

ITEM 9

Minutes of the Camden Local Strategic Partnership Tuesday 17 March, 6pm, Camden Town Hall

Present

- Cllr Keith Moffitt (Chair of LSP), London Borough of Camden, Leader
- Stephen Jordan, London & Continental Stations and Property, Managing Director
- Mick Hickey, Job Centre Plus, External Relations Manager – Central London District
- Dominic Clout, Metropolitan Police Service, Camden Borough Commander
- Shelagh O'Connor, Camden Community Empowerment Network (Vice Chair) and New Horizon Youth Centre
- Simone Hensby, Camden Community Empowerment Network (Chair) and Voluntary Action Camden
- Richard Bell, Learning and Skills Council, Partnership Director London Central
- Moira Gibb, London Borough of Camden, Chief Executive
- Simon Pitkeathley, Camden Town Unlimited, Chief Executive (in place of Chris Shaw)
- Stephen Jordan, London & Continental Stations and Property, Managing Director
- Karen Wilson, Camden Housing Association and Co-op Forum and Origin Housing Group, Chief Executive
- Ann Baxter, London Borough of Camden, Director of Children's Services
- Michael Quy, London Fire Brigade, Camden Borough Commander
- Cllr Andrew Marshall, London Borough of Camden, Executive Member for Community Development and Planning
- Paul Fox, NHS Camden, Acting Head of Public Health

Also in attendance

- Sarah Mullen, London Borough of Camden, Assistant Chief Executive
- Jackie Barry-Purssell, Audit Commission, Comprehensive Area Assessment Lead
- Rachel Stopard, London Borough of Camden, Director of Culture and Environment (Item 5 only)
- Finn O'Brien, London Borough of Camden, Head of Performance (Items 1 to 3 only)
- Ed Watson, London Borough of Camden, Assistant Director, Planning and Public Protection (Items 1 to 4 only)
- Donna Turnbull, Camden Community Empowerment Network, Strategy and Policy Officer
- Tony Joseph, local businessman
- Mary Burguieres, London Borough of Camden, Head of Policy
- Mike Webb, London Borough of Camden, Senior Policy Officer

Note: this meeting was postponed from 20 February and it was not possible to retain the original running order. As a result, the numbering below does not correspond with item numbers on agenda.

1 Introductions, apologies for absences

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Rob Larkman, David Latchman, Pat Stack and Louise Matlock. There was a round of introductions.

2 Responding together to the recession

- 2.1 The Chair introduced this item by setting out the council's strategy for tackling the recession as agreed on 2 March as part of its 2009/10 budget. The council tax freeze is both symbolic and a top priority for residents, evidenced by the Camden Talks survey last year. The other main plank of the response is the Recovery Fund, worth £6m over 2 years. Much of it fills the LDA funding gap and it feels frustrating and counterintuitive that the council is having to pick up the pieces at this time. However there is also funding to:

- increase capacity in advice services
- maintain the vitality of our high streets, which may only need small interventions in some cases
- promote Camden as a tourist destination – the council has already agreed to contribute to a £10m advertising campaign led by Visit London

- 2.2 Sarah Mullen added that the £6m fund was part of a wider response to the recession which includes getting the most out of existing resources, continuing a dialogue with the Homes and Communities Agency and accessing Mortgage Rescue and other central government funding.

- 2.3 She continued that the council was now moving to implementation of the response. In the immediate term, its target for paying invoices will be 10 days from 1 April and it is in discussions with advice providers to increase capacity and provide a more joined-up service, including the possibility of a single advice number. In the medium term, the council is exploring opportunities around business space on the high street and tourism promotion, both London-wide as mentioned by the Chair and work specific to the Camden context. It will of course maintain a dialogue with LSP partners. The seminar in June will provide an opportunity to review progress on the response and explore whether further interventions are required as evidence emerges.

- 2.4 Sarah tabled a revised and updated version of the recession dashboard, which the LSP will receive at every business meeting. The picture is not dissimilar to January, with fewer transactions in the property market, steadily increasing unemployment (although not as quickly as in Outer London) and rising numbers of new housing benefit claims. However we are not yet seeing an impact on collection rates for business rates and rents, payment of council tax or homelessness.

- 2.5 The Chair commented that the message from a recent London Councils meeting was that London is not as badly hit as the rest of the country so far. This is counterintuitive and demonstrates why we need

the dashboard. Cllr Marshall said that he liked the format and that the time lag effect of the recession could be greatest for the better off Camden residents. They may not be signing on but the impact of their decreased spending will filter through to the rest of the borough.

