reappointment

PF provided an update on the current Mayoral Decision (MD) form outlining the new proposed approach to quality of life. The includes request to:

- Reappoint the LSDC and a new Chair
- Expand the London Leaders programme
- Quality of Life Awards.

A draft proposed timetable for the Commission’s reappointment was provided:

Re-advertising for the position of chair	Mid October
TOR Review	Workshop – October
3 weeks for application to position of new chair	Up to mid November
Interviews Begin	December
Appoint new chair	Early January 2009
Reappoint Commission: Confirm TOR, business plan and existing membership involving new chair, MO and functional bodies	Late January
Begin appointment of new Commissioners	February

The Commission agreed that if the new TOR is not complete at the time of the Chair advert, then an agreed mission statement and note of purpose should be included.

PF confirmed that existing Commissioners would only need to reapply if they have reached the end of their 6-year term. Commissioners that are partway through their term need not formally reapply but will be included in the MD submitted for the LSDC's reappointment.

CC questioned how the quality of life approach will be defined, raising concern that the local-global, inter-generational aspects of sustainable development are not lost. ML commented that there appears to be an increasing emphasis on London and Londoners and whilst this is obviously important, the GLA sustainable development duty refers to London's contribution to UK sustainable development and this should not be lost.

MT reasserted the importance of the LSDC as an independent body, rooting quality of life in today and tomorrow. This comment supported PF's note that the new TOR need to reflect the balance between independence and influence. RR commented that the LSDC needs to demonstrate where and how it adds value, over and above other GLA structures.

3. Half-day workshop

PF presented the Secretariat proposal for a LSDC half-day workshop to confirm the new TOR and assist the development of the new business plan. Alternative methods will be put in place for Commissioners to submit comments if they cannot attend the workshop.

Action: Secretariat to arrange half-day workshop in October (2 dates will be offered to Commissioners. Either 8am-12pm, or 1-5pm.

Action: Commissioners to submit comments on the current TOR to Patrick by first week in October.

Update on this: PdZ and PF have met to review the purpose of a Commission event to review TORs and role and will propose a date, format and new purpose for an event.

LSDC agreed that new draft TOR would be prepared by the Secretariat, incorporating Commissioner comment, in advance of the workshop. The workshop itself will be externally facilitated, and used to confirm the new TOR, challenge and evaluate the LSDC's current work, and develop the new business plan. The LSDC Effectiveness Review from 2007 will provide a useful basis for future casting.

LSDC agreed that external challenge and contribution would be useful, for example by asking London Leaders to attend, or other Commission members, Mayor Office rep, or from other SD regional bodies for parts of the event.

4. Quality of Life Indicators Report

NY presented an update on the report to the Commission, including an overview of the main findings; the emerging issues and the proposed post-launch stakeholder dialogue. The GLA Group will finalise the report at the next sub-group meeting. NY also informed the LSDC that the Mayor's Office has requested that the draft report is structured into environment – social – economic components and that this should help to ensure that there are no gaps in the indicators when mapped against Mayoral priorities. Commissioners felt that the 4R's should also still be featured in report and the sub group will look at how to achieve both approaches.

TM commented that although for some indicators regional performance is improving, there are still local inequalities occurring. NY confirmed that where this is the case this will be noted in the appropriate sections of the report. E.g. life expectancy data along the Jubilee Line etc.

SR questioned whether the report should include targets for performance – what does sustainability look like? NY commented that where London targets exist these are included but that additional work would be needed in the future if the LSDC wishes to develop new targets for others. HD stated that the intended stakeholder dialogue to follow up on the report's launch would be critical for shaping these future targets and stressed that there needs to be a commitment from the LSDC to use the results of the dialogue. RR asked what Commissioners' roles will be in the dialogue sessions. NY responded that the stakeholder dialogue event format will be discussed by the GLA/Promotions sub group and the Commission will be contacted regarding possible roles – possibly around introducing the emerging issues and leading discussions.

CC noted that there is a calculation error on indicator 16. Also that there is a need to link these indicators with the new national indicator set in order to make this report relevant to local authorities.

PG offered to provide additional comment and up to date data on the Decent Homes standard figures and commentary.

MT commented that the report will provide a useful demonstration of the links between indicators and the Mayor's priorities. It is not an evaluation or a reflection of the Mayor's delivery.

RS suggested another emerging issue is the need for a broader more robust government framework for sustainable development action at the national level as not all the issues can be addressed in London. One role of the report is to "talk-upward" to central government as well as focussing on London.

