

London Sustainable Development Commission
Fifth meeting held on 15 September 2003 at 10.00 am at London Wetland Centre
(Barnes)

Present:

Pamela Castle	UKELA Co-Chair
Victor Anderson	Mayor's Environmental Adviser
June Barnes	East Thames Housing Group
Nigel Bell	Imperial College, Centre for Environmental Technology
Chris Birks	Environment Agency
Dinah Cox	LVSC
Rachel Crossley	Insight Investment
David Fell	Brook Lyndhurst
Peter Head	Faber Maunsell
Samantha Heath	GLA, Assembly Member
Paul Greenwood	London Development Agency
Reverend Dick Johnson	Industrial Chaplain
Sue Riddlestone	BioRegional
Penny Shepherd	London Sustainability Exchange
Robin Stott	Physician
Paul De Zylva	Friends of the Earth

Observer:

David Goode	GLA Head of Environment
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Lower Lea Valley Masterplanning team

Bill Addis	Buro Happold
Andy Bailey	LDA
Peter Hine	Symonds Group
Steve McAdam	FLUID
Niall McNevin	LDA
Jason Prior	EDAW

In attendance:

Jane Anson	GLA Administrative support
Matthew Chell	GLA Policy Support Unit
Aleyne Friesner	GLA Head of Policy Support
Niall Machin	GLA Policy Support Unit

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Apologies

Ian Coull	Slough Estates Co-Chair
Tom Burke	English Nature
Cllr Gavin Moore	ALG
Shirley Ali Khan	Sustainability

3. London Olympic bid

Masterplanning team presentation

The Olympic masterplanning team presented their design blueprint for a sustainable regeneration of the Lower Lea Valley for the proposed Olympic Games and also for a non-Olympic scenario. In accordance with the Mayor's set of environmental principles, the team outlined 12 headings associated with social, economic and environmental issues under which they propose to develop their innovative ideas, plan delivery and demonstrate delivery of the masterplan. The main challenge for the team is to transform sustainable aspirations into performance specifications.

The team plans to study the physical landscape, the existing communities and transport facilities before staging intensive consultation with local communities and regeneration agencies. The overall objective is to construct an Olympic Village of 5000 residential units - a new town built from scratch - incorporating affordable housing, employment and a transport system. The masterplanners have scheduled October and November for a series of consultation meetings but the masterplan must be completed in time for London's response to the IOC questionnaire in January 2004.

Questions and Answers

Several issues were raised during the question and answer session including:

- The degree to which the LSDC Framework is being used;
- The importance of consulting and involving local communities;
- The importance of education which didn't form one of the 12 sustainability headings;
- The Lea Valley regeneration will benefit from this focus/attention and Olympic Bid even if Bid is not successful (e.g. via leverage);
- Set aspirations high and seek to defend them – but aware that there will be some compromises;
- Security considerations – obtaining widest buy-in and support will go some way in addressing security, including responding to multi-cultural considerations;
- The need for the project to be flexible in case today's decisions become out of date as the programme progresses;
- Awareness of need to be aspirational (e.g. setting zero waste and energy targets) and the challenging timetable – set parameters and certain degree of prioritisation now, but the detail will come later;
- The need for legacy revenue funding;
- The Planning Application will be accompanied by: Environmental Impact Assessment; Sustainability Appraisal; Travel Assessments; and Socio-Economic Report.

Commission discussion on the Olympic bid

Agreed to:

- Promote the use of the Framework via further close liaison with the masterplanning team;

- Set up a subgroup chaired by Pamela Castle (to include Peter Head, Robin Stott, Paul de Zylva, Sue Riddlestone, David Fell, Chris Birks, June Barnes and Samantha Heath);
- Produce an summary of available documentation relevant to the Olympic bid process, for the first meeting of the sub group;
- Provide further guidance about how the Commission will work with masterplanners;
- Obtain view of national Sustainable Development Commission.

Action: Secretariat

Also agreed that Paul de Zylva and Sue Riddlestone should attend the stakeholders meeting on 7th October.

Action Paul de Zylva, Sue Riddlestone.

Agreed that Peter Head make a presentation on the London Sustainable Construction Initiative to the initial subgroup meeting.

Action: Peter Head

4. Minutes of 18 June meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 June were agreed. Agreed to circulate schedule of forthcoming meetings (monthly). Agreed to drop the 'awayday' proposal and arrange a social event possibly after the next meeting of the Commission on 17 December and invite Mayoral advisors to the event. Agreed to chase response from the Mayor about the GLA group adopting the Framework.

