

**LONDON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
**Full Commission Meeting**  
**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March, 10-2pm, City Hall, Committee Room 3**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** John Plowman (Chair), Alison Barnes, Chris Church, Howard Davidson, Adrian Gurney, Karen Lawrence, Andrew MacAskill, Sue Riddlestone, Richard Stephenson, Paul Toyne

**Secretariat:** Patrick Feehily, Nusrat Yousuf, Martin Jones, Rhiannon Lewis, Maryam Sharif-Draper

**Guests:** Deny Gray & Mary Anderson (CAG Consultants); Gareth Piggott, Senior Research and Statistical Analysis, GLA; Annette Figueiredo, Environment Programme Officer, GLA – Item 4

**London Leaders:** Lotti Henley & Maria Ana Botelho Neves; Mary Walsh, Philippe Granger; Lee Wickens – Item 8

**Apologies:** Paul de Zylva, Paul Edwards, Ed Gillespie, Samantha Heath, Shaun McCarthy, Rajwant Sidhu, Mike Tuffrey, Andy Wales, Piers Williamson

**Past**

**1. Minutes from 9<sup>th</sup> December meeting**

Minutes were circulated prior to the meeting. All Actions were completed or covered on the agenda apart from:

- SH to report back on air quality work with GLA.
- PF reported that no work is being done by the Climate Change Partnership on the nexus of water, food, energy, and land use.
- PE has reported that he does wish to take forward work on responsible procurement.

**Action: SH to report back on air quality work with GLA at an appropriate point.**

**Action: PE to progress responsible procurement work.**

**Present**

**2. Summary of ongoing LSDC work since last meeting**

Verbal updates were provided:

Communications & London Leaders Sub-group (MJ)

- Evaluation of the 2010 London Leaders is progressing.
- Recruitment of 2012 London Leaders is expected to open on 14 March after a transfer of responsibilities within the Mayor's Office.
- Tendering for media support will be issued for a 3 year period with a break clause after each year.
- A London Leaders alumni network will be launched together with the 2012 London Leaders.
- LSDC has now started using twitter.

Climate Change & Resources Sub-group (SR)

- The Carbon Measurement Steering Group continues to advise on GLA commissioned work – PAS2070 development (BSi), and Scope 3 guidance for the construction sector (Best Foot Forward).
- The GLA officer representative is keen for the group to continue advising and will be circulating ideas for future areas of work.
- AM will be involved in any responsible procurement work.

Local Quality of Life Sub-group (AG)

- The Sowing the Seeds Steering Group is progressing although resources are a problem. London Leader Jo Butcher has put forward a brief to develop a vision with the GLAs Lynk Up Crew (up to age 15).

- Responses to the GLAs Housing SPG, Affordable Housing SPG, and London Plan Implementation Plan have been submitted.
  - AB will be drafting a response to the Children & Young People's Play SPG (due 24 April).
  - AM & PE will draft a response to the Sustainable Design & Construction SPG (not yet issued).
  - SH will draft a response to the Health Issues in Planning SPG (not yet issued).
  - AG & RS will draft a response to the Shaping Neighbourhoods SPG (not yet issued)
- Sustainable Economy & Equal Life Chances Sub-group (JP)
- A possible future area of work is to promote London as a hub for digital technology that will benefit the environment.

**Action: MJ to put HD in touch with Best Foot Forward to provide Thames Barrier as a case study for Scope 3 construction sector guidance.**

**Action: MJ to co-ordinate LSDC responses to SPGs.**

### **3. Rio+20 & a Green Economy for London**

- The event was felt to have drawn an interesting mix of people and good discussions and ideas had arisen.
- A possible area for future LSDC work might be to promote what London or the Boroughs should be doing to promote the green economy – LB Sutton are keen to produce a strategy.
- Old Street 'silicon' roundabout and the City of London are unique and should be utilised.
- Different sectors need to be involved for the green economy to work, and their contribution determined.
- A high quality but brief (up to 4 pages) report from the event should be produced to record the main discussions and key points, and be circulated to delegates.
- The 'index card' notes (already available) could be included as an Annex.
- The report could be used to influence Boroughs, the City, the GLA, C40, ICLEI, Defra, and Rio+20 UN organisers.
- The report could also be used by the LSDC to identify further work areas.
- In the meantime, an email should be sent to delegates to advise them that a report will be issued.
- It was noted that the London Assembly Environment Committee may be renamed the Environment & Sustainable Economy Committee in recognition of green economy issues.
- It was noted that there are varying definitions of the 'green economy' – social equality and environmental sustainability are not included in all definitions.

**Action: CC to draft a brief report from the event and send to MJ, who will circulate to Commissioners for comment before being circulated to delegates.**

**Action: MJ to send an email to delegates to advise them that a report will be produced.**

### **4. Quality of Life Indicators**

- Denny Gray of CAG consultants made a presentation, and 3 papers were circulated (Review of existing indicator sets; Log of new indicator suggestions; International comparisons note).
- Some indicators have comparable but not exactly the same data – volunteering, childcare, primary education, neighbourhood satisfaction – most of these can be recalibrated backwards to develop a time series, or it might be feasible to show both and include an overlap – all agreed these proposals were acceptable, although it was noted that formal volunteering (rather than just informal) was important for the GLA.
- A narrative will need to be included to explain any changes.

