

ITEM 3a

Camden Local Strategic Partnership	
Meeting	14 October 2010
Report Title	Proposal to create an new thematic partnership on sustainability
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Purpose	This report outlines proposals for setting up a new thematic partnership board focusing on sustainability.
Recommendations	The LSP is asked to endorse the proposal to create a thematic partnership on sustainability.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Protecting the environment is integral to the LSP's vision of a sustainable Camden. In this sub-theme of the Sustainable Community Strategy, the LSP committed to making a contribution to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide in line with national targets (an 80% CO₂ reduction by 2050) and to a short term goal to make Camden a low carbon and low waste borough by 2012. This goal is being measured through national indicators 186 (per capita CO₂ emissions in the LA area) and 191 (residual household waste) with respective targets of 10% and 20% reductions by 2012.
- 1.2 The current sustainability delivery plan for meeting our commitments in the Community Strategy – *Delivering a Sustainable Camden (2008-2012)* – has to an extent been superseded by political changes at the national and local level and the changing economic climate and we believe a renewed focus is now required.
- 1.3 Accordingly, we have started the process of developing a new delivery plan. We are keen to engage the whole community in the development of the plan and at the Camden Green Summit in July, over 100 residents and representatives from community groups and organisations helped to begin the process of developing a new vision for a sustainable, low carbon Camden.
- 1.4 The new plan is also being informed by our recent study on the feasibility of achieving a 40% borough-wide CO₂ reduction by 2020, in line with the Friends of the Earth "Get Serious about CO₂" campaign target. The findings of the study are outlined in this report and have reinforced the need for all sectors in Camden to work together if this target is to be achieved.
- 1.5 This report therefore proposes the creation of a new LSP thematic partnership focusing on sustainability, and climate change in particular, to bring these sectors together to oversee the development and delivery of the new sustainability plan and to identify projects requiring a strategic focus that can achieve the most cost-effective short, medium and long term carbon reductions for the borough.

2. LSP engagement on sustainability issues

- 2.1 Although there has been no thematic sustainability partnership or sub-group affiliated to the LSP, there has been some direct engagement on sustainability issues with the

LSP itself. A progress report on delivery against the Community Strategy green theme was reported to the LSP in March 2008 and the proposal to create a climate change partnership was first considered at a sustainability-focused LSP Seminar in April 2008.

- 2.2 This seminar led to the formation of a steering group, comprising representatives of LSP partners, and the partnership was subsequently launched as the Camden Climate Change Alliance in November 2008. The Alliance steering group now operates as an advisory board and continues to meet quarterly. Its membership is set out in the Appendix.
- 2.3 The Alliance focuses on supporting businesses and other institutions in the borough (i.e. the industrial and commercial sector) to reduce carbon emissions. It currently has 120 members and at the second anniversary event on 24th November we will announce the combined carbon emissions of Alliance members compared to the 2009 baseline, and our progress in meeting the target to reduce our collective CO₂ emissions by 10% by 2012.
- 2.4 The LSP has not focused directly on the other two carbon sectors - the domestic and transport sectors - from a sustainability perspective, although there was some engagement on domestic issues through an LSP-instigated registered social landlord forum during 2009 which explored opportunities for joint working between the Council and housing associations in the borough.
- 2.5 The LSP received two progress reports on the Alliance during 2009 which also served as an opportunity to introduce other initiatives requiring borough-wide collaboration such as climate change adaptation (March 2009) and the Good Food for Camden strategy (October 2009).

3. The rationale for creating an LSP thematic partnership on sustainability

- 3.1 A strategic sustainability partnership is not mandated by central government, but has become necessary from a Camden perspective.
- 3.2 The rationale for the sustainability partnership has primarily emerged from the findings of the 40% borough-wide CO₂ reduction study, which has reinforced the scale of the challenge and the need for a concerted, strategic focus if we are to overcome substantial barriers to delivery.
- 3.3 It will also be crucial that we find ways of engaging the whole community on this agenda. Camden is fortunate in having a vibrant green community sector which, if harnessed effectively, can help us in delivery and in extending interest to the wider community.
- 3.4 Finally, a number of other London boroughs have such created effective sustainability partnerships. These are all strategic in nature and most include representation from the local environmental network/forum.

