

# ITEM 7

## Minutes of the Camden Local Strategic Partnership Friday 1st February, 10:30am, Camden Town Hall

### Present

- Cllr Keith Moffitt (Chair of LSP), London Borough of Camden, Leader
- Simone Hensby, Camden Community Empowerment Network (Chair) and Voluntary Action Camden
- Charlie Legg, Camden Community Empowerment Network and Camden Central Community Umbrella
- Barry Peskin, Camden Community Empowerment Network (Vice Chair) and Age Concern Camden
- Pat Stack, Camden Community Empowerment Network and Disability in Camden
- Rob Larkman, Camden Primary Care Trust, Chief Executive
- Chris Shaw, Camden Town Unlimited, Chair
- Mick Hickey, Job Centre Plus, External Relations Manager - Central London District
- Richard Bell, Learning and Skills Council, Partnership Director
- Stephen Jordan, London & Continental Stations and Property, Managing Director
- Moira Gibb, London Borough of Camden, Chief Executive
- Cllr Andrew Marshall, London Borough of Camden, Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Equalities and Community Development
- Michael Quay, London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority, Borough Commander
- Chief Supt Dominic Clout, Metropolitan Police, Borough Commander
- Professor Anthony Kessel, Camden Primary Care Trust, Director of Public Health

### Also in attendance

- Michael Scorer, London Borough of Camden, Assistant Chief Executive
- Gerri Scott, London Borough of Camden, Assistant Director, Community Development and Regeneration
- Finn O'Brien, London Borough of Camden, Policy Manager – Performance (Items 1-3c)
- Donna Turnbull, Strategy and Policy Officer, Camden Community Empowerment Network
- Louise Matlock, Government Office for London, Locality Manager – North
- Arti Nanda, OneKX, Centre Director (Item 3 onwards)

## **1 Introductions and apologies for absence**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Kevin Munslow, Dorothea Hackman and Karen Wilson. Attendees introduced themselves and the Chair welcomed Michael Scorer, Gerri Scott, Finn O'Brien, Donna Turnbull and Louise Matlock to the meeting.

## **2 Updating LSP Terms of Reference**

- 2.1 The Chair introduced this item by saying that it was a sensitive issue as it affected the membership of the LSP and involved discussing colleagues. He also stated that the LSP is entering a new phase with new responsibilities and so it will need to continue to monitor its membership to ensure it remains strategic. Over the longer term, there may be a move away from service provider representation to more of an emphasis on commissioners and stakeholders in the wider community.
- 2.2 Mike Webb introduced the report and the revised Terms of Reference. He stated that now was a good time to look at the Terms of Reference since they had not been updated since 2005, the LSP's role will change from April 2008 and the government has produced new guidance for LSPs.
- 2.3 He went on to highlight the most important points of the report:
- The LSP's new responsibilities relating to the LAA
  - The need to ask the thematic partnerships<sup>1</sup> to nominate link members to improve their accountability to the LSP
  - The changes to the membership which will have the effect of increasing the membership of the LSP from 18 and 23 if all existing and new posts are filled. Mike added that the Children and Young People Partnership Board link member was missing from the list in the revised Terms of Reference. He said he would correct this in the final version.
  - The need to elect a new Vice Chair as soon as possible. An election is supposed to be held annually but there hadn't been one since 2005.
  - The new consultation and engagement role for the LSP
- 2.4 The Chair invited comments. In response to a query, Claire Tunley confirmed that the DAAT is overseen by the Community Safety Partnership.
- 2.5 Barry Peskin was slightly concerned that the proposed changes to representation of the Council's Executive would mean that equalities might slip down the agenda at the LSP. Cllr Marshall assured him that equalities were mainstreamed into the work of all Executive members

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<sup>1</sup> Community Safety Partnership, Camden Public Health Partnership, Children and Young People Partnership Board and Economic Development Partnership

and the member responsible for equalities could be invited to meetings as required.

- 2.6 Simone Hensby welcomed the formalising of links to the thematic partnerships. She wondered about the definition of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and was worried that the new consultation and engagement role would result in consultation overload for the voluntary and community sector. Claire Tunley replied that the standard European definition was small businesses had 10 or less employees and medium businesses 50 or less. Cllr Marshall commented that the right personality was the most important thing for the SME representative – a flexible individual with a broad interest in the borough. On the second point, Claire said that the council was reviewing its Consultation and Engagement Board, which includes looking at how it engages with partners.