- 2.6 Paul Fox said that the impact of free leisure activities funded by the PCT in partnership with GLL are not yet reflected in the dashboard but has resulted in 600 new members in March so far. Simone Hensby added that health and well-being issues such as mental health were not well reflected in the dashboard. Moira Gibb pointed out the PCT is currently expanding its services for people with mild to moderate mental ill-health. Paul Fox and Sarah Mullen agreed to look at ways of doing this but Sarah reminded the LSP that underneath the dashboard, council directorates and their partners are monitoring a host of other recession issues.
- 2.7 Karen Wilson wondered if there was some way of capturing the impact on charitable giving and the subsequent knock-on effects for local voluntary organisations. Simone Hensby replied that it is something VAC are concerned about and would be exploring further.
- 2.8 Simon Pitkeathley said the picture in Camden Town was mixed. One of the markets is due to open 150 new stalls next month with European visitors still spending. On the other hand, the creative media business is still down. In terms of hospitality and catering, customers are now definitely looking for value. In response to the recession, Camden Town Unlimited have frozen its BID levy, are implementing the Wedge Card loyalty scheme in the areas and looking for a landlord to support “pop up shops” – there are no shortage of prospective tenants from the fashion and art worlds.
- 2.9 Dominic Clout reported that all major crime types are still falling.
- 2.10 Mick Hickey added that Job Centre Plus Central London are now recruiting for a 40% increase in staff over the next nine months. It will increase capacity for the newly unemployed while maintaining services for the long term workless. Its other main aim is to increase the proportion of vacancies it advertises.
- 2.11 Ann Baxter emphasised that the dashboard showed that the anticipated migration of independent school pupils to the state sector has not materialised.

3 Camden’s Local Area Agreement 2008-2011

- 3.1 Finn O’Brien drew the LSP’s attention to the revised report circulated prior to the meeting and also a further tabled update. She said that the Executive had approved the refreshed LAA at the end of February and delegated final sign-off to the Leader and the Assistant Chief Executive. She asked the LSP to approve the following changes to the LAA:

- Inclusion of NI158 on decent homes
- Targets for 7 indicators that did not previously have them:
 - Local B - overcrowding
 - Local G - small businesses
 - NI1 and NI6 – people getting on well together and volunteering - targets set using draft results of the Place Survey
 - NI15 – serious violent crime
 - NI19 – reoffending by young offenders
 - NI111 – first time entrants to the youth justice system
- Ongoing work by the Economic Development Partnership to revise worklessness targets
- Removal of two local indicators – drug crime in Camden Town and ESOL

3.2 Finn stressed that the removal of the two indicators did not mean they were no longer priorities and Dominic Clout and Mick Hickey would be able to report on progress as link members to the relevant thematic partnerships. Dominic reminded the LSP why the proposed measure, the number of drug deals witnessed by CCTV operators, was inappropriate. The police had invested in a covert operation which involved the uniformed presence being taken away. This meant an increase in dealing in the short term as the police gathered evidence which has now resulted in prison terms for dealers. The media picked up on the increase, which shows how problematic the indicator is. The Chair thought that it was good to be responsive and flexible as regards indicators that are not working.

3.3 Stephen Jordan commented that it was disappointing that education targets were only set a year at a time as all other indicators have a three year target which helps in forward planning, although he did recognise it was out of the council's hands. Ann Baxter reassured him that individual schools do have future targets for attainment and Contextual Value Added although these are not reflected in targets agreed with central government.

3.4 Simone Hensby raised the issue of ESOL also being one of the basket of indicators that make up the local Social Cohesion indicator. Finn said this was the one unfinished piece of business and it would be discussed at the Social Cohesion Forum next month. She added that the problem with the ESOL indicator was bringing together provision and targeting in a single measure. However the Economic Development Partnership will continue to manage this area of work and she recommended the LSP take an interest in it in its entirety.

3.5 The LSP noted and agreed the changes to the LAA and the arrangements for its final revisions and sign-off.

4 Comprehensive Area Assessment Update

- 4.1 Jackie Barry-Purssell gave the LSP an update on the CAA process. The framework is now in place and guidance on the Area Assessment and Organisational Assessment is due at the end of the month. The new regime starts on 1 April.
- 4.2 The Audit Commission's report on Camden will be published in November. It will be preceded by some early feedback for the LSP in June and a draft report in September. The Background Notes that were circulated are an internal Audit Commission document which Jackie has shared with partners to reflect its "no surprises" approach. It is very much a work in progress.
- 4.3 Camden is working on a self-evaluation, which while not mandatory will be useful and most boroughs are doing one. Finn said that Extended PPG is carrying out this work on behalf of the LSP. It is similar to the old CPA Self-Assessment although it reflects the new regime's emphasis on areas like outcomes, community engagement and self-awareness about areas for improvement. Jackie added that the CAA better reflects local differences and recognises that some challenges are long term so may not result in better outcomes immediately. This is why there is an emphasis on evidence that plans are in place to address these challenges. She reminded the LSP that there is no inspection event and that other inspectorates are involved.
- 4.4 Ann Baxter commented that some of the children and young people's data was very out of date. Jackie replied that they were using the latest published data but would be more than happy to correct inaccuracies. Ann also asked about the relationship with Ofsted. Jackie said Ofsted would focus on the most vulnerable children but the situation would become clearer once the local Ofsted lead is in place.
- 4.5 Paul Fox also highlighted some inaccuracies in the data. The Chair thanked Jackie for sharing it, who said that it was really a starting point for a dialogue. Finn said that inaccuracies would be addressed as part of the self-evaluation rather than correcting the Background Notes.