Findings from the borough-wide 40% CO₂ reduction feasibility study

- 3.5 The consultants Carbon Descent were commissioned to undertake the study due to their consultant role to the FoE campaign and previous work for Camden including the 2007 study, *Delivering a Low Carbon Camden*, which informed the current delivery plan, as well as analysis that informed our NI186 target. The methodology for the 40% study involved the following steps:

- i) Establish Camden’s absolute carbon emissions baseline through NI186 data.
- ii) Calculate business as usual emissions growth given, for example, projected population increase, growth of non-domestic energy demands and transport emission growth.
- iii) Set the carbon reduction target (40% by 2020).
- iv) Assess Camden’s maximum potential for carbon reduction given available resources (for example, there are a finite number of cavity walls that can be insulated and a finite amount of roofs suitable for photovoltaic panels in Camden).
- v) Model a low carbon scenario limited by the maximum resource potential and the cost effectiveness and deliverability of measures.

3.6 The recommended package of measures to achieve the 40% target is set out in Table 1 below. Key points of note include the role of the decarbonised national grid; the significance of CHP led energy networks and the need for a step-change in the amount of solid wall insulation across Camden.

Table 1 – Key Measures

Measure	Scale	% of total CO ₂ saving
Combined Heat and Power led energy networks	120 MW (Camden currently has under 1MW of installed CHP capacity)	19.2%
Solid wall insulation	35,000 homes (58% of all Camden homes)	11.1%
Road transport efficiencies	An increase in new car efficiency to 95kgCO ₂ /km and an increase the biofuel mix in fuels by 10% by 2020	7.4%
Renewables	20,000 domestic installations and 15MW of commercial	2.1%
Behaviour change	Domestic and commercial	11.5%
Green National Grid	Accounting for 974,000 MWh of electricity	43.0%
Others	Cavity wall and loft insulation, double glazing; energy efficient lighting	5.7%
Total		100.0%

3.7 The study includes an assessment of the risks inherent in meeting the target within the Camden context. This makes the following observations:

- The Camden model depends on the new Government continuing to support similar initiatives to those outlined in the previous administration’s Low Carbon Transition Plan.
- Uncertainty over the security of local government finances may reduce the amount of money available to help support and fund appropriate projects.
- CHP capacity at the scale of 120MW will be challenging given procurement complexity, the need for agreement between multiple stakeholders and the high initial capital costs.
- The carbon intensity of the grid is largely outside Camden’s control and should Department of Energy & Climate Change’s projections not be realised there is a strong risk that the target will not be met.

- External solid wall insulation on the scale proposed is difficult to achieve given the proportion of conservation areas and the high costs and disruption associated with internal solid wall insulation.
- Camden has less direct influence over the Commercial and Industrial Sector which has the highest proportion of emissions in the borough.

3.8 The total capital cost of implementing all measures over the period is estimated to be £783.5 million. These are presented as “whole community” costs which combine local authority investment with that of private companies, individuals and Government. Whole life costing analysis suggests that implementing these measures results in an overall positive Net Present Value of £718.5 million by 2030. This indicates that investing in carbon reduction technology is cost effective over time.

Camden’s green community sector

- 2.6 There is an extensive and active network of green groups in the borough. Camden Climate Action Network (Camden CAN) was formed in October 2007 as the successor to the longstanding Local Agenda 21 Core Group. Camden CAN was recently relaunched as a network of residents, businesses, schools, community groups and voluntary organisations in Camden taking action on climate change. Organisations affiliated to Camden CAN on its website include: Economical Environmentalist, Camden Greenpeace, Camden Cycling Campaign, Alliance Against Urban 4x4s, Fleet Community Newspaper, Gaia Foundation, Camden Friends of the Earth, Camden Green Fair, Highgate Climate Action Network, Transition Belsize, Transition Bloomsbury, Kentish Town City Farm, Freecycle and Global Generation.
- 2.7 There are currently nine Transition Towns (TTs) in Camden: Belsize, Bloomsbury, Fitzrovia, Frognal and Fitzjohn’s, Hampstead Heath, Kentish Town, Kilburn, King’s Cross and Primrose Hill. These are at different stages of development and each has its own terms of reference reflecting local interest and ambitions.
- 2.8 Other sustainability-related community fora in the borough include: a Sustainable Schools Forum (SSF), which meets quarterly to help schools share ideas and gain support for their activities; the Camden Environmental Education Network (CEEN), which brings together representatives from the public, private, community and voluntary sector committed to working with children and younger people; and, Camden’s Good Food Partnership, which was established by LB Camden and NHS Camden in 2009 to support the implementation of the Good Food for Camden Strategy.

