

LONDON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

NOTES OF THE 13 DECEMBER 2005 MEETING

Present:

Pamela Castle	Environmental Law Foundation, Chair
Samantha Heath	LSX
Shaun McCarthy	BAA
Dinah Cox	Race on the Agenda
Robin Stott	Consultant Physician
David Fell	Brook Lyndhurst
Penny Shepherd	UK Social Investment Forum
Mike Tuffrey	London Assembly
Paul de Zylva	Friends of the Earth
June Barnes	East Thames Group

Observers:

Penny Bramwell	Government Office for London
Lesley Harding	LDA

GLA

Frances Mapstone	GLA Policy Support Unit
Emma Synnott	GLA Policy Support Unit
Niall Machin	GLA Policy Support Unit
Jane Anson	GLA Business Support Unit

Presentations given by:

Jenny Jones	Chair, London Food Board
Shirley Rodrigues	GLA Director of Policy and Partnerships
Gerry Acher	Chair of the Climate Change Partnership
Harry Mayers	O.B.O. London Energy Partnership
James Farrell	O.B.O London Hydrogen Partnership
Allan Jones	Climate Change Agency

Apologies: Barry Broe, Simon Woolley, Ros Dunn, Joanne Wade, Andrew Judge, Peter Head, Nigel Bell, Craig Cordice and Sue Riddlestone.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Pamela Castle welcomed Commissioners and opened the meeting. PC noted that this was her final meeting both as Chair of the Commission and as a Commissioner.

2. Commission and governance

The Commission discussed the process and circumstances surrounding the changing of charring arrangements. It was noted that there were a range of issues that had been raised by Commissioners about the decision-making process, and that these and a number of other governance issues would be considered as part of the forthcoming Best Value Review of sustainable development.

In providing feedback to the meeting on the GLA's position, and from a discussion at the LSDC Executive Group on the 24th of November FM emphasised that there was a desire on the part of the GLA for a constructive engagement with the Commission on its

key priorities identified through their focussed workplan. Work on issues such as the Olympics was particularly important and challenging. The Commission is well placed to take forward its work in 2006 and the GLA is keen to ensure that the Commission was appropriately supported in its role. In this context, the BVR would enable an exploration of appropriate governance and resourcing models, drawing on the learning from other processes and bodies such as the London Health Commission, the Audit Commission review of partnerships, the National SD Commission Review of regional arrangements.

Key questions/issues raised by Commissioners included:

- Whether the focus should be on the national review of regional arrangements rather than the BVR given the role and position of the Commission and in light of the recommendations of the review concerning governance, resourcing and funding of regional bodies;
- The relationship of the Commission to the Mayor and the GLA and the benefits and constraints this relationship accords;
- The desire for enhanced information flow between the Commission and the GLA in future;
- The role and position of the secretariat;
- The focus of the Commission and the need to enhance its attention on social issues;
- The methods of engagement with Commissioners on key processes – eg paper-heavy processes versus smart working.

JB noted that she had incorporated a number of key governance and resourcing issues into her reply to the Mayor's invitation to take the Chair from 1 January. June offered for this to be circulated to all Commissioners.

It was suggested that the Commission approach the Mayor in six months time to look to progress any strategic and high level operational issues that remain unresolved at this stage.

Action:

- ES to circulate June Barnes' reply to the Mayor.
- Chair to approach Mayor in May on outstanding strategic and operational issues on behalf of the Commission.

3. Declarations of interest

- East Thames Group involvement in the development of the Olympics and London 21 (JB)
- Brook Lyndhurst involvement in the Food Strategy (DF)
- LSX bid on development of local authority areas and association with sustainable communities. Also association with Olympics and learning skills council, planning and development of the WWF and BRE checklist for homes and LSX research bid for work with GOL. (SH)
- RS has become a trustee of BioRegional.
- PS a trustee of London 21.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2005

Minutes were agreed.

RS made a general point about the role of the Executive subgroup and his concern that the group's decision-making activities could separate it from the rest of the Commission. It was recommended that the notes or action points of all subgroup meetings are circulated and it was suggested that members of the Commission could alternate representing the Commission on the Executive subgroup.

It was also proposed that the Chairs of each sub-group be asked to provide a detailed report to the Commission on an alternating basis.

Actions:

- Secretariat to circulate notes of the subgroups' meetings to the full Commission once per quarter
- Full Commission to hear detailed reports from sub-group chairs on an alternating basis
- Executive Group to determine process for Commissioners to rotate a seat at Executive meetings.

5. Subgroup updates

GLA Group

DF reported that the subgroup had decided to produce the Quality of Life Report once every 4 years given the intensity of the activity and the natural cycle for reporting on many of the indicators. The sub-group had agreed that it would on an annual basis provide a commentary on annual indicators released by other organisations.

Separately, the sub-group is providing input to the GLA SD Policy Team on GLA sustainable development KPIs and targets for the GLA Group. This work is ongoing.

Discussions with GLA officers about the REAP footprinting methodology is underway.

Promotion

PdeZ, reported that the subgroup was looking at a range of priorities including work on embedding sustainable development through general promotional activity, tools and products, work with businesses and work with local authorities, the SD page on the GLA website. As a key initiative, the subgroup had formed a partnership with the Government Office for London, LSX, ALG and LHC to work with local authorities to embed SD in Local Area Agreements.

Working with the LAA SD Partnership a seminar was held in October for London boroughs embarking on local area agreements. The Partnership will be reflecting on the outcome of the seminar and a follow up meeting is scheduled to take place on 21 December to discuss timetables and work plans for future partnership events.

Separately, the sub-group will meet in January to take forward the other work streams.

