

London Sustainable Development Commission
Fifth meeting held on 18th June 2003 at 10.00am, City Hall

Present:

Pamela Castle	Environmental Law Foundation, Co Chair
Ian Coull	Slough Estates plc Co Chair
Victor Anderson	Mayor's Environmental Adviser
June Barnes	East Thames Housing Group
Nigel Bell	Imperial College, Centre for Environmental Technology
Tom Burke	English Nature
Dinah Cox	LVSC
Rachel Crossley	Insight Investment
David Fell	Brook Lyndhurst
Peter Head	FaberMaunsell
Reverend Dick Johnson	Industrial Chaplain
Sue Riddlestone	BioRegional
Penny Shepherd	London Sustainability Exchange
Robin Stott	Physician
Paul de Zylva	Friends of the Earth

Observer

Penny Bramwell	Government Office for London, Sustainable Development
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In attendance:

Jane Anson	GLA Administrative Support
Matthew Chell	GLA Policy Support Unit
Aleyne Friesner	GLA, Head of Policy Support Unit
Niall Machin	GLA Policy Support Unit
Linda Collins	LDA

1. Welcome and introductions

Pamela Castle (Chair) welcomed members of the Commission to the meeting and introduced Rachel Crossley, recently appointed by the Mayor to represent the Finance sector.

2. Apologies

Samantha Heath	GLA, Assembly Member
Joanne Wade	ACE
David Quarmby	TfL
Chris Birks	Environment Agency
Shirley Ali Khan	Sustainability
Cllr Gavin Moore	ALG

3. Minutes of 14th March meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th March were agreed.

4. Membership

The Chairs had received a letter of resignation from Eddie McDermott: it was agreed that a replacement should be found to represent the Trade Union sector. The co-chairs had received a request from Peter Eversden (Chair of London Forum) to consider inviting his colleague David Lewis to represent the London Forum on the Commission. It was agreed that it was not necessary to appoint David Lewis as LVSC and LSx currently represent voluntary/community groups on the Commission. Commission members acknowledged that better representation is required from the BME community.

Action:

Find a replacement Commissioner to represent the Trade Union sector.
Work on better representation from ethnic minorities and business community.

5. Current Commission work

(i) Framework

Following the successful launch of the Framework on 5th June, the next meeting of the Framework sub group will consider how to disseminate and further develop the Framework, including the report on the indicator consultation.

Action:

Write to the Mayor asking him to 'adopt' the Framework and to instruct GLA group to use it, e.g. the LDA for their review of the Economic Development Strategy.
Organise a Framework meeting to take forward the development of Framework.

(ii) London Plan

The Commission had not yet been involved in prior consultation over Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) and there was a lack of clarity about the SPG timetable. The Commission needed better information from the GLA over the SPG programme in order to organise its workload.

Action:

Clarify when and how the Commission will be consulted on SPGs and (if necessary) arrange a meeting in September with London Plan team to discuss progress.
Draw up timetable of Commission involvement with SPGs and seek expressions of commissioner interest.
Circulate the Examination in Public Panel Report to the Commission due July 2003 and London Plan sub group to respond.

(iii) Energy

It was noted that funding in the region of £100,000 per annum may be required to continue and deliver the work started by the Energy sub group, but that this was not a matter for the Commission. Members of the Energy sub group will also be involved in the Commission's response to the SPG Guidance on Urban Design Principles and Sustainable Construction.

(iv) Economic development

The Sub-group proposed two stages, firstly meeting with the LDA to discuss integration of sustainable development into the revised Economic Development Strategy at an early

stage, and secondly a more formal appraisal of the revised Strategy at the Assembly consultation stage. The Secretariat had met the LDA and recommended that at the second stage the Commission and the LDA jointly commission a sustainable development impact assessment of the revised Strategy. The Commission agreed to this proposal in principle. It was agreed to earmark £10,000 as a financial contribution. The process of assessment would be negotiated between the Sub-group and the LDA.

Action:

Progress the sub group programme on the above basis.
Circulate a list of consultants drawn up by the LDA to the Commissioners for suggested additions.

(v) Transport

The proposal and timetable for the review of the Transport Strategy had changed and will now focus on the extension of the congestion charge zone. Commissioners discussed using the Framework to review the extension of the congestion charge system, to look at discontinuity between the Transport Strategy and London Plan and to consider wider transport investment issues.

Action:

Draw up a work programme for Transport Sub Group, to include the above.

(vi) Air travel

Commissioners commented on the draft letter. It was agreed to earmark a budget of £10,000 for consultancy work to develop a longer-term position.

Action:

Progress the sub group programme on the above basis.
Redraft letter from Air Travel Sub-group for signature by Chairs and address letter to Alistair Darling MP.

(vii) Noise

The consultation period has been extended for the Commission. Various comments were made on the draft response and concern expressed over the decision to restrict the remit of the strategy to ambient noise.

Action:

Finalise and submit Commission response.

(viii) Others

Action:

Provide the Commission with a note of differences between early and final drafts of Culture Strategy. (Culture Sub-group to meet if necessary).
Seek a view from Chris Birks about the need for any further Commission work on waste.

6. London Olympic bid

The London Olympic Bid was seen as a major opportunity for the Commission to promote its Framework and it was agreed that the Commission should concentrate on this as its big idea over the coming months (returning to define more clearly its views on other 'big ideas' suggested at the last meeting another time.)

Action:

Write to the Mayor seeking: involvement in the Olympic bid from the start; use of the Framework as a design tool for the whole Olympics (not just physical regeneration); Commission representation on the LDA bid selection panel for Masterplanners; and confirmation that sustainability and the Framework will be key part of selection of Masterplanners and built into whole project bid.

Circulate the letter to Commissioners.

Write to Barbara Cassani seeking an early meeting.

7. Operations and budget

The Commission noted a report on resources. Commissioner's praised the work of the Secretariat but felt that there were ways in which the effectiveness of their work could be improved. However, it was agreed that sub groups were an efficient way of working and should continue. It was agreed that the Secretariat and Co-Chairs should consider how additional staffing could assist delivery of the Commission's objectives, particularly in respect of 'mainstreaming' sustainable development issues within the GLA. It was felt that the Mayor should be approached for additional funding to meet this need.

Action:

Provide monthly summary of dates of meetings and progress for whole Commission and subgroups.

Consider secretariat workload management and need for additional resources.

Consider a proposal for an away day for the Commission.

Ask City Hall whether Commissioners can have passes to City hall.

8. Any other business

Letting contracts to Commissioners under consultancy arrangements

Commissioners felt that they should be allowed to express an interest in any consultancy work tendered by the Commission but in doing so should withdraw from any further dealings connected with the work. However, they asked the Secretariat to seek legal advice from the GLA and to look at how other similar organisations handle this issue.

Action:

Draft a policy on Commissioners and consultancy work.

9. Dates of next and future meetings

Next meeting at Barn Elms Wetland Centre, 15 September 2003, 10 am.

Future meetings:

Wednesday 17th December 2003