

LONDON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Full Commission Meeting
Friday 13th July, 9.30-3pm, WSP, 70 Chancery Lane
Minutes

Present: John Plowman (Chair), Adrian Gurney, Karen Lawrence, Richard Stephenson, Paul Toyne, Sue Riddlestone, Samantha Heath, Ed Gillespie

Secretariat: Patrick Feehily, Nusrat Yousuf, Martin Jones, Rhiannon Lewis

Guest: David Kennington, Databuild Research & Solutions – agenda item 4

Apologies: Howard Davidson, Paul de Zylva, Andy Wales, Alison Barnes, Chris Church, Paul Edwards, Shaun McCarthy, Andrew MacAskill

1. Minutes from last meeting

- Minutes from the previous meeting were circulated prior to the meeting and agreed.
- Apologies were given – it was noted that the small number of Commissioners present (6 at the start of the meeting, 8 later) was unfortunate given the attendance of London Leaders later on the agenda; and that many apologies had arrived in the previous 2 days.

Action: JP to follow-up on low attendance

2. Feedback from Rio+20

SR provided feedback:

- Press coverage was felt to be unfairly negative.
- There was broad consensus that all should be aiming to meet the same set of sustainable development goals.
- The EU asked for targets but the final document says each country should set its own.
- The UK government championed environmental accounting – the UN calls this a ‘System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA)’ - which will be incorporated into UK accounts by 2020 – 59 countries signed up to this (only 100 countries produce proper accounts), as well as a number of large multinational companies.
- Business engagement was felt to be stronger than at previous meetings.

SR will be drawing together a ‘task force’ to follow-up with the Deputy Prime Minister:

- What the task force will do and who is a member will inform objectives.
- It should be solutions oriented.
- This could support the work of DEFRA.
- Sustainable consumption could be the London angle.
- Multinational companies at Rio may be willing to provide funding.
- The government is interested in the green economy – a green economy roadmap may be a focus.
- This also needs to be reflected in the Mayor’s 2020 Vision

Action: SR to circulate a slide on environmental accounting to Commissioners.

Action: SR to circulate Rio+20 report (short version).

Action: SR to circulate information in the next few weeks with a view to convening a ‘task force’.

3a. LSDC Meeting with Mayoral Advisor

- JP, PT, PE, AM, AW met Mayoral Advisor Matthew Pencharz.

- It was felt that MP was impressed by Commissioners and the work of the Commission.
- The importance of the Commission in the jobs & growth priority was discussed.
- Mayor's Office (MO) wants the LSDC to input to the 2020 Vision prior to consultation.
- MO wants Commissioners to share more examples of value for money, returns on investment, how business does things quicker, commercialising solutions to problems – strongly linking sustainability to money saving.
- MO is more interested in implementation/projects as opposed to policy/strategy.
- MO encouraged Sowing the Seeds link up to London Health Improvement Board through the childhood obesity priority.
- MO encourages Quality of Life Indicators to focus on solutions
- MP will attend next Commission meeting.

Commissioners commented:

- The Jobs & Growth Action Plan should incorporate commercialisation of ideas – 2020 Vision will also help with this.
- A fundamental review of the LSDC workplan will be needed although too early at this stage.
- There is a potential for duplication of work – jobs & growth, Rio, green economy, etc, which must be avoided.
- There was a request for a strategic overlay of LSDCs work, taking into account meeting with MO, where new Commissioners are needed, other workstreams such as Sowing the Seeds Steering Group, Carbon Measurement Steering Group.
- LSDC should consider whether it wishes to continue responding to consultations on GLA policy/strategy
- Recruitment of any new Commissioners should be delayed until later in 2012.

Action: MJ to include Executive Sub-group minutes in Full Commission meeting papers.

Action: Exec Sub-group to produce a strategic overlay of LSDC work.

Action: SR to refocus Carbon Measurement Steering Group on implementation, rather than measurement.

