

London Sustainable Development Commission
Sixth meeting held on 17 December 2003, at 10.00 am at City Hall (GLA)

Present:

Ian Coull	Slough Estates, Co-Chair
Pamela Castle	Environmental Law Foundation, Co-Chair
Victor Anderson	Mayor's Environmental Adviser
Nigel Bell	Imperial College, Centre for Environmental Technology
Chris Birks	Environment Agency
Dinah Cox	LVSC
David Fell	Brook Lyndhurst
Paul Greenwood	London Development Agency
Peter Head	Faber Maunsell
Sue Riddlestone	BioRegional
Penny Shepherd	London Sustainability Exchange
Robin Stott	Physician
Joanne Wade	Association for the Conservation of Energy
Simon Woolley	Operation Black Vote
Paul De Zylva	Friends of the Earth

Observer:

Penny Bramwell	GOL
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Presentations:

Anthony Wright	ERM
Alistair Fulton	ERM
Peter Forbes	SKM
Hermann Maier	SKM

Secretariat:

Jane Anson	GLA Administrative support
Matthew Chell	GLA Policy Support Unit
Aleyne Friesner	GLA Head of Policy Support
Niall Machin	GLA Policy Support Unit

1. Welcome and introductions

2. Apologies

Rachel Crossley, Samantha Heath, June Barnes, Rev. Dick Johnson

3. Declaration of interest

It was noted that Penny Shepherd was doing some work on the Olympic bid with Fluid.

4. Minutes of 15 September meeting and matters arising

It was noted that Pamela Castle's organisation is the Environmental Law Foundation. It was noted that the LSDC would receive a copy of the draft GLA budget for consideration. Agreed that Secretariat would review matters concerning sustainable development.

Action: Secretariat

5. Current Commission work

i. Olympics

Pamela Castle reported that the Olympic sub group had met the masterplanners twice. She was optimistic that the masterplanners would adopt the London Framework as the basis for the masterplan/bid's approach to sustainability. In addition, it was hoped that the principle of 'zero carbon/zero waste' would also be adopted. The LDA will have the final decision so the Commission needed to continue to press for both these outcomes. The Commission will be asked to endorse the masterplan and bid – and a press release had been drafted. This was agreed, subject to commissioners' suggestions being taken on board. The masterplanners have also taken on board the London Sustainable Construction Initiative. It was agreed to further lobby the LDA to include zero carbon/waste and issue the press release subject to minor amendments.

Action: Secretariat

London Sustainable Construction Initiative (LSCI)

Peter Head gave a presentation about the LSCI – a project he had seeded as an LSDC commissioner. Based on the Framework, it was aimed at setting sustainable performance specifications for the construction sector. Feedback from Europe, London, UK regions and the Government had been enthusiastic. A scoping exercise is nearing completion and funding is being sought for implementation in 2004. A positive response has been received from the LDA and LLV masterplanners. A key part of the initiative will be to target the skills and training needed to deliver new sustainable approaches – such as zero carbon/zero waste. The Commission supported and endorsed the LSCI and asked Peter Head to identify how the Commission could help to raise the Initiative's profile and give support.

Action: Peter Head

iv. Economic Development

(This item was taken earlier in the Agenda than indicated)

David Fell thanked ERM for their work and explained the fourfold purpose behind the sustainable development appraisal of the revised EDS:

- to test how well our Framework works
- to collaborate with the LDA
- to appraise the revised EDS
- to learn from the outcome and apply it to future work

In all four respects, the sustainable development appraisal appears to have worked. The subgroup was thanked for all their hard work.

Anthony Wright and Alistair Fulton of ERM gave a presentation of the Economic Development Strategy appraisal (this presentation is available separately).

The LDA will issue a public consultation draft of the revised EDS in the new year. There was a need to keep up the pressure on the LDA to incorporate sustainable economic development and the recommendations of the report. It was recognised that the ability to do this would depend on the Secretariat support and budget available. In this light, the joint funding of the appraisal was seen as positive.

Equalities issues had been discussed at a meeting arranged by the sub group, with representatives from the Mayor's Office and the LDA in attendance. Other meetings were held about sustainable construction and local economies, and these discussions had been summarised in a document presented to the LDA. BME groups would have the opportunity to put forward their comments during the public consultation period. Simon

Woolley agreed to forward a copy of a report by the Chair of the Black Londoners Forum to the Commission.

