

LONDON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Full Commission Meeting
Friday 11th May, 10-3.30pm, City Hall, Committee Room 3
Minutes

Present: John Plowman (Chair), Alison Barnes, Chris Church, Paul Edwards, Samantha Heath, Shaun McCarthy, Karen Lawrence, Andrew MacAskill, Richard Stephenson, Paul Toyne, Mike Tuffrey

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

Guest: Deny Gray (CAG Consultants) – agenda item 3

Apologies: Howard Davidson, Adrian Gurney, Paul de Zylva, Ed Gillespie, Sue Riddlestone, Rajwant Sidhu, Andy Wales

Future

1. New Mayoral term & implications for LSDC going forward

JP summarised the achievements of the Commission in 2011/12. Comments:

- This was felt to compare favourably to previous years when much time was taken up responding to GLA strategies.
- Impact on the Mayor, GLA and wider sustainability links should be considered.
- The Commission needs to show more leadership – ‘thought leadership’ is felt to be an overused term.
- Sowing the Seeds and Carbon Measurement may come to be seen as key in future years, and Quality of Life Indicators will be important.
- LSDC needs to focus on what teams at GLA are doing and seek to add value, and facilitate links to other organisations (e.g. Sowing the Seeds).

The Commission for a Sustainable London 2012 report ‘A new way of assuring sustainability?’ was circulated prior to the meeting and summarised by SM. Discussion Points:

- Some discussions have taken place about a professional assurance role in the future.
- Assurance methodologies exist but they are not always impartial and may add additional cost.
- CSL reports may appear pragmatic but hard bargaining takes place behind closed doors – however they are not a campaigning body.
- Progress against recommendations (e.g. on biodiversity), are tracked on the CSL website – although some outcomes (e.g. legacy) will not be known for years.
- CSL plan to produce a wider distribution report after the Olympics, to share learning on how to implement a large multi-agency project, although a 2 page report on lessons learnt would also be useful.

Action: SM to draft a 2 page report on lessons learnt

NY gave an overview of the changes at City Hall:

- Jobs and growth are the priority and all activity at City Hall needs to explain how it feeds into that.
- A 2020 Vision for London will be produced by Christmas – LSDC’s vision should feed into this.
- Quality of Life was emphasised – cleaner, greener, more local; wants more data – link to LSDC QoL Indicators.

2a. What do the Mayoral elections mean for the Commission going forward?

- See separate paper.

2b. London Leaders 2012

- Time did not allow discussion of this agenda item.

Past/Present

3. Quality of Life Indicators Report

Denny Gray gave an overview of the draft (see attached presentation). Discussion points:

- Electoral turn-out (currently green on traffic light code) likely to change after recent London elections data input.
- All Commissioners will be able to comment on draft report in first 2 weeks of June.
- In light of new Mayoral priorities, more indicators relating to jobs and growth are required – possibly youth unemployment, GVA, innovation.
- Context – add ‘global’ to economic downturn, and add ‘changing spending priorities of governments’ (i.e. not just this government).
- Key Issues – need to reflect Mayoral jobs and growth priority to be added into the 3 already identified, although it could be added as a 4th after additional indicators added.
- Reference recent *Time* magazine article on London’s poor performance on Inequalities (see Annex).
- ‘Resilience’ may be a better term to use than ‘climate change’.
- A limited number of high quality case studies are required.
- A July or August date had originally been suggested for a launch – it could now be launched as part of London House (August), or perhaps as part of the 10th anniversary event (November).

Action: DG to discuss options for indicators relating to growth and jobs with GLA and advise Steering Group by 17 May.

Action: All to consider appropriate case studies and advise DG.

Action: NY to consider options for a launch.

4. Minutes from last meeting

- The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting and agreed.