Other London borough LSP sustainability partnerships

- 3.9 There are a number of examples of London borough LSP sustainability partnerships with a strategic focus and representation from the local environmental network/forum.
- 3.10 ***Croydon’s Environment and Climate Change Partnership’s (ECCP)*** aim is to secure progress in addressing key themes of Croydon’s vision, including improving the local environment, improving access to sustainable transport and driving down energy consumption in response to the challenges of climate change. The Partnership oversees delivery of the following priorities:
- Tackling climate change by reducing CO₂ emissions, including domestic emissions.
 - Facilitating a model shift to sustainable transport.
 - Effective management of our natural resources to ensure climate resilience.
 - Addressing waste and improving environmental quality.
 - Effective communications and marketing for individual behavior change.

- Supporting the low carbon economy.
- 3.11 The Partnership board is accountable for the delivery of LAA targets for NI186, 192, 195 and 198. Members include: the lead Cabinet Member, Croydon Economic Development Company, NHS Croydon, Transport for London, Environment Agency, Natural England, Voluntary and Faith Sector and the Croydon Council Urban Regeneration Vehicle.
- 3.12 The board supports a number of strategy sub-groups. These include the existing South London Waste Partnership, Transport Board and District Energy Programme Board, while further Adaptation, Residential and Low Carbon Economy Strategy groups have been set up specifically for the work of the ECCP.
- 3.13 **Islington's Environment and Sustainability Theme Board** brings together key partner organisations from the statutory, private, community, voluntary, faith and business sectors to improve liveability and sustainability across the borough and particularly in the most deprived neighbourhoods. The Board is responsible for overseeing the achievement of a sub-set of targets in Islington's LAA. Key partners include Islington Council, Community and voluntary sector representatives, Homes for Islington, Registered Social Landlords and the Islington Environment Forum (IEF).
- 3.14 The IEF is supported by the Theme Board and is made up of organisations that operate in Islington to protect or improve Islington's environment and long-term sustainability.
- 3.15 **Lewisham's Sustainable Development Partnership** has the broadest remit of the London borough models, acting as the strategic lead for the physical development of the borough and the well-being of citizens, specifically housing, regeneration, transport and the environment. Its goals are the achievement of the sustainable community strategy priority outcomes and LAA targets. It leads on behalf of the LSP on oversight of the development and implementation of key strategic documents including:
- People, Prosperity, Place – Lewisham Regeneration Strategy.
 - Local Development Framework.
 - Local Improvement Plan for Transport.
 - Lewisham Housing Strategy.
 - Climate Change Strategy.
 - Waste Management Strategy.
- 3.16 **Sutton's Sustainable Living Themed Partnership** is responsible for its priority of creating a greener, cleaner borough and it oversees the development and delivery of Sutton's One Planet Living strategy. The Partnership is chaired by the lead Cabinet Member and members include Bioregional (the locally-based consultants who developed One Planet Living), Ecolocal (who run the Sutton Environment Network, comprising over 1,800 local people, groups and organisations) the South London Partnership, Government Office for London, NHS Sutton and Merton and Transport for London

4. Purpose and terms of reference

Purpose of the partnership board

- 4.1 The following questions have been a useful guide in helping to clarify the principal purpose of a Camden LSP sustainability thematic partnership:

- What can the partnership usefully do?
- What problems does it need to solve?
- How can it add value to addressing these problems?

4.2 It is proposed that answers to these questions will crystallise during the development process for the new borough sustainability delivery plan (2011-2020) and it would therefore seem appropriate that the new partnership board has an ongoing role in overseeing the development, delivery, monitoring and review of the new plan. Key objectives for the partnership board would be to:

- Identify initiatives requiring strategic focus and partnership that have the biggest potential for achieving the goals in the delivery plan.
- Engage all borough and regional partners and community sectors that can help deliver these initiatives and goals.

Linkages and reporting to the LSP

4.3 The sustainability partnership would become one of five thematic partnerships and a representative of the Partnership Board would need to be identified to report back at LSP meetings on progress of the partnership and to ensure that the LSP itself maintains the highest level strategic overview of the work. In the past, link members to the other thematic partnerships have largely been identified within existing LSP members.

