

LONDON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Full Commission Meeting
Friday 27th February 2009, 10-1pm, CR3

Minutes

Attendance: Paul de Zylva (Acting Chair), Robert Runcie, Mike Tuffrey, Peter Head, Richard Stephenson, Sue Riddlestone, Penny Bramwell, Adrian Gurney, Robin Stott, Maria Lee, Samantha Heath, Helen Davies, Patrick Feehily, Bryony Mathie, Nusrat Yousuf, John Plowman (observing)

Apologies: Chris Church, Pamela Gardner, Shaun McCarthy

Chair Introduction

PDZ introduced and welcomed John Plowman, newly appointed LSDC Chair, and full Commissioner introductions.

1. LSDC Leadership and membership

PF gave an overview of the recent appointment of John Plowman as LSDC Chair and the process of reappointing the LSDC and current Commissioners. A review of LSDC membership continues and will inform the recruitment of new Commissioners scheduled for March-April 2009. Reaffirming Commissioner roles and responsibilities will be part of this review.

JP gave his initial thoughts on the LSDC;

- That the LSDC's vision must be simple and easy to communicate,
- That the LSDC has clear priorities, supported by the workplan, that focuses on key issues and how/when they will be achieved;
- That LSDC principles are based on robust evidence, credible, achievable, aspirational and inspirational.

SH commented on the current lack of diversity in the LSDC and that this, as well as skills gaps, should be addressed in the next round of recruitment.

PB commented that during this period when other GLA Commissioners and Partnerships are being reviewed and reappointed, the LSDC should link in more closely with these.

Action - PF/HD: To set up a meeting for John Plowman with other Commission/ Partnership Chairs to discuss priorities and synergies.

Action: Secretariat to produce a paper for Commissioners outlining the process for reappointment and Commissioner recruitment.

2. Sub-group update

London Leaders

BM updated the Commission on recent work, including the recent sponsorship agreement with InterfaceFLOR. The Commission agreed that there is still need for further sponsorship, both for the programme and individual projects. One option will be more collective

resourcing by Commissioners and their organisations. In this regard RR offered some Environment Agency support for media/publicity.

PH notified the Commission that Arup is currently preparing a paper for the C40 Chair Mayor Miller on accelerating low carbon futures, and London Leaders will be included as a case study of fostering leadership and community involvement. The paper will be sent to all C40 members.

AG raised the issue of maintaining the profile and visibility of past Leaders as the programme evolves. BM reminded the Commission that an evaluation is currently being carried out to profile the achievements of the first year and that all past Leaders can maintain the profile through networking and continued project publicity.

Income Inequalities

BM notified the Commission that the draft report, 'The impact of income inequalities on sustainable development in London', has been received from Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett and is being considered by the steering group.

Commission discussion confirmed the need for Commission wide debate as part of stage 2 of this work, to form the LSDC's response to the research and to agree the appropriate way to disseminate the research. One element may be to bring together a larger group of stakeholders to debate the key issues and engage with regional and national audiences. Commission agreed that this research comes at a pivotal time and will be important in the Commission's repositioning in the public domain.

Quality of Life Indicators report

NY provided an update on the status of the report and notified the Commissioners that the Mayor's Office has expressed support for its publication. The intention is to publish the report in March and hold stakeholder dialogue activities in April, using these events as a platform for discussing the key themes emerging from the research.

Planning and Development sub-group

The P&D sub-group has responded to a significant number of large strategies recently and individual Commissioners have taken responsibility for initiating these responses. Given the size of the sub-group it may be necessary for other Commissioners to be involved in the work of the sub-group if this level of response is to be maintained.

The Commission agreed that it should be proactive in approaching strategy authors to ensure input is provided as early as possible, and before the Assembly draft stage. HD asked how visible the LSDC's strategy responses were and whether these were posted publicly on the LSDC website or circulated more widely.

RR commented that an enhanced advocacy role with the Mayor's Office is also important. PF raised the potential for smarter working and considering strategies collectively where appropriate, e.g., Regional Economics Strategy, Transport Strategy and the London Plan. PB raised the need to consider the impacts of the restructure of the Environment Team that is likely occur after the publication of the Mayor's Direction of Travel document.

Action: Secretariat to arrange meetings for JP with key GLA and Mayor's Office contacts, including Isabel Dedring and Simon Milton.

Sustainable Construction and Production report

JG updated the Commission on the status of the report.

PH told the Commission that Arup is undertaking a review of the Stern report on stimulus packages and that there may be opportunity to link this with the SCP research.

LAA Update

SH updated the Commission on LSx's work with Croydon Council, which builds upon previous activity by the LAA Partnership. This current work uses the LSDC Framework and the Hounslow tool to inform the CAA. SH offered to present this work to the Commission at an appropriate time.

3. Reviewing the SD Framework and producing a Guide to Integrated Impact Assessment

PF gave a short presentation outlining the work that CAG and CEP have done on this to date, summarising the feedback that has emerged from the stakeholder interviews and workshop. CAG/CEP are producing a report with recommendations for the Framework review that the LSDC will be taking forward in 2009/10.

The Commission had a wide-ranging discussion on the efficacy of the framework and the options for consideration during its review.

The Commission discussed the degree to which the Framework should be facilitated, supported, and communicated more effectively, and the extent to which the Framework should be a self-use tool. In addition the group discussed who is the primary audience for the Framework, and based on this the language and degree of challenge the Framework should use.

PB raised the issue that whilst integration is the Framework's primary purpose and recognising that use of the 3 pillars of sustainable development may be seen as a step back in communicating sustainability, for many users this starting point is still helpful for understanding that sustainable development is more than just consideration of the environment.

The need for further stakeholder engagement in the review process was agreed, GLA Group stakeholders and representatives from the London boroughs will be important for this.

JP commented that the Framework needs to stimulate, raise questions (not necessarily give answers) and importantly focus on what the 'users' need.

Action: To map the GLA Group sustainability frameworks against the LSDC Framework to identify similarities and synergies and identify key differences.

Action: To arrange a Commission workshop to discuss the findings of the CAG/CEP review.

4. LSDC Away Day Workshop – follow up

The Commission approved the summary of the workshop prepared by Global to Local and the key action points.

RS commented that we need to be clearer in our use of the terms 'economy' and 'economists', and that the Commission would benefit from more expertise on ecological economics and whole systems approaches.

MT stated that in terms of ways of working, the LSDC needs to find and secure ways of ensuring that advice is sought on key issues.

JP raised the possibility of bringing on-Commissioners into particular meetings/projects to provide challenge and extend the Commission's reach, without necessarily requiring more members.

PH highlighted the importance of maintaining the LSDC's aspiration and inspiration elements of its work and asked Commissioners to further consider their level of outreach and advocacy roles. The question of collective positioning was also raised.

Action: A priority for the Executive and Promotions sub-group will be the development of an overarching LSDC engagement and communications framework. This will provide the platform for Commissioner outreach and advocacy.

Action: Mapping GLA priorities and forthcoming strategies to help the LSDC identify key priorities and potential spheres of influence.

5. AOB

On behalf of the LSDC and Secretariat Patrick thanked Paul for all his work as Interim Chair over the last 9 months.

The next full Commission meeting will be chaired by John Plowman on the 19th June 2009.