Action Simon Woolley

The Commission noted the consultant's appraisal with thanks and agreed that the subgroup should review the published consultation version of the EDS and maintain pressure on the LDA to maximise the sustainable development influence in the final strategy.

Action: Economic Development Subgroup

ii. Framework

Ian Coull reported that the Framework subgroup had met on 7 October and 1 December to agree the final set of indicators and discuss further development of the Framework. The Commission agreed the need to develop the Framework further and approved the three sequential levels recommended by the subgroup.

It was noted that the London Health Commission are involved in work looking at integrated appraisals. Agreed that the Secretariat work with the Health Secretariat to consider integrated impact assessments, based on the LSDC Framework.

Action: Secretariat

The recommended indicators were agreed, noting that the accompanying text could highlight areas that the Commission would like to measure, but for which there are no available data. Indicators would be reviewed after three years. It was agreed to publicise the indicators in a low key way, linked if possible to some other appropriate activity (e.g. London First's Triple Bottom Line) early in 2004, and to use the 'first term report' in April 2004 to report fully on the indicators. .

Action: Secretariat

iii. London Plan

Niall Machin reported that the Commission had received a consultation paper on selecting indicators for the London Plan Sustainability Appraisal. Draft comments from the Commission were circulated and agreed.

Action: Secretariat

v. Transport

The Transport subgroup plans to meet for the first time in the New Year. In the meantime, a sustainable appraisal has been undertaken of the Mayor's Transport Strategy revision (congestion charge extension: draft for Assembly) using the Commission's Framework. The draft was circulated and approved.

Action: Transport subgroup/Secretariat

vi. Air Travel

Peter Forbes and Hermann Maier of SKM gave a presentation of the findings in their report on air transport and London. This presentation is available separately.

Matthew Chell reported that a press release had been issued the previous day, to coincide with the publication of the Government's White Paper 'The Future of Air Transport'. Conclusions and recommendations included:

- The case for expansion of airports in the South East has not been made;
- For London's airports, flights for business and inbound tourism should be prioritised;

- The government should improve major London – Scotland rail links;
- The government should increase taxes to ensure that air travellers pay for the full costs of air travel on others.

Areas for further research included the impacts of air travel on London's BME communities and how freight interacts with passenger travel. Some Commissioners expressed concern that there could at present be 'sustainable aviation'. The Commission noted the report. Agreed that the subgroup consider further steps (and possibly further research) and put forward recommendations. Recommend that the Commission draft a note on the basis of the report identifying the issues missing from the Government's White Paper. Key points should be inequalities and the need for high speed rail alternatives. Agreed to avoid reference to sustainable aviation. Agreed that the Commission would measure the White Paper against the Framework, and that a further meeting of the Sub-group would be arranged to take this forward.

Action: Air-travel subgroup

vii. Energy

Since the Commission meeting, the London Energy Partnership was launched on 26 January by the Mayor. The launch was chaired by Samantha Heath.

6. Commission activity up to the Mayoral election and future role

Aleyne Friesner reported that the Commission's term of appointment comes to a close in May 2004 prior to the Mayoral elections on 10 June 2004. A proposed programme of work up to May 2004 was put forward and agreed.

Dates to be arranged for a March meeting and a late April 'annual' meeting to which the Mayor should be invited. A date for a presentation, by the co-Chairs to the Mayor's Management Board to be agreed: this would provide the Commission with the opportunity to make recommendations about any Commission activity post the June elections. This should include the reappointment of a sustainable development commission. Suggestions for improving the workings of the commission or for potential work areas should be emailed to the Secretariat.

Action: Secretariat/Commissioners to email suggestions

7. Secretariat support and resources

The Commission noted the current position, but flagged the need for additional long term support. Agreed that the Commission should decide its future programme and then look at the budget/resource needs.

8. Register of interests

The proposed format for the Register was agreed and that it should be set up immediately.

Action: Secretariat

9. Any other business

Date of next meeting for 2004. See above.

Action: Joint chairs/Secretariat