4.4 It is suggested that the current representative of the Camden Housing Association and Co-op Forum and the Deputy Leader of the Council would be appropriate link persons.

Chairing arrangements

4.5 A chair and vice-chair will be designated from the membership of the Partnership Board.

Membership of the Partnership Board

4.6 It is important that all sectors of the community are represented on the Partnership Board. The literature on effective governing boards usually cites no more than 15 members on a Board, as any more reduces effective decision making. It is proposed that the Partnership Board comprises the following membership:

- i) Elected representative - Portfolio holder for Sustainability
- ii) Camden Council – AD Public Realm & Sustainability
- iii) Public sector - British Library
- iv) University sector representative – University College London
- v) Social housing sector - Camden Housing Association and Co-op Forum
- vi) Commercial landlord – Bedford Estates
- vii) Schools – Schools Forum
- viii) Commercial sector – Inmidtown
- ix) Developer – Argent
- x) Local economy – representative from the Economic Development Partnership
- xi) Conservation - representative from the Conservation Area Advisory Committees
- xii) Voluntary and community sector representative - nominated from the Camden Community Empowerment Network;
- xiii) Voluntary and community sector representative - nominated from the Camden Climate Action Network

- 4.7 The Board will be able to co-opt representatives from relevant national and regional bodies such as Greater London Authority, Transport for London, North London Waste Authority, the Energy Saving Trust and the Environment Agency as required.

Role of members

- 4.8 Members will be involved in influencing the strategic direction of environmental sustainability work in Camden. It is expected that members will take responsibility to bring relevant issues to the Board from their respective organisations and networks as well as taking the thinking and direction of the Board back into those networks, to shape the contributions to sustainability of the wider partnerships and community to those strategic aims.
- Members must ensure their agencies provide the input and information to enable effective prioritisation and strategic decision making.
 - Members must have delegated authority to make decisions and accountability should be clear, without superseding the responsibilities of any member agency.
 - Members will retain their own executive authority but be able to take decisions for their organisation and commit resources where necessary to the new delivery plan. Members must be able to commit the organisation they represent to policy, development and practice improvement.

Working groups

- 4.9 It is proposed that the Partnership Board would be able to establish any project focused working groups that can further its aims. It is proposed that the partnership reviews the ongoing arrangements for the existing Alliance Advisory Board as part of this process.

Support arrangements

- 4.10 The Partnership Board would be supported by the council's Corporate Sustainability Team.

Frequency of meetings

- 4.11 It is proposed that meetings will be held quarterly during office hours and will be of two hours duration. However, it is suggested that there will be need for more frequent meetings during the development phase of the new delivery plan.

Quorum

- 4.12 The meetings will be quorate with eight members.

Review of TOR and the effectiveness of the Board

- 4.13 The terms of reference will be reviewed after the first four meetings.

5. Next steps/timetable

- 5.1 Subject to agreement to the proposal to establish the sustainability partnership, it is proposed that a first meeting of the Partnership Board is arranged for November 2010

to enable it to take ownership of the process for and development of the new sustainability delivery plan.

- 5.2 The Partnership Board would hold its second meeting in mid-January to agree the public consultation draft for the delivery plan which will be issued for public consultation prior to the second Camden Green Summit, scheduled for the end of January 2011.
- 5.3 Following a four week period of consultation, the Partnership Board would agree a final draft of the plan at its third meeting in February 2011 before its submission for adoption by Cabinet on 6th April 2011 and reporting to a subsequent LSP meeting.
- 5.4 The Partnership Board would meet quarterly thereafter.

REPORT ENDS

Appendix - Membership of the Alliance Advisory Board

Name	Organisation
Oliver Myers	LB Camden, Chair
Rodger Madelin	Argent
Stephen McKinnell	Birkbeck/London Universities
Chris Downs	Camden Borough Police
Nick Iles	Camden NHS
Simon Pitkeathley	Camden Town Unlimited
Rachel Starling	High Speed 1
Tass Mavrogordato	Inholborn
Judith Hunt	Kings Cross Business Forum
Mark Hazelton	London Fire Service
Jason Cousins	Olswang
Joanne Wilson	University College London Hospitals
Kevin Nunan	Voluntary Action Camden