### **Election of the Vice Chair**

- 2.7 The Chair began the election of the Vice Chair by thanking Dorothea Hackman for her contribution in the role and as one of the original members of the LSP, along with Simone Hensby and Rob Larkman. He said he would contact her to express thanks on behalf of the LSP.
- 2.8 Cllr Marshall nominated Rob Larkman as Vice Chair, noting his long membership of the LSP. The Chair added that the PCT plays a major role in delivering the LSP's priorities.
- 2.9 As there were no other nominations, Rob Larkman was elected unopposed.
- 2.10 The LSP agreed the following recommendations set out in the report and the revised Terms of Reference, subject to approval by the Council's Legal Services Department:
- a) confirm that the thematic partnerships have detailed oversight of the delivery of the LSP's priorities on its behalf
  - b) ask the CSP, CYPPB and EDP to nominate link members who will represent them on the LSP
  - c) confirm the Director of Public Health as the link member for the CPHP
  - d) replace the UCL vacancy with a representative from the Bloomsbury Colleges
  - e) remove the LDA vacancy
  - f) ask officers to identify suitable LSP members from TfL and the media and SME sectors
  - g) ask Adrian Penfold of British Land to join the LSP as a further business representative
  - h) choose a new Vice Chair as soon as possible
  - i) replace the Chair of Joint Chairs of Governors on the LSP with a link member nominated by the CYPPB as in recommendation (b) above

- j) change elected member representation on the LSP from the Leader and the Executive Member for Equalities and Community Development to the Leader and one other Executive Member nominated by the Executive
- k) reinstate pecuniary interests as a standing item on the agenda
- l) delegate its oversight and co-ordinating role for community consultation and engagement to the Consultation Board

### **3 Camden's Local Area Agreement**

- 3.1 Michael Scorer, the Chair of the LAA Steering Group, introduced the three parts of the report.

#### **Crime reduction outcomes resulting from additional LAA funding, July-November 2007**

- 3.2 This report was produced by Mark Heath before he left the borough and is for information only. Dominic Clout commented that the wide range of activities and the successful outcomes described in the report contributed to the improved public perception of crime and the government's assessment of the Community Safety Partnership as excellent. The Chair said he was impressed with the police's imaginative approaches to crime reduction.

#### **2007/08 Quarter 3 financial report**

- 3.3 Michael Scorer apologised that this report was not ready because the quarter had only just ended. The indications were that there would be a small underspend. He would be asking theme leads to ensure all funding is spent. However there is a procedure for dealing with underspend and up to a certain limit it can be carried forward into the next financial year to spend on identified priorities.

#### **Camden's LAA 2008/09-2010/11: shortlist of priorities**

- 3.4 Michael Scorer drew the LSP's attention to Appendix 1 of the report, the shortlist of priorities for the LAA, and Appendix 2 which shows how the current shortlist has evolved from the long list agreed at the LSP meeting on 29 November.
- 3.5 He informed the LSP that there had been some changes to the shortlist since the report was circulated. The Economic Development Partnership had looked at local economic indicators and recommended that the following be included in the LAA:
- NI 152 Working age people on out of work benefits
  - NI 153 Working age people on out of work benefits in the worst performing neighbourhoods
  - NI 161 Learners achieving a Level 1 qualification in literacy
  - NI 162 Learners achieving an Entry Level 3 qualification in numeracy

