

**London Sustainable Development Commission
Meeting 18 October 2004, 10.00 am to 12.30 pm at City Hall**

Present:

Ian Coull	Slough Estates, Co-Chair
Pamela Castle	Environmental Law Foundation, Co-Chair
Chris Birks	Environment Agency
David Fell	Brook Lyndhurst
Debbie McMullen	GLA
Dinah Cox	Race on the Agenda
Joanne Wade	Impetus Consulting
Nigel Bell	Imperial College, Centre for Environmental Technology
Paul De Zylva	Friends of the Earth
Peter Head	Faber Maunsell
Robin Stott	Physician
Samantha Heath	GLA
Sue Riddlestone	BioRegional

Observer:

Penny Bramwell	GOL
Lesley Harding	LDA

Secretariat:

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

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Apologies

Victor Anderson, Simon Woolley, Cllr Sidney Kallar, June Barnes, Penny Shepherd

3. Minutes of 12 July 2004 meeting and matters arising

Minutes of the last meeting agreed.

Declarations of interest – nothing to report.

4. Update and Progress on Commission's work

Economic Development

The subgroup has met twice with the LDA to discuss the draft Action Plan to the Economic Development strategy. The next step is to comment on the final draft Action Plan.

Action: Economic Development Subgroup

Transport

Peter reported that the Transport Subgroup could not do very much until TfL begins work on the revised Transport Strategy. Peter also expressed concern about the number of major transport projects reaching a critical stage in the planning process particularly

when sustainable development issues should be considered. The Commission had asked for a meeting with Bob Kiley and in his reply to the Commission of 20th May it was suggested that the Commission meets with Barry Broe (Director of Group Transport Planning) for a report on progress. Peter Head and Penny Bramwell expressed an interest in attending the proposed meeting.

The Commission was asked to consider further involvement with TfL on a sustainability appraisal of the Congestion Charging Order. Agreed that the Commission would consider further involvement if all areas of work and major projects are included.

Action: Secretariat

London Plan

Debbie McMullen (London Plan Programme Manager) was invited to discuss the implementation of the London Plan. Debbie explained that there are five different strands to implementing the London Plan: Sub Regional Development Frameworks (SRDF), Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), Best Practice, Research Programme and Monitoring of the Plan. The SRDFs are the main implementation tool of the Plan and involve working with partners, scoping exercises, drafting advice, East London priority and development frameworks.

- Working with the Commission and the London Health Commission the London Plan team has been carrying out Integrated Impact Assessments using the Framework and health indicators. Also the GLA, together with the Regional Public Health London group, have contracted ERM to undertake Environmental Impact Assessment of the East London SRDF.
- 10 SPGs are progressing well and the estimated date for completion is April 2005. These include housing provision, sustainable design and construction, industrial capacity.
- Best Practice includes work on public realm, biodiversity, health issues, sustainable suburbs and travel plans. A publication on inclusive design will comprise mostly photographs and will not be BPG.
- Research programme includes production of the Housing Capacity Study, inter-regional commuting, retail needs, industrial land, office monitoring.
- Monitoring of the London Plan includes the collection of data from the London boroughs development plans.
- The review of the London Plan will include a sustainability appraisal, consultation in 2005/06 and an examination in public 2006, and final publication in 2007. It will start with the waste and minerals sections.

It was commented that implementation of the Plan was the responsibility of the boroughs? and although Government had modernised the planning process a third of London boroughs were struggling to keep up with the increasing number of planning applications. This was due to a shortage of planners, quality of planners, and training of local planners (including representation from BME communities). Other issues discussed included increasing planning application fees for larger developments (making more resources available for implementation) and building capacity in the private sector and environmental considerations.

It was suggested that

It was also suggested that GLA Economics might be asked to compute the real cost of implementing the London Plan and that the Mayor might raise this with Keith Hill (Minister for Planning as well as London) at regular bi-lateral meetings. This would complement some comments from Commissioners about needing to identify specific levers with which to influence government.

Air Transport

Tom reported that the Subgroup met on 29 September to discuss further dissemination of the report (1000 extra copies printed) and put together a strategy for further work and to produce a summary of the Commission's work for media attention.

The Commission agreed to approve the programme of work (Annex 1 to Agenda Item 4).

