

LONDON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Full Commission meeting
12 December 2006, 10-1pm, Committee Room 1, City Hall

Minutes

Present:

June Barnes (Chair)	East Thames Group
Dinah Cox	Race on the Agenda
Peter Head	Arup
Penny Shepherd	UK Social Investment Forum
Robin Stott	Consultant Physician
Samantha Heath	LsX
Mike Tuffrey	GLA Assembly
Cllr Andrew Judge	LB Merton

Observers:

Penny Bramwell	Government Office for London
Will Lochhead	Government Office for London

GLA:

Frances Mapstone	Head of Policy Support Unit
Shirley Rodrigues	Head of Environment
Emma Synnott	GLA Policy Support Unit
Niall Machin	GLA Policy Support Unit
Jane Anson	GLA Business Support Unit

Apologies:

Shaun McCarthy, Paul de Zylva, Tony Medawar, Richard Stephenson

Presentation given by:

Helen Meekings	Golder Associates
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1. Introductions and declarations of interest

Declarations of interest

- ❖ PS indicated she had submitted a sustainable finance bid under the Defra Innovation Fund.
- ❖ PH reported that he is working as a consultant for the ODA on sustainability issues.
- ❖ SH indicated that she had worked on the Assurance Framework report commissioned by the LSDC 2012 Sub-Group
- ❖ JB noted that no decision had yet been made on the bid for construction of the Olympic Village of which East Thames is a partner

Chair's Announcements

JB had met with Jeannette Arnold (Chair of The Health Commission) and Carey Oppenheim (Chair of the London Child Poverty Commission) to discuss the possibility of the three Commissions doing some joint work on the Olympics and, in particular, the Lower Lea Valley. The work would focus on the interdependencies and linkages across the Commissions' remits and use a virtuous cycle approach.

JB had a positive meeting with Murziline Parchment covering a number of issues including:

- The Commission's Code of Conduct - the potential to get the Mayor's endorsement of the Code;
- Commissioner recruitment - Membership: a skills audit is to be conducted on existing Commissioners to identify gaps in respect of expertise, experience etc followed by a competitive recruitment process in early Spring. A panel could comprise 3 commissioners, LSDC officer and a Mayor's Office representative;
- appointment of a new Chair – as JB's term ends as Chair at the end of the year, it would be appropriate to begin the process of recruiting in May so that a new appointment could be made before summer, allowing the new person to attend 2 meetings before taking over as Chair;
- The Mayor's possible attendance at the Away Day;
- 3 commissions forming a combined view to influence the development of the new Mayoral strategies (eg Housing, Climate Change and Health Inequalities) – including co-chairing some kind of seminar event.

JB noted that on the issue of commenting on Mayoral strategies, she would want to offer her particular experience in commenting on the Housing Strategy. PH requested that any combined analysis of the emerging strategies use the LSDC framework to ensure a joined up process.

2. LSDC Independence issues and Memorandum of Understanding with funding bodies

ES reported that advice had been sought from the GLA's legal department about the Commission's options for addressing independence through structural means. ES was advised that the Commission could derive some benefits from operating under a separate legal structure, these would be outweighed by the disbenefits of running an independent legal entity (in particular the significantly higher administrative burden and costs). Another option would be to consider some form of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Commission and the GLA, TfL and LDA.

The following **actions** were agreed:

- PB to check if the National Sustainable Development Commission has MoU or independence agreement.
- All to send examples of MoUs to ES.

3. Defra SD Innovation Fund

WL reported that Defra had made available £42K for London for this financial year and £72K for the next financial year. A number of priorities were agreed at the last meeting of the steering group and in January a meeting of a penultimate steering group will consider final proposals to submit to Defra for agreement. Some funds would be devoted to a project on Sustainable Consumption and Production which was identified as a gap in London following the Gaps and Opportunities Report and it would be appropriate for the LSDC to commission work on this.

Suggestions about what this work could focus on were:

1. Thames Gateway Low Carbon project - PH noted that is currently a project to apply the Integrated Resource Management approach to understanding the

carbon footprint of the Thames Gateway. This is likely to identify key areas of high carbon activity such as transport. It might be sensible to join up any SCP work with the outcomes of this IRM work – ie sectoral approach to SCP.

2. A focus on individual businesses, possibly linked to an accreditation and awards scheme (AJ)

Discussion

PS noted that it was important to specify what kind of businesses would be involved in an accreditation programme and why. There was also discussion about LDA involvement and whether the scoping exercise includes case studies or analysis of supply chain options: it would not be possible to scope both.

PH suggested that the key criteria be to identify areas that make the biggest difference to SCP ie identify the low hanging fruit. It's not necessarily clear what these are now, but it could be for example, food delivery.

JB suggested that the project incorporate a private sector element for consideration eg some high profile organisations. This could be linked to identifying champions within organisations.