- A local indicator for vocational training and skills up to Level 2
  - Local indicators on business start up and business growth – the national indicators aren't appropriate for the local situation
- 3.6 The LAA Steering Group was also considering using NI 155 gross number of affordable homes delivered rather than NI 154 net additional homes provided as this would better reflect the importance of affordable housing to local people. They were also considering an Olympics indicator.
- 3.7 Michael asked the LSP for their views on the inclusion of decent homes in the LAA, given the principle set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report that all indicators should be delivered in partnership.
- 3.8 He tabled a short report demonstrating how the development of the new LAA reflects residents' priorities. Although there had been no explicit consultation on the LAA, recent Area Forums, the Council's budget consultation and other consultation provided an evidence base.
- 3.9 He stated that the Steering Group will produce an "LAA narrative" to provide a rationale for the inclusion of indicators and which will also highlight the contribution of partners. He also stressed the need to remove more indicators to reduce the number from 32 at present to the 20 to 25 agreed by the LSP.
- 3.10 Louise Matlock said there were no surprises in the shortlist from her perspective. It has been sent to CLG for comments from other central government departments. Although she endorsed the partnership approach, she warned that departments would lobby hard for their priorities such as decent homes and will want reassurance that they are being addressed. She said that baskets of indicators were possible for some issues e.g. children in poverty.
- 3.11 Anthony Kessel commented that health inequalities would need a local indicator since the target agreed by the Camden Public Health Partnership was to reduce health inequalities between the four worst performing wards and the borough average. He also asked if NI 56 on child obesity could include Reception age as well as Year 6 and remain as one indicator. Claire Tunley replied that work to achieve NI 56 would capture children from Reception to Year 6.
- 3.12 Simone Hensby was pleased that the LAA narrative would stress the importance of a vibrant third sector since it wouldn't be included as an indicator. However she thought that the stronger communities theme was not adequately represented and suggested a local indicator. Claire agreed that none of the national indicators were quite right for Camden and that conversations were ongoing for this area.
- 3.13 Chris Shaw said that the number of indicators still needed to be reduced and asked whether the LSP should decide which ones to remove now. Michael confirmed this although they have to be approved by Executive

and Full Council and there would inevitably be changes as negotiations with the government progress. The Chair added that the LAA Steering Group would continue to work on the indicators.

- 3.14 Dominic Clout asked whether the current shortlist matched up with the Government Office for London priorities. Louise replied that the fit wasn't perfect but recognised it was ultimately a local document.
- 3.15 Chris Shaw reminded the LSP that the final indicators would not prevent the LSP from discussing other things. He also suggested that decent homes and affordable housing could be combined. The criteria for inclusion should be that the indicators can be easily calculated and understood. Moira Gibb replied that combining national indicators was not possible. Barry Peskin agreed with Chris Shaw's comments about affordable and decent housing, stressing that it affects so many other outcomes. Michael replied that affordable and decent housing were two different indicators and reiterated the point that the LAA would not cover the totality of the LSP's priorities so housing need not be included.
- 3.16 Richard Bell asked whether, from the government's perspective, local indicators and national indicators should have the same weight. Louise replied that local indicators could be measured and monitored as the local LSP sees fit and they could serve to reassure government that particular issues were being addressed.
- 3.17 Cllr Marshall was unclear about the number of indicators that had to be removed. Claire clarified that the 32 indicators that need to be reduced to 20-25 did not include the 16 mandatory children and young people indicators. She added that the final technical details might influence whether the LSP should include them but that some could be removed some now.
- 3.18 Stephen Jordan commented that recent consultation did not include business and that the forthcoming Civic Forum could be the beginning of regular canvassing of the views of the private sector.
- 3.19 Rob Larkman thought that it would be useful to set out which partners are contributing to each indicators and what they are doing. Claire replied that this would be included in the LAA work plan – each indicator would have a mini delivery plan.
- 3.20 The Chair summed up by saying that the LSP had given a clear steer on the inclusion of housing in the LAA and had reaffirmed its committed to keeping the number of indicators low. The LSP formally agreed the recommendations as follows and noted the tabled paper:
- note progress on developing Camden's next LAA since its last meeting (29 November 2007)
  - agree the draft shortlist attached at Appendix 1
  - endorse the approach that the LAA only contains indicators that require contributions from more than one partner

- re-confirm its decision to delegate responsibility for LAA negotiations to the Leader of the Council who will take advice from the LAA steering group and chair of the LAA steering group.