The Commission agreed that the final report will be signed off by the joint GLA/Promotions sub group.

Action: NY to circulate potential launch and stakeholder dialogue event dates to Commissioners. An update on the stakeholder events, and the final report, will be circulated and discussed at the next joint GLA and Promotions sub-group meeting on the 26th September.

5. Defra research

a) Income Inequalities

BM presented the paper outlining the LSDC's proposed research brief for the Defra funded work on income inequalities in London.

The Commission agreed that the work should pull together and present the evidence base and that any work on recommendations and interventions should form the second phase of work.

SR suggested that due to the speciality of the work it might be worth head hunting suitable consultants/academics to invite to tender.

RS asked that the research team engage with Michael Marmot and his team at UCL due to the wealth of academic research being undertaken on this area.

Peter Head and Robin Stott will provide Commissioner input to the steering group.

Action: BM to arrange first steering group meeting to agree research specification.

b) SD Framework review

PF presented the proposal for reviewing and updating the LSDC SD Framework.

Commissioners expressed support for using consultants for the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) element of the work but were keen for the LSDC and Secretariat to do the majority of work on the framework to ensure it reflects the LSDC's vision and ethos, incorporating the virtuous cycle work.

PF suggested that it would be useful for the steering group for this work to include Commissioners that were involved in the development of the original framework.

6. London Leaders update

BM provided an update on the London Leaders programme, including:

- London Leader recruitment
- Year 1 evaluation
- Annual Event – 9 December 2008
- Year 2 planning and development
- Sponsorship

CC noted that there are few applications from borough representatives in the second round. BM commented that there are however numerous applications with borough support as referees, both council officers and councillors.

Commissioners agreed that it is important to provide opportunities for unsuccessful applicants to engage in the programme due to the high calibre of candidates and the limited number of places available.

There was some discussion about how to optimise Commissioner support for the Leaders and agreement that instead of pairing from the outset, Commissioners should be matched on the basis of the skills needed by the Leader.

SR requested that more London Leaders meetings and networking sessions be held adjacent to LSDC meetings, as this will aid Commissioners' attendance.

In terms of future programme development, there was brief discussion about how the programme could be rolled out in the boroughs, expanding the network of leaders across London.

Action: BM to allow for engagement of unsuccessful applicants when the Commission contacts candidates.

7. Sub-group updates

SCP research

PF provided an update to Commissioners on the proposed joint working with Bioregional to take forward the SCP report recommendations and confirmed that the Executive Committee (in the absence of those Commissioners with an interest in BioRegional) had decided to fund the work. PF is liaising with GLA Economics and Energy Team to explore opportunities for their input and will investigate the most appropriate mechanism for funding.

CC noted that there are 2 European events on SCP coming up, one of which he's speaking at, and that it would be useful for a 1-page summary of the LSDC research.

Commissioners wished to note thanks to Abbe Marks and Patrick Feehily for their work on this research.

Action: PF to continue liaison with GLA colleagues and notify LSDC of final decision and investigate suitability of a 1-page summary.

CSL – Shaun McCarthy

Following 10 days in Beijing, Shaun has prepared a 30min presentation on the learnings for London.

Action: Secretariat to arrange an opportunity for Shaun to present this to LSDC. Next P&D sub-group meeting would provide a useful opportunity to also discuss Olympic legacy in light of current housing and planning strategy consultation.

Current work underway by CSL includes thematic reviews on:

- Design – due October
- Procurement – November
- Carbon

- Skills and Employment – January/February

The next annual governance review will be in April 2009. SM confirmed that CSL's TOR takes them to 2014 and funding is in place for another 3 years (until 2011).

RS commented that it remains useful to be mindful of the links between CSL and the LSDC and opportunities for joint support and input on key matters.

Planning and Development Sub-group – Adrian Gurney

AG provided an overview of the sub-group's consultation response to 'Planning for a Better London' and suggested the LSDC may wish to offer participation in the proposed annual planning conference.

CC noted that the Just Space Network are formulating a response from the Third sector, coordinated by Richard Lee (contact details to be provided) and commented that third sector engagement in a conference would require pre-engagement to ensure representatives could fully participated in the debate.

Action: NY to circulate sub-group response to all Commissioners for input.

The Executive, GLA, Promotions and London Leaders sub-groups were sufficiently included in other agenda items to not require a separate update here.

8. AOB

No matters arising.

Next meeting: Friday 12th December, 10-1pm, CR2.