- Fuel poverty – this measure may change so it would be useful to identify a proxy for what the measure might become, although not to be published in this report – all agreed.
- Mayor's Green Procurement Code – no data on sign-ups is available since 2008 (when it became commercial) so it was agreed to drop this indicator, although an explanation as to why needs to be given and some discussion of the need for a replacement that measures the importance organisations place on green issues.
- Ecological footprint – no up to date data is available and no alternative had been found, although it was reported that the Stockholm Environment Institute are updating – Jane Hersey at BioRegional could provide more information – it was agreed that this should be kept with a commitment to update it when data is available.
- 5 'gap' or new indicators areas were identified and proposals made – community cohesion; happiness & wellbeing; adaptation; health; infrastructure & population – measures should only be included where historical trend data is available.
- It was felt that water should be addressed in its own right, not just in relation to adaptation – supply/demand, cost, etc.
- Sowing the Seeds recommendation (outdoor child as an indicator of site significance) should be reflected in the text and suggested as a recommendation for the future.
- International comparisons:
  - It was recognised that this is a difficult area – possibility for adverse comment, although a key aim of the Commission is to advise on making London an exemplary sustainable world city.
  - It was agreed to progress with the idea of a qualitative narrative analysis but not focusing on a single city.
  - It may be decided to take this out and pursue it more extensively at a later stage, especially as this is a small part of the current commissioned work.

**Action: NY to speak to GLA Energy team about possible changes to fuel poverty measure; BioRegional on Ecofootprint Indicator and Procurement team on suggestions for MGPC replacement.**

**Action: All Commissioners to feedback any other comments to Denny Gray via NY.**

**Action: Denny Gray to develop work further taking into account comments received.**

## **5. Golden Thread**

- The LSDC Golden Thread for 2012 paper had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- Drafting of copy needs to be progressed.
- It was felt that a November date for a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event was advisable.

**Action: PdZ to progress with drafting copy.**

**Action: MJ to request volunteers for lead Commissioners where none is assigned, and to assign with PdZ if gaps remain (by the end of March).**

**Action: Secretariat to co-ordinate plans for a November 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary event through the Comms Sub-group and the 11<sup>th</sup> May Away Day.**

- A cover note from Paul Wheeler (Base London) and 2 papers re Base London had been circulated prior to the meeting requesting contributions for 'section overviews' and 'talking head essays', in addition to an introduction/cover note from LSDC.
- The offer is a good opportunity to raise LSDCs profile.
- Sowing the Seeds could be incorporated into a response under 'green infrastructure', although with a focus on the built environment.
- Capital Consumption could also be included.

- AM, HD, SR agreed to make a contribution, and others may also put themselves forward.

**Action: PT/MJ to draft a letter to Paul Wheeler to summarise LSDC contribution.**

## **Future**

### **6. LSDC Full Commission meeting 11<sup>th</sup> May – Away Day**

- The LSDC Workplan & Horizon Scan paper had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- The aim would be to identify and discuss the main areas of work/expenditure for the year, although it could also consider achievements for the past year.
- LSDC could return to Air Quality.
- Venue – 1<sup>st</sup> choice - AM will investigate the availability of a Skanska venue near St Paul's; 2<sup>nd</sup> choice – KL will ask Lloyds; 3<sup>rd</sup> choice – PE to be asked about Hammerson.

**Action: MJ to add 'International Comparisons' to Workplan & Horizon scan paper.**

**Action: CC to email JP with Air Quality ideas.**

**Action: AM to investigate venue availability for 11<sup>th</sup> May and advise MJ/KL.**

### **7. AOB**

- Date of next meeting: **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2011, 10am-2pm, venue TBC.**

### **8. London Leaders Presentations**

- London Leaders were asked to present their achievements; disappointments (project & programme); and suggestions for the future.
- Programme achievements included:
  - Contacts gained through Commissioners and Secretariat.
  - Inspiration from other London Leaders.
  - Press support.
- Programme disappointments included:
  - Limited synergies with GLA departments/teams.
  - PR & press – difficulty in progressing through GLA press team and distortion of information by the media.
  - Impact could be limited within the timeframe of a year as it takes time to build up connections, relationships, trust, etc.
  - Limited contact with 'mentor' Commissioner.
  - Lack of funding.
  - Time pressures.
- Suggestions for the future:
  - London Leader awards.
  - Assessment workshop for each London Leader at the start of the year with Commissioners.
  - Improve monitoring and metrics.
  - Need to be realistic about what's achievable in a year.
  - More opportunity to update each other on progress at events – including dedicated sessions.
  - Try to limit length of training/events to 2 hours.
  - Involve London Leaders in future selection.
  - Require London Leaders to sign up to a minimum commitment (e.g. Charter).

**Action: Secretariat & Comms Sub-group to consider responses in relation to 2012 London Leaders.**