#### **4 Camden Together 2007-2012: progress report on the “Strong local economy” sub-theme**

- 4.1 Gerri Scott apologised for the late circulation of the report but reassured the LSP that her presentation would cover the main points. It looked at progress on the four main commitments for the sub-theme, along with the contribution of business to the local community:
- Reducing red tape for business
  - Promoting Camden as a good place for business
  - Assisting new and existing entrepreneurs during business start-up
  - Sustaining local economic services
- 4.2 The Chair echoed Gerri’s comment in the presentation that the Council’s ability to intervene in the local economy is limited – he cited a case in his own ward where Tesco is replacing an independent shop.
- 4.3 Chris Shaw noted that the presentation was similar to information contained in the LEGI bid. He commented that activity should concentrate on the distinctive sectors of the local economy. This is hard to do through the Local Development Framework. The London Plan has identified the creative industries as the biggest growth sector in the near future. Camden is well-placed to take advantage of this and should pump prime the sector. It is also a sector that can inspire young people, unlike other parts of the economy.
- 4.4 Barry Peskin recalled a project he helped to set up when he was a councillor which supported small businesses by providing rent and rate free premises for a limited time.
- 4.5 Gerri replied that a number of LAA projects were supporting local businesses but not quite in the same way. Most of the aspects Barry mentioned were addressed, for example the funding bid to the Big Lottery Fund for Community Asset Transfers will, if successful, make some Council premises available to small businesses. The Chair wondered if the programme Barry described was effective over the longer term. Charlie Legg added that the Council’s Property Services did not always offer a good deal to the voluntary and community sector and small businesses.
- 4.6 Moira Gibb commented that the LSP needed to take more account of our current position in the economic cycle. She wondered whether the creative industries were well-placed to weather the storm. Chris Shaw agreed and added that the Local Development Framework and the planning process could be used to allow more flexible business space which could be used by businesses of different sizes.
- 4.7 Anthony Kessel thought that although the local NHS is active on corporate social responsibility e.g. some local sourcing and the

development of an electric car fleet, there is more it could do such as working with business to source food locally.

- 4.8 Simone Hensby welcomed the acknowledgement of the voluntary and community sector's contribution. The sector is also an important local employer and tends to employ a greater proportion of Camden residents than other sectors. It also adds value through volunteering as a pathway to employment. She said that voluntary organisations in the borough are using the LM3 (Local Multiplier 3) methodology to encourage the reinvestment of money into the local economy.
- 4.9 Stephen Jordan was sceptical about subsidised premises for local businesses, having recently seen at first hand "grant dependent economies" in the north of England. Public sector funding cannot be taken for granted so he stressed the need for businesses to remain on a commercial footing. He thought there should be more emphasis on the Olympics, which provides a future date as a focal point for a number of the LSP's planned activities. The Olympics will bring footfall to the borough and the LSP must decide how it is going to benefit and the legacy it wants for the Games. The Chair added that the opening of St Pancras had a similar effect and suggested it is picked up at the Civic Forum or covered by a series of events.
- 4.10 Cllr Marshall remarked that local people on low incomes often welcome Tesco as a cheap food retailer. He also said that transport issues particularly parking are an important factor for business and one which often pits residents against local businesses. He gave an example in the borough of a tile company whose customers need to park outside but whose business was suffering as a result of resident-influenced parking restrictions. He thought that the Council should listen to business more although he recognised there was a balance to be struck. Moira Gibb added that it was the role of the Council and the LSP to help residents and businesses to better understand each other and that the Civic Forum might look at the issue. Chris Shaw said that residents do attend CTU's board meetings and they attend meetings of residents' groups – there is mutual suspicion despite little actual difference of opinion.
- 4.11 The Leader said that he and Cllr Marshall are members of the Local Development Framework Steering Group and they could update the LSP on progress and relay comments. The LSP will return to the Local Development Framework in future meetings.
- 4.12 Richard Bell said that he and Mick Hickey would take the emphasis on the creative industries into account when developing the Local Employer Partnerships. He added that a relative unemployment indicator might prevent the LAA being a hostage to fortune given the uncertain economic outlook.
- 4.13 Dominic Clout stated that community safety is crucial to businesses although the impact of the Safer Neighbourhoods work on them is hard to quantify.

4.14 Moira Gibb noted that Create KX has a wider vision of creative industries and should link up with CTU's work, as Camden Town and King's Cross are only a 10 minute walk apart. Chris Shaw agreed. Stephen Jordan observed that this links back to community safety as that walk is perceived as dangerous.

4.15 Chris Shaw called on the Council to lobby the GLA to allow BID members exemption from the proposed supplementary business rate as it will put BID levies at risk. He said CTU may try to safeguard its levy by holding the vote early. Cllr Marshall recognised the issue but thought there was a moral hazard attached to BIDs i.e. there is always a risk that members might no longer want to pay the levy, for any number of reasons. Gerri Scott thought there should be dispensation for existing BIDs.

