

LONDON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

NOTES OF THE 12 May 2005 MEETING

Present:

Pamela Castle	Environmental Law Foundation, Co-chair
Samantha Heath	Mayor's Representative, Co-chair
June Barnes	East Thames Housing Association
Ranjit Baxi	JandH Sales International
Nigel Bell	Imperial College
Chris Birks	Environment Agency
Craig Cordice	One Spare Chair
Ros Dunn	London Development Agency
David Fell	Brook Lyndhurst
Peter Head	Arup
Cllr Andrew Judge	Association of London Government
Sue Riddlestone	BioRegional
Mike Tuffrey	London Assembly
Joanne Wade	Impetus Consulting
Paul De Zylva	Friends of the Earth

Observer:

Penny Bramwell	Government Office for London
Mark Roberts	TfL

Secretariat:

Paula Hirst	GLA Policy Support Unit
Emma Synnott	GLA Policy Support Unit
Jane Anson	GLA Administrative support

Also in attendance

David Lunts	GLA Director of Policy and Partnerships
Matthew Chell	GLA Policy Support Unit (for part of the meeting)

Apologies: Barry Broe, Simon Woolley, Robin Stott, Penny Shepherd, Dinah Cox

The meeting was preceded by an 'innovation' hour. Key issues arising were around how to dramatically increase use of renewable energy, how to persuade people to adopt more sustainable lifestyles, and the hindrance/attractiveness of the term sustainable development.

It was agreed to invite Alan Jones to the next Commission meeting to present his planned work with the Climate Change Agency.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Pamela welcomed new Commissioners to the meeting.

2. Declarations of interest

June said that EastThames Housing Association has been chosen for the Olympic Village and therefore it would not be appropriate to attend Olympic Subgroup meetings. The Chair said that this should not prevent June from participating in general

discussion about the Olympics, but June should excuse herself from the meeting for this part of the discussion if it was felt that a conflict arises in the future.

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on 15 February 2005

Notes of the last meeting agreed as a true record.

Matters arising and Action points outstanding not on the agenda of this meeting

Framework and the new Planning Act – **Action: Penny Bramwell and Peter Head to discuss and report back.**

Dialogue with English Partnership – outstanding

Meeting with Martin Pilgrim to discuss sustainable development on the ALG agenda.

Action: Meeting to be arranged with the following Commissioners Andrew, Samantha, Pamela, Penny S and Penny B. Andrew to make enquiries and report back.

Commission's response to the ALG Grants Committee – letter sent urging the ALG Grants Committee to use the Framework. An interim reply has so far been received.

June updated the meeting on the Code for sustainable buildings. The ODPM had set up a steering group to look at economic and social issues as well as environmental. There was a real sense of joined up government and the impact that this could have for sustainable building. It was not known at which point the Code stops and planning guidance takes over and the Code did not cover everything but June would continue to update Commissioners on the steering group's progress.

4. Work Programme

4a Deferred GLA Group items from the last meeting 2.10, 2.11, 2.12, 2.15

The meeting discussed the different levels of engagement and how much detail was required in commenting and assessing areas of work and how this impacts on resources for both the Commission and the Secretariat. Emails and telephone conferencing saved time and helped progress work but other ways of working were also required, especially for the London Plan and forthcoming strategies.

It was queried how well the Framework was being used by the GLA and functional bodies and whether more should be done to help the GLA family mainstream sustainability in its operations. Suggestions included meeting with officers to find out how much they understand the Framework however, it was recognised that the Commission should avoid being seen as focussing critique on process without being able to offer constructive solutions

There was considerable discussion about moving to a focus on outcomes arising from GLA/mayoral strategies rather than process-oriented scrutiny and, where scrutiny is required, for this to be light touch.

A suggestion was put forward that ways of working might also be improved through lead chairs of subgroups and the Co-Chairs working together in some form of Forum.

It was also noted that the Commission had been in existence for three years and had not had a full meeting with the Mayor.

It was agreed to set up a GLA Subgroup consistent with the LDA and TfL Subgroups, subject to further discussions around the work programme.

In order not to lose a link with GLA strategy work, it was agreed to appoint a lead Commissioner for each new strategy. Older People (David Fell), Food (Sue Riddlestone), Housing (June Barnes/Andrew Judge), Climate Change Adaptation (Peter Head), Water Action Plan (Samantha Heath), Freight (Peter Head).