5. Horizon scan & LSDC budget for 2012/13

- The Horizon scan and 2012/13 budget were circulated prior to the meeting and agreed

6. Golden Thread

The ‘Draft text for Golden Thread leaflet’ was tabled at the meeting. Comments:

- The wording should relate to positive things, also to the 2020 vision, jobs and growth, quality of life.
- Perhaps slightly too inward looking – should also talk about knowledge sharing with other cities, e.g. Boris Bikes.
- Maybe introduce a note of caution – London could do better as a sustainable world city.
- This is useful as the ‘why’ of what the Commission does.
- Overall the draft was felt to be very strong – especially the chatty and accessible style.

Action: All to provide any additional comments to MJ by 18 May, who will feedback to PdZ.

7. LSDC 10th anniversary event

The ‘Proposal for LSDC 10th anniversary celebration’ had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Comments:

- The event should be held at City Hall if seeking to influence the Mayor/GLA.

- The event should be celebratory in nature – including ‘stalls’ that guests can move around, including London Leaders, sustainability games, etc – specific Commissioners and London Leaders will be invited to produce an element.
- The event could focus on one of the priority areas identified earlier – 2020 Vision; Quality of Life; Jobs & growth – ‘challenges’ and ‘opportunities’ could be around the room.
- The event could incorporate 3 minute speeches on their Vision for London in 2020 from 3/4 major names – Commissioners, or Commissioners’ Chief Exec’s.
- Senior corporate attendees will be sought from WSP, Skanska and Hammerson, who will then sign the invitation to the Mayor.
- Several other major events are planned in that week and it may need to be moved, especially if the Mayor is not available.

Action: All Commissioners to make proposals for elements of the event that they could produce and provide to AG & RS.

Action: AG & RS to produce outline programme for next full Commission meeting.

Action: Secretariat to check availability of Mayor and Kit Malthouse for 15 November.

Action: PT, AM, PE to investigate who would be available to attend from their companies on 15 November, draft joint invitation letter, and provide to Secretariat.

8. Base London Report on progress

‘Outline of LSDC contribution to Base London Report’ was circulated prior to the meeting. Comments:

- JP’s introduction is due by Friday 18th May – this needs to be rewritten and shortened.
- CC would make a valuable contribution.

Action: MJ to ask Paul Wheeler to edit Introduction.

Action: CC to contact Paul Wheeler about making a contribution.

9. London House update on progress

‘LSDC presence at London House’ was circulated prior to the meeting. Comments:

- Internal audiences will be as important as external.
- Clarification to be sought from the organisers on invitees - will high-level delegates to other London House events be invited?
- Consider if a focus on London Leaders is sufficient to demonstrate LSDC sustainability leadership.

Action: MJ to discuss proposals with organisers and progress through Comms Sub-group.

10. AOB

- MT will step down as a Commissioner as he is no longer an Assembly member, although he would be interested in applying under normal recruitment procedures.
- Procedure for appointment of any new Commissioners and re-appointment of existing to be investigated with the Mayor’s Office.
- JP needs to meet the new Mayoral advisor when in place to set out what the commission has achieved and what it can contribute in the future – a Commissioner from the corporate sector should also attend.

Action: PF to set up meeting between JP and the Mayoral advisor when known.

Action: PF to investigate procedure for appointment/re-appointment of Commission.

- CC has the opportunity to arrange 2 speaker sessions at the London Green Fair (Sunday 10th June) – for a cost of £250 these could be LSDC branded.
- All supported this idea – it should be publicised through LSDC website, blog, twitter, facebook.
- Consideration should be given to sending targeted invitations.

Action: MJ to make arrangements for £250 support via CC.

Action: MJ to make arrangements for LSDC display stand and materials to be provided.

Action: Any Commissioners interested in speaking should contact CC.

- The next meeting is scheduled for Friday 13 July (10-2pm) – no rooms are available at City Hall due to London House preparations and a Commissioner host was requested.
- Payment for catering may be possible (by registering with GLA payments system or as Commissioner expenses).

Action: MJ to send room requirements for 13 July to PT.