4.16 The LSP noted the report and a number of actions to take forward arising from the discussion.

## **5 "Ashes to Ashes": Camden PCT Annual Public Health Report 2006-07**

5.1 Anthony Kessel briefly introduced the Annual Public Health Report as the LSP had had a seminar on smoking last year. LSP members had also been invited to the PCT's stakeholder event the day before, which was very successful. The PCT decided the report would have a particular focus this year as overall public health does not change much from year to year, although general data were still included in the appendices. While it is a national requirement to publish an Annual Public Health Report, Camden's report is very much a partnership document. Anthony outlined the contents and noted that the methodology for the review of services in Chapter 5 is now being used elsewhere in London. The Leader commented that the importance given to smoking cessation in the borough was reflected by its inclusion in the LAA.

5.2 Cllr Marshall expressed concern about the only group to see a rise in smoking – Bangladeshi women. Anthony said that tobacco chewing was also prevalent in the Bangladeshi community. The Leader observed that socio-economic factors meant that smoking is a problem in different areas to those where binge drinking is an issue. Anthony agreed but said that chronic alcohol dependency tended to be more prevalent in more deprived areas.

5.3 The Leader mentioned he had recently written to Barry Peskin about the Council's alcohol strategy in response to his query at the last meeting.

## **6 Central London Forward: a briefing**

6.1 The Leader reported that the Executive had agreed to join this new grouping of Central London authorities the day before and noted that all

its members were the Chairs of their respective LSPs. The Mayor of London may be invited to join, which he would welcome.

- 6.2 Chris Shaw asked whether Central London Forward was a replacement for another body, the Central London Partnership. He also had concerns about how representative the new body was although welcomed the strong link to LSPs. The Leader replied that the Central London Partnership was not fit for purpose – it held good events but did not act as a strategic voice.
- 6.3 Stephen Jordan informed the LSP that the Central London Partnership had decided to fold. He thought that it had lost its way in recent times although it had been very successful in the past on issues such as inward investment, perception of Central London and transport. Chris Shaw agreed and said the new body should learn from the experience of the Central London Partnership.
- 6.4 Moira Gibb thought that to be successful, Central London Forward needed to both be an effective local government forum and engage with other sectors.
- 6.5 Simone Hensby mentioned a review of the organisation of the voluntary sector across London which proposes to reorganise boroughs to mirror GLA sub-regions i.e. “wedges” rather than a Central London sub-region. Camden, along with Westminster and Islington, was resisting this proposal and the existence of Central London Forward supports their position.

## **7 Reports on LSP seminars**

- 7.1 The Chair apologised to any LSP members who were unable to access the venue for the worklessness seminar. Pat Stack expressed surprise that there was no disabled parking in the area. Stephen Jordan also apologised but said there was some disabled parking available. The Leader thanked Stephen for hosting the event and asked the LSP secretariat to draw up an access checklist for future events not held in the Town Hall.
- 7.2 The Chair asked the LSP to note the actions tasked to the Economic Development Partnership and said he would contact Mike Cooke about the Council’s recruitment procedures.
- 7.3 Charlie Legg asked for the presentation slides to be circulated. Barry Peskin thought that trade unions should be involved in discussions about worklessness.

## **8 Minutes of previous meeting**

- 8.1 Simone Hensby had a correction - paragraph 4.1 should read “public sector partners can work with the voluntary and community sector better” not “public sector partners can work together better”.

## **9 Matters arising and future business**

- 9.1 The Chair reported that Civic Forum Steering Group was to meet straight after this meeting.
- 9.2 Mike Webb had just received the report on home care charging requested at the previous meeting and would circulate it soon.
- 9.3 Claire Tunley asked the LSP to note the three additional items circulated with the agenda and papers – the letter from the Government Office for London, the future LSP meeting dates and its work plan.

## **10 Any other business**

- 10.1 There was none.

## **11 Date of next meeting**

- 11.1 The LSP seminar on Area Forums will be held on Tuesday 11 March 2008 at 6:00pm at Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage. Mike Webb confirmed that it was accessible and had disabled parking nearby.
- 11.2 The Leader closed the meeting by commenting that the advent of seminars had not detracted from the quality of discussion in the business meetings.

The meeting closed at 12:25pm.