Action: Secretariat

5. Membership of Commission

David Quarmby has resigned from the Commission due to pressure of work. Currently, the following areas are lacking representation on the Commission: Trade Unions, equalities and transport. Three suggestions have been received to represent the equalities sector and are being considered by the Chairs. It was agreed to consider positive action to improve the ethnic mix of the Commission.

Action: Chairs and Secretariat

6. Current Commission Work

Framework

The Framework subgroup's recommendations on the headline indicator set and a wider indicator set were submitted for approval of the full Commission. More background detail was needed for each of the proposed headline indicators. Agreed that Paul de Zylva, Dinah Cox, Sue Riddlestone and Victor Anderson email their comments on the indicators to the Secretariat. Agreed to hold another meeting of the subgroup to finalise the indicators and develop the Framework. The final set to be emailed to Commissioners for agreement.

Action: Commissioners and Secretariat

London Plan

The draft letter to the Mayor setting out the Commission's response to the EiP report was submitted for approval of the full Commission. Agreed to revise the draft letter to: refer to the Commission as being part of the review group; emphasise indicators (make last bullet point a separate paragraph); stress concern over Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPGs) consultation process; and include reference to EiP's comments on sustainability appraisal stakeholder group and indicators. The Commission had been assured that it will be consulted on SPGs as agreed by the Mayor. Once the SPG timetable has been updated, the list of individual Commissioner's interest in SPGs will be revised.

Action: Secretariat

Economic Development

The Economic Development Subgroup has been working with the LDA on a joint sustainable development appraisal of the revised Economic Development Strategy. A series of meetings have been arranged to discuss ideas for the revision of the strategy progress and to develop the brief for the sustainability appraisal. The brief includes the development of a methodology based on the Commission's Framework. The LDA will be responsible for the procurement of consultants. Commissioners are invited to the final subgroup meeting on 24 November.

Action: Commissioners

Transport

The Transport subgroup proposes to conduct a sustainability appraisal of the extension to the congestion charge. Agreed to set up a first meeting and agree proposed work plan incorporating sustainability appraisal of case for transport investment and assessment of compatibility of London Plan and Transport Strategy.

Action: Secretariat

Air Travel

The subgroup is preparing to respond to the Government's White Paper on Air Travel which is expected to be published in the autumn. A brief for a research report had been sent out to a selection of consultants but the four submitted proposals far exceeded the allocated budget. A revised proposal has been discussed with the preferred bidder and the Commission is asked to approve expenditure of a further £5000 in addition to £10,000 approved at the last meeting on 18 June, and £2,500 for cross tabulation by destination. Agreed to approve a total expenditure of £17,500 for this unique piece of research on how Londoners use London airports and how it impacts on the economy.

Action: Secretariat

7. Secretariat support (Victor Anderson withdrew from the meeting while this item was discussed)

Although the Mayor has agreed to the appointment of an additional member of staff for 6 months to support mainstreaming sustainable development issues within the GLA, approval for this post has not been forthcoming from the Assembly, who are responsible for GLA staffing matters. Agreed that the Secretariat would discuss with the Chairs further action.

Action: Chairs/Secretariat

8. Conflicts of interest

Commissioners were asked to adopt a recommendation concerning conflict of interest. Agreed to accept the recommendation with the following proviso: clarify the meaning of 'matter'. Agreed that if a Commissioner identifies a conflict of interest they are to notify the Secretariat who would in turn bring it to the attention of the Chairs and seek legal advice if necessary. Agreed to draw up a 'declaration of Commissioner's interests' and add to the main commission meeting agenda 'declaration of interest' item.

Action: Secretariat

9. Any other business

i) Communities plan: agreed this is an important and urgent issue. Secretariat to contact the UK Sustainable Development Commission over this matter and email findings to Commissioners.

Action Secretariat

ii) Agreed that Paul de Zylva who is attending London 21 event on 24th October for Friends of the Earth can also represent LSDC.

Action Paul de Zylva

iii) Agreed that a paper should be presented to the next meeting about the activities up to the end of the Commission's current life and to begin consideration of a role that might be undertaken by a newly convened Commission following the Mayoral election in June 2004.

Action Secretariat

iv) Agreed to email LSDC to arrange February/March 2004 meeting. **Action Secretariat**

v) To note that the Commission are now official consultees for the setting of the GLA budget.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 17th December 2003, 10am, City Hall.