PdeZ asked representatives of the other subgroups to keep him informed of any new developments as they may have some bearing on future promotional activities.

DC suggested including representatives of the London Voluntary Service Council on the partnership. PdZ to take this back to the Partnership for consideration.

Action:

PdZ to take proposal for LSVC membership of Partnership to next partnership meeting.

Olympics

PC reported that the Olympic subgroup would be meeting monthly and that Shaun McCarthy would be taking over as chair. The subgroup included representatives from ODA and LOCOG. Craig Cordice would be joining the subgroup. The level of engagement with LOCOG and ODA had been impressive but the need to prioritise could prove challenging because of the number of stakeholders involved.

Comments from Commissioners:

- There was general concern that the Olympic project was not focussing sufficient attention on the social and economic aspects of the Olympics – engagement with local communities
- SH commented that the tensions between the costs quoted by prospective contractors and SD considerations was an important issue to be addressed. SM agreed that this was a key issue for sustainable procurement practice and one which the sub-group was engaged with.

It was agreed that the Chair of the commission or the chair of the sub-group should write to the new CEO and new Chair of ODA to raise these general concerns.

It was noted that LSX had commented on the draft Olympic procurement principles. ES to circulate to the sub-group

Action:

- ES to circulate LSX comments on draft procurement principles to sub-group.
- Chair of the Commission or the Chair of the sub-group to write to the new CEO and new Chair of ODA in the new year
- Next meeting of the Commission to discuss how to engage more fully around the social and economic issues for the Olympics.

Planning and Development

As Peter H was not able to make the meeting, it was agreed to defer the report until next meeting. It was noted that there was a need for the Commission to engage with the draft National Code for Sustainable Building. It was suggested that ES, NM, PH and JB meet to discuss a way forward before formally responding.

Action:

JB to meet with PH, NM and ES to agree an approach to responding to the draft National Code for Sustainable Building

Executive Group

PC reported that the Group had agreed to jointly fund a piece of work with GoL to map SD initiatives in London and carry out a gap analysis against two objectives in the national strategy. (The Commission had committed £5000 towards funding the project).

6. Review of Mayoral powers and outcomes of the review of regional arrangements

THE GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY: THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: THE NEXT STEPS AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE ENGLISH REGIONS

Following on from earlier discussions, it was generally agreed that engagement with the BVR should not be undertaken in isolation from the review of Mayor's powers or from the national review of regional SD arrangements. However, it was noted that the review of Mayor's powers will look at a wide range of issues and in this context it would be prudent not to closely tie the commission's engagement with the BVR and the national review to the review of powers.

In relation to the BVR, DC indicated her concern that the GoL representative on the Commission was not a full member and only an observer. It was agreed to consider this issue as part of the BVR.

It was agreed that the Executive would review how to engage with all three processes to in a coordinated way to integrate the key messages on Commission governance and the Mayor's SD powers.

It was proposed that the Executive report back to the Commission before the next meeting with a proposal for two full away days for the Commission – the first of which would focus on governance issues.

In relation to the review of Mayor's powers generally, it was agreed that the GLA Group should respond on behalf to the Commission to the review on all issues other than the SD component.

It was noted that FM is coordinating the GLA response to the review of Mayor's powers and can provide some assistance in working through the response process.

Action:

- GLA Group to formulate response to Review of Mayor's Powers on all issues except those relating to SD power;
- Executive group to consider how to respond in a coordinated way across three processes (Review of Mayor's Powers, national review of regional arrangements, and Best Value Review) on the specific issues concerning LSDC governance and SD powers of the Mayor;
- Executive group to report back to commissioners before next meeting on proposed way forward;
- Secretariat to arrange first of two away-days for April.

7. Food Strategy

Jenny Jones, Chair of the London Food Board presented to the Commission on the London Food Strategy.

It was noted that the consultation period has now closed and that the chief aim now is to implement the strategy. £4 million has been allocated to implementation and the

focus is on how to allocate this in view of the implementation mechanisms proposed in the strategy. The most significant proposal is for a London food hub to be established.

Commissioners provided the following comments:

- The LSDC would like to engage with the ongoing implementation of the strategy and it would be useful for the London Food Board to consider how the Commission could most usefully assist. In this context it was noted that PB currently sits on LFB and can act as a conduit;
- PB agreed to focus, in developing the implementation plan for the strategy, on the Commission's potential input/role;
- The executive summary of the strategy does not adequately reflect the full strategy and ideally should be revised;
- NM noted that the sustainability appraisal of the Strategy was currently underway with SR, using the LSDC framework;
- Should not miss the link to the Olympics and the role the Olympics can play in promoting healthy food;
- LSDC should formally write commending the LFB on the strategy and requesting involvement in the future;
- The food hub should ideally build on what is already there such as Covent Garden markets rather than building from afresh.

Action:

Chair LSDC to write to the Chair of the London Food Board to formally commend LFB on the Food Strategy and to request that the LSDC's engagement with implementation be considered.

8. Energy and Climate change Policy and Implementation Mechanisms

Presentations were given as follows

- Energy and climate change policy for London – Shirley Rodrigues
- London Climate Change Partnership – Gerry Acher
- London Energy Partnership – Harry Mayers
- London Hydrogen Partnership – James Farrell
- Climate Change Agency – Allan Jones

Action:

- Copies of the presentations are to be circulated to Commissioners.
- Feedback on presentations or questions to be directed to ES for collation.

End of Meeting

Commissioners and guests were invited to London's Living Room for end of year drinks and to say farewell to Pamela Castle who was leaving the Commission and to thank both Samantha and Pamela for co-chairing the Commission.