Action: Secretariat/Air travel Subgroup

Olympics

Pamela reported that the Subgroup met on the 17th September where it was reported that comments on the Theme 5 chapter ('Environment and Meteorology') of the Candidature File had resulted in some amendments to the File. After attending a one-day session with the Bid Team, the Subgroup recommended that the Bid Team should carry out areas of further work and that the Commission would stay at 'arms length' and adopt an independent monitoring role. The Commission agreed the letter to the Bid Team.

Agreed to ask to see copy of Olympics Financial Plan referred to by the Mayor.

Action: Secretariat/Olympic Subgroup

Energy

A meeting is being arranged with members of the Subgroup.

5. Framework

Ian reported that the Subgroup met on 23rd September to discuss the wording in the Respect section of the Framework. After a good discussion with Simon Woolley and David Morris (GLA Equalities) it was decided how to revise the section. A revised draft had been sent to Simon Woolley. The Commission was asked to email Paula with their comments.

Agreed to delegate final equalities working to Subgroup (email any further comments to Paula)

There was then a discussion around Framework promotion. The following points were agreed:

Agreed recommendation for Commissioners to provide details of promotional activities regarding the Framework to the Secretariat on an ongoing basis.

Agreed Subgroup's approach regarding part time staff

Agreed to put Framework development and promulgation on Away Day agenda. Agreed that a lot of work had already been done in Framework subgroup on how to promote Framework, and that it would be useful if more detail on this could be circulated to Commissioners prior to the Awayday to inform their discussions.

Agreed for new material to go on web site to aid use of Framework in GLA (and others) sustainability appraisals. Paula to draft one pager to this effect.

Commissioners were also interested in the progress of the mainstreaming programme at the GLA. Paula agreed to circulate an update.

Noted that GoL had offered to contribute funding (next financial year) for document to influence the Framework's integration into Community Strategies.

Agreed need to influence community strategies Further information sought from GOL on how this might be achieved. Agreed to prepare a LSDC response to ODPM SEA/SA consultation (Annex 5 is on devising a sustainability appraisal framework) and to GLA response. Secretariat to draft and email Commissioners for comment.

Action: Secretariat

6. Sustainable Communities

A paper was circulated to Commissioners providing information on the forthcoming ODPM Delivering Sustainable Communities Summit plus an overview of the structures in the Thames Gateway.

Agreed that in principle the Commission would like to send delegates to the Summit (31st Jan to 2nd Feb 2004) in Manchester. Secretariat to check interest of Commissioners and costs of attending, with Co-chairs making decision about who should attend.

Agreed Thames Gateway should be a major issue for the new Commission and therefore how to engage should be discussed at the Away Day. This could then be followed up if appropriate with a letter to the Mayor, for his conversations with Keith Hill. Chris Birks sits on the Thames Gateway Partnership Board.

Agreed that Sue forward details of Bioregional Thames Gateway development to the Secretariat and the Commission.

7 Future of the Commission

The Commission noted the arrangements for the re-establishment of the Commission.

Following Ian Coull's decision to step down from the Commission, the Mayor had appointed Samantha Heath to fill the vacant role of co-chair. The Commission thanked Ian for his contribution.

It was proposed that the Mayor appoint Penny Bramwell from GOL to be a member of the LSDC rather than observer.

John Duffy was welcomed as an observer to future meetings of the Commission.

Resignations from Rachel Crossley and Dick Johnson were noted. Letters of thanks would be sent.

Recognised the need for greater business representation in the new Commission and Commissioners were invited to email suggestions to the Secretariat.

Noted that Niall Machin from the Secretariat will be taking a year's secondment with the LDA.

Agreed to a full day Away day to plan the work for the Commission's next term.

8. Any other Business

Paul agreed to attend the Social Enterprise event on 26 October

Feed suggestions for GLA Economics research programme to Paula. Suggestions to include: Quantify resources needed for London Plan implementation, Examining and hopefully dispelling the myth) that sustainable construction costs more.

Agreed to invite someone from the Climate Change Agency to a future meeting.

Ian reminded those present that not everyone knows or cares about sustainable development and there is always an educational process to go through.

9. Date of next meeting – to be arranged