It was agreed that the Commission defer scrutiny of GLA SD work to other scrutiny bodies, in particular, the London Assembly to assess existing strategies as this would save on time and resources, and avoid duplication of effort.

It was agreed to make use of email and telephone conferencing wherever possible, to aid progress of work.

It was agreed that when appropriate, the Commission would like to invite the Mayor to one of their meetings for a frank and open discussion.

Action Secretariat

4b Deferred Education item

Only two Commissioners had declared an interest in meeting to discuss education. However, a meeting had taken place between the secretariats of the LSDC and the Health Commission to discuss the possibility of working together on its initiatives on education. The meeting was asked whether to pursue education or not and if so whether to work with the Health Commission for the time being. It was agreed to engage with the Health Commission on their Activ8 event as a learning exercise but to still bring some ideas to the table at another time. Commissioners interested: Craig Cordice, Nigel Bell, Paul de Zylva and Ros Dunn.

Peter Head agreed to circulate to interested Commissioners good examples of using the Framework with young people. **Action Peter Head**

4.c. Sustainability Appraisal of London Plan Alteration

It was reported that the Land Use Consultants (LUC) had experienced difficulties using the Commission's Framework. One suggestion LUC expressed was the desire to use the Government's UK sustainable strategy key themes instead. The meeting discussed running a workshop for the Consultants to explain how to use the Framework. It was considered an opportunity to test the Framework and judge how effective it can be. However, concern was also expressed that LUC had experienced such difficulties, and the Commission agreed that it was important for the Commission to receive feedback on the use of the Framework, in case this meant it required reviewing.

It was agreed to request a meeting with LUC to understand more fully their difficulties using the Framework, and to take them through the Framework. It was agreed that should this provoke concerns about the usability of the Framework, the Commission would need to consider this further.

Action: Secretariat

Resources and Priorities

The Commission were presented with a work programme, which set out the tasks that they had indicated they wished to pursue against budgetary, staff, and Commission time considerations.

After a general discussion, the Commission agreed that in view of the low level of budget, and time restrictions, that the work programme would need to be substantially reduced, and become more focused with clearer priorities. In particular the Commission wanted to have to review the work programme and identify a smaller number of key

areas where they could establish impact over the longer term. There was a general concern that the current approach captured in the work plan focussed on current initiatives rather than setting the agenda for the future. David Lunts cited the Olympics and possibly the Thames Gateway as possible examples of high impact projects which the Commission could focus on and gain maximum outcomes.

The Commission expressed their willingness to focus on working with the GLA Group to integrate Sustainable Development into standard working practices, as it felt that this was also a high outcome activity. For example, assisting the Functional Bodies in establishing key performance indicators could help to drive improvement.

Other suggestions included investigating money from other sources to fund projects, in a similar way to the Health Commission's approach, and to look for other hooks upon which to use the Framework e.g. The new planning Act. It was agreed that the Commission needed to think longer term, and the work programme should therefore be extended to three years.

The Commission had a frank discussion regarding the wish to focus on the GLA Group, as this would effectively mean losing the part of the work programme focused on promoting the Framework to the private sector. This was acknowledged.

David Lunts offered to revise the work programme in the light of the discussion, and to present a proposed revised programme to the Commission, which would aim to contain work streams where the GLA felt the Commission could add the most value, and offered the best use of resources to give maximum impact.

The Commission agreed to this suggestion, and it was agreed that a revised work programme would be circulated to Commissioners for their comments.

It was agreed that the Commission should not lose sight of other opportunities as they arise.

Action: Secretariat

5. UK Sustainable Development

It was agreed to address this as a Commission response. Commissioners: Pamela Castle, Samantha Heath, Penny Bramwell, Ros Dunn, Paul de Zylva, Joanne Wade, Peter Head

6. London Health Commission Joint working proposal – agreed (Peter Head)

7. June event

Letter of invitation has been sent to Margaret Beckett. Other invitations will be going out shortly. Event to be a seated occasion and Co-Chairs to liaise on the format.

8. AOB

It was agreed to continue with the 'innovation hour' for future Commission meetings.

9. Dates of future Commission meetings

Next Commission meetings: 14 September

Forthcoming 13 December, 10 to 1pm City Hall (although Commissioners are welcome to suggest other venues).