SH suggested that the project needed to draw on the work of the London Assembly in looking at SMEs and waste practices.

It was also suggested that the project consider the work undertaken by the London Centre of Excellence on this issue.

Action:

- LDA be asked to be involved in scoping the SCP project
- Secretariat to scope up the project and seek comment from the Executive Group

4. Challenge London Project – Golder Associates

ES provided an introduction on Challenge London, noting that Golder Associates are well into investigating international exemplars of integrated sustainable development. In terms of consulting with London's sectors on the outcomes of this work, ES indicated that while a business breakfast was initially planned to consult with business, there were concerns about timing and how focussed such an event could be at this stage in the project. Instead an online questionnaire, targeted to key sectors would be developed. Golder would manage this process as part of their current contract.

Golder Associates gave a presentation on the Challenge London case studies outlining method, what has been found so far, the next steps followed by discussion.

General comments included:

- Balance of case studies – seems very focussed on developed world and English speaking countries;
- Retrofitting buildings – address what is the most useful/integrated/range. (LCCP is doing some work on retrofitting)
- Look at the multiple benefits a particular intervention has had influence on (even where this was not the original intention of the project).
- Need to balance environmental with social elements.

- London's transient and diverse population needs to be taken into consideration both in the search for case studies and in the outcomes of the work and its presentation;
- The costs of implementing SD – there are examples which demonstrate costs need not be any higher than standard build costs (eg LEED research in US)
- Adelaide City – Herbert Giradet is involved in this whole of city approach – would be good to ensure this is considered for a case study.

It was agreed that Golder would draw up a shortlist which would be circulated for comments and final decision before the Away day.

Action

- All to email comments in to ES.

5. Commission draft Business Plan

ES introduced a draft high-level business plan for the Commission to comment on seeking comments on the plan and its draft priorities, in particular, appropriate measures for success, work required on goals and outputs and any major areas not identified in the business plan. The high level approach including measures for success was generally welcomed.

Specific comments on the business plan were:

- Plan may need some more high level outcomes-based vision;
- Needs to be clear about the Commission's aspirations and to relate to what our partners are doing;
- Question the scope of the plan in relation to the LSDC's resource capacity to achieve the direction/outcomes set;
- Could be a longer timescale – January 2007 to March 2008 may be too specific;
- Could be set over a 5 year period. JB proposed that a 5 year strategy could be produced later in the year (linked to an awayday) in time for a new chair to take over next year. Challenge London could inform the development of this plan
- The business plan needs to be signed off by the Mayor so that the Commission's overall objective is set.
- Need to establish a high level vision for London apart from the London Plan by producing a brief for the Mayor and link it to the work of the other Commissions – eg reduction in disparity, and reductions in CO2

Action:

- Secretariat to produce a briefing for the Mayor on the work of the Commission with a focus on positioning the LSDC as the body which can contextualise the range of work that is occurring in London together under a strategic and cohesive approach.
- Secretariat to produce a 5 year strategy by the end of next year.

6. Commission Framework revisions

Agreed to redesign the leaflet, but retaining the design of the wheel and make it possible to download in Word and PDF formats.

Action

- Secretariat to make necessary arrangements.

7. Subgroup updates

GLA Group

Proposal for high level training for officers across the GLA Group is being pursued. NM agreed to give a presentation on the new Mayoral strategies, Climate Change and Housing, at the next meeting of the full Commission.

Promotions

SH had been looking at a range of funding bids including funding for a 'well-being' project. If money comes through, the project will be evaluated using the 4 Rs. Agreed that someone should represent the Commission at the next Health Commission meeting.

Action:

- SH to advise on progress on the bid.
- Secretariat to liaise with Chair over next LHC meeting.

LSDC 2012 Sub-Group

Olympic board steering group agreed the outline business plan and draft terms of reference for the independent assurance body. These will now be further developed for consideration in February by OBSG and the Olympic Board. Three months funding allocated to the assurance body which starts work in the new year. There has been broad support for the draft assurance framework. A process is in place now for the Olympic Board to consider the assurance framework and to formally announce the appointment of the Chair, and to formally announce a new name for the group which will reflect its status as an independent assurance body.

It was agreed that the LSDC needed to consider its role in relation to the Games, now that the assurance body would be independent from it.

Action: NM to develop a brief on options for LSDC involvement in the Games.

Planning and development

David Fell has been appointed as a consultant to produce the Commission's response on the London Plan. Responses to Mayoral draft strategies and plans required.

GLA will be putting in place an online checklist linking the BRE checklist with the SPG.

Action

- RS agreed to look at the Green Grid and JB agreed to look at the Housing Strategy.
- ES to follow up on timing of online checklist.

Executive

Discussed the business plan, framework revisions and Challenge London at its last meeting (reported on during the course of this meeting)

8. Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 September 2006

Approved

9. Any other business – none.

Date of next meeting: 9 March 2007 at 10.00 in CR2 (City Hall)