

LONDON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

INAUGURAL MEETING HELD AT GLA, 2.00 PM ON 21 MAY 2002

Present:

Shirley Ali Khan	Sustainability First
Victor Anderson	Mayor's Environmental Adviser
June Barnes	East Thames Housing Association
Nigel Bell	Imperial College, Centre for Environmental Technology
Pamela Castle	UKELA <i>Co-Chair</i>
Ian Coull	Sainsburys plc <i>Co-Chair</i>
Dinah Cox	London Voluntary Services Council
Paul de Zylva	Friends of the Earth
David Fell	London First Sustainability Unit
Luna Frank Riley	London Development Agency
Peter Head	FaberMaunsell Ltd
Samantha Heath	GLA Assembly Member
Nick Lester	ALG, pending a formal appointment
David Quarmby	Transport for London
Sue Riddlestone	BioRegional
Penny Shepherd	London Sustainability Exchange
Peter Brittain	GOL, with observer status

In attendance:

Matthew Chell	GLA Policy Support Unit
Aleyne Friesner	GLA Head of Policy Support
David Goode	GLA Head of Environment
Niall Machin	GLA Policy Support Unit (Secretariat lead)

Action

1. Pamela Castle opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining that the Mayor had appointed joint Chairs to the Commission. She would chair the current meeting and would alternate with Ian Coull at future meetings. Individual members of the Commission then introduced themselves.

It was agreed that a note be circulated setting out email and telephone contact details for all Commissioners, together with summary CVs.

Secretariat

2. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from:

Tom Burke
Chris Burks
Robin Stott

English Nature
Environment Agency, Thames Region
Lewisham Hospital

3. Terms of Reference

The Chair introduced the item by explaining that the Commission had no statutory basis, but that it had a two years opportunity to make a difference. It was vital therefore to take speedy action.

Niall Machin explained that the proposed terms of reference had been based on those adopted by other round tables and on the recently reviewed terms of reference of the London Health Commission. He also explained that the GLA budget to support the Commission would cover meetings, seminars, production of publications but was unlikely to be sufficient to commission research.

Discussion of the draft terms of reference ranged over the need to consider workers and tourists as well as London residents; that it should be open to the Commission to look at the activities of all other public bodies, such as health and education, and implicitly the London boroughs; that funding for research would have to be sought from partners although the Commission would not necessarily wish to undertake projects in partnership; and the role of the Commission in highlighting good or bad practice.

It was **agreed** that the wording of the terms of reference should be re-drafted bearing in mind the discussion and in particular that:

- the Commission should produce its own definition of sustainable development (but probably adopted from existing definitions, e.g. that developed by the London Sustainability Exchange)
- a vision for the Commission should be developed bearing in mind the actions that it is able to take and its relationship to other bodies concerned with sustainable development
- wording should be amended to reflect the Commission's inability to 'ensure' action
- the role of the Commission was to be an independent (not public) voice
- that the Commission would be concerned about sustainable development in London and country/world wide, particularly London's impact on other areas.

It was **agreed** that revised terms of reference should be circulated to Commissioners for agreement, by email.

Secretariat

It was also **agreed** that the Commission would operate as follows:

- meetings would be closed
- minutes of meetings would be posted on the GLA web site after agreement via email with Commissioners (three working days to be allowed for comment)
- public statements about the work of the Commission or its sub-groups should only be made following agreement by the full Commission (Co-Chairs to be contacted in case of difficulty)

Secretariat/
Commissioners

Commissioners

- co-options could be made to sub-groups, with the agreement of the Co-Chairs.

Commissioners

It was further **agreed** that a note of the key decisions arising from the meeting should be sent to the Mayor.

Secretariat
and Co-Chairs

4. **Membership**

The basis of membership was queried and it was accepted that although Commissioners were appointed in a personal capacity, they would inevitably represent their own organisations. Help and support from those organisations would be welcome. The key point was that nominations were made by the Mayor, in consultation with the Co-Chairs, not by the organisations themselves.

Secretariat
and co-Chairs

After discussion it was **agreed** to recommend to the Mayor that the Commission be extended to include a representative from:

- Trade Union movement (SERTUC)
- Energy and utilities
- Financial services sector
- Faith groups (via the London Civic Forum)

5. **Work programme**

It was agreed that there was a need to develop a framework document before the Commission's forward work programme could be decided.

Nevertheless it was accepted that determining sustainable development objectives, and reviewing GLA strategies would be the priority.

Other activities would be based on identification of high profile activities/policies affecting London and those where the Commission could have most impact. The Commission did not want to be a negative auditor of activity, but to have a positive role, making an input at the outset of projects, rather than at the end. It was also felt that its role should encompass identifying and reporting upon good practice or projects.

It would be helpful to identify what success for the Commission would look like and it would be appropriate to undertake an analysis of achievements at the close of the Commission's two year term. One measure might be the extent to which the Commission had been able to influence executive bodies to adopt sustainable development principles in their work.

It was agreed that the outputs and outcomes of the Commission must be meaningful to lay communities.

It was **agreed** that:

- three sub-groups should be set up to report back to the next meeting of the Commission on:
 - a Regional Sustainable Development Framework and sustainable development objectives;
 - the draft London Plan (Mayor's spatial development strategy)

Secretariat in
consultation
with sub-
group Chairs

- the Mayor's draft Energy Strategy and emissions targets
- membership of the sub-groups would be as set out in the appendix to these notes and Commissioners who were not present should be contacted to encourage them to join one of the sub-group
- the longer term work programme should be considered more fully at the next meeting of the Commission.

Secretariat

Secretariat

The Mayor briefly joined the meeting at this point and thanked Commissioners for accepting their appointments and looked forward to hearing from them. He pointed out that he could not achieve his objectives for London alone and that he relied on others, such as the Commission, to achieve his aims. He told the Commission that it had a free reign to examine issues and to advise him. In particular he was looking for advice about what was achievable.

Details to be circulated by the Secretariat

The Mayor also invited the Commission to send two representatives to his forthcoming European cities environment conference.

6. GLA Sustainable Development Objectives

Many of the issues concerning the objectives had been covered in the early discussion.

It was **agreed** that Commissioners should email any immediate views on the objectives set out in item 6 to Niall Machin as soon as possible.

Commissioners

7. Other business

World Summit on Sustainable Development

The GLA expected to be sending a delegate to the Summit, although discussions about the format of the event were still taking place.

It was **agreed** that a report on the outcome of the Summit should be made to the next meeting.

Secretariat

Secretariat

Some concern was expressed about the ability of the Secretariat to handle the volume of work that would be required to support the Commission.

Commissioners were asked to identify whether their organisations would be able to provide help to the Commission in terms of venues, finance for research and administration.

Commissioners

A report about secretariat capacity was requested for the next meeting.

Secretariat

8. Next meeting

It was **agreed** that the next meeting of the full Commission should take place in early September.

Secretariat

Items for the next meeting would be:

- Reports from sub-groups
- Workplan
- Report from the Rio +10 summit in Johannesburg
- Secretariat support

AF
23.05.02

LONDON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

SUB-GROUPS

Framework document	London Plan	Energy and targets
Chair Ian Coull Pete Head Penny Shepherd Peter Brittain Pamela Castle David Fell Chris Birks Robin Stott	Chair June Barnes Paul de Zylva David Quarmby Shirley Ali Khan Victor Anderson Dinah Cox	Chair Samantha Heath Nigel Bell Sue Riddlestone Luna Frank Riley Tom Burke

To be allocated:

ALG representative