3b. Jobs & Growth

The 'Jobs & Growth Action Plan Framework' was circulated prior to the meeting. Comments:

- The paper needs to be updated to reflect the LSDC meeting with MO.
- Any events need to be designed to engage business.
- Recommended process:
 - Identify key issues through Quality of Life Indicators Report – this may be incorporated in the 'task force' meeting discussed under item 2 above.
 - Decide which issue LSDC should tackle first – in discussion with Mayoral Advisor and perhaps a small task force of stakeholders.
 - Bring together relevant stakeholders including businesses to examine case studies of what has worked – solutions focused (business may provide funding).
 - Tackle issues in sequence – becomes a proven model.
 - 1st issue to be tackled in this way before Christmas.

Action: NY to incorporate discussion of LSDCs work on Jobs & Growth priority in Quality of Life Indicators Report meeting (see 3c below).

3c. Quality of Life Indicators Report

- Final comments due back from GLA policy leads and Commissioners.

- Indicators section will be finalised by end of July and designed over the summer.
- Meeting in late August/early Sept for those available to discuss front section of document in more detail - realigning to jobs and growth priority, business as discussed at meeting with MO, and more solutions focused.
- Front section to be published as a consultation document in Sept/Oct – this will help to engage interested parties (as with Sowing the Seeds) – although consider calling it engagement rather than consultation.
- Launched in November with 10th anniversary event.

Action: All Commissioners to provide comments on latest version of report to NY.

Action: NY to convene a meeting in late August or early September to discuss front section of the report.

3d. LSDC Horizon scan

- 'LSDC Horizon Scan' was circulated prior to the meeting.
- Commissioners requested a simple visual of current and future work items (as existed in the past) that includes a timeline.

Action: MJ to draft visual representation of Horizon scan.

4. London Leaders Evaluation

- David Kennington of Databuild was welcomed to the meeting and thanked for his pro-bono contribution to the evaluation.
- David presented an overview of his findings (see attached presentation):
 - Considering no funding was provided, the volunteer input was felt to be very impressive.
 - Some accessibility problems were recognised.
 - There was some confusion amongst London Leaders as to whether it was an award for achievement or to support new leaders.
 - If the projects were new than all outputs could be credited to London Leaders.
 - Outcomes and impacts are more long term – previous London Leaders should be revisited.
 - As the programme is voluntary is can't be monitored rigidly.
 - There was a general request for more support with monitoring & evaluation – identification of outputs and outcomes.
 - Commissioner engagement had sometimes been challenging and thought should be given to the most effective ways to engage.
 - Social events and networking with previous alumni was also felt to be very useful.

5. London Leaders Reinvigoration

KL summarised some of the challenges facing the programme:

- A decline in engagement between Commissioners, the Mayor's Office, and London Leaders.
- Difficulty of securing sponsors.
- A lower level of applications this year.
- Competition from other leadership programmes.
- These may be symptoms of a lack of clarity in the programme as highlighted by David Kennington.

Comments:

- The programme should develop leadership through delivery of a project – the project is important in demonstrating impact and achieving outputs/outcomes.

- The alumni network was felt to be important and should be developed further – perhaps linking up past and current Leaders more explicitly.
- The programme could award London Leader status after those selected had completed their year, so not all would necessarily 'graduate'.
- An element of teamwork should be introduced – perhaps setting a joint challenge.
- There should continue to be 2 types of Leaders – more experienced/senior, perhaps recruited for a joint project; and less experienced/junior, recruited as existing with an open call.
- Clear outcomes and measures are needed.
- Working Group of KL, RS, PF, NY, RL, PF will meet on 16th July to discuss further.

Action: Working Group to feedback to Commissioners – see notes attached.

6. AOB

- A paper 'LSDC Tenth Anniversary Update' had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- Commissioners will be asked for ideas by email after the meeting and plans then re-assessed.

Action: MJ to circulate email with requests for Tenth Anniversary event to Commissioners after the meeting.

London Leaders 2012 joined the meeting for lunch, followed by a discussion of their projects with Commissioners.

Next meeting: Friday 23rd November 2012, 10.00-14.00