5 Camden's Community Strategy: Camden Together 2007-2012

- 5.1 Rachel Stopard introduced herself as the council's corporate lead on Camden Town. The report sets out work to date and the future governance arrangements. Partners are all aware of the issues and we are now firmly focused on action. The report has had input from Camden Town Unlimited (CTU) and other partners. The report follows closely the Camden Town Vision as set out in the community strategy and as a consequence tends to downplay the contributions community organisations make to the life of Camden Town. Rachel noted that she would address this deficit in her presentation and invite others to contribute.

- 5.2 The report covers three main areas. The first is crime reduction where there is a good story following increased police resources and the council-funded PCSOs. However we cannot afford to relax in this area.
- 5.3 The second area is streetscape. Improvements in the Chalk Farm area are well underway. Work on the High Street north of the underground station, funded by the council and partners, will begin in June. The council and CTU are continuing to lobby Transport for London for £7m funding to improve Cobden and Britannia Junctions. They are the two gateways to Camden Town and their importance during the Olympics is central to the lobbying strategy. The council is optimistic and the schemes are ready to go if funding is received. Finally, the planning brief for Hawley Wharf is out for consultation and the council is seeking to strike a balance between the needs of local people and visitors.
- 5.4 The final area is improving perceptions of Camden Town, a longer term aim given its challenging nature. We want to move away from images of drug dealing and general seediness and promote the area's cultural offer and appeal to a wider range of people. This began on a small scale with the LDA-funded marketing campaign last year which has provided some momentum.
- 5.5 Work on Camden Town forms part of the council's wider placeshaping agenda. It is one of six Areas of Focus in the borough. The first stage has been developing Area Profiles, which set out the physical, economic and social infrastructure of the areas. This has been supported by consultation at the council's Area Forums. The actions identified will be brought together in Place Plans for each area.
- 5.6 The report also looks at issues through the lens of the recession. There are risks and opportunities particularly at the southern end of the High Street. Partners are looking at ideas, including pop up shops to help foster entrepreneurship.
- 5.7 In terms of future governance and reporting, there will be fewer conversations and a greater focus on delivery. The report proposes an annual report back to the LSP, perhaps with wider stakeholders attending.
- 5.8 The voluntary sector makes a major contribution to the social infrastructure of the area through organisations such as Castlehaven, St Pancras and Primrose Hill Community Centres, and the Pirate Castle. The latter will receive some section 106 funding pending approval by the council's Development Control Committee next week.
- 5.9 Ann Baxter reinforced Rachel's point, highlighting the range of services for children and young people offered by Castlehaven, particularly its inclusion projects. New Horizon Youth Centre (NHYC) is another major player in this area, having just successfully bid for £1.5m of DCSF

Myplace funding. It provides services for the most vulnerable young people, including young homeless people. Shelagh O'Connor mentioned its very successful work with the police and the council's homelessness services. Encouragingly, the young street population is stable. Shelagh was delighted to receive the funding and the Chair congratulated NHYC on their success.

- 5.10 Simone Hensby reported feedback from the Community Empowerment Network (CEN). Safer Neighbourhood Teams, the PCSOs and ward councillors were all praised and there was scope for more partnership working particularly in developing links with local businesses to get more local residents into work in Camden Town.
- 5.11 Cllr Marshall commented that designing out crime is crucial in Camden Town because street furniture is used for stashing drugs. There are still tensions between residents and businesses as demonstrated by the recently introduced parking restrictions in Chalk Farm Road. Finally, the council needs to think more creatively about its role in relation to businesses and deliver services such as planning and business support in a more integrated way.
- 5.12 Simon Pitkeathley replied that in most cases businesses and residents have very similar interests, particularly the priorities such as crime and streetscape. Cllr Marshall agreed.
- 5.13 Dominic Clout thought that an annual report was too infrequent. A quarterly report providing the wider picture would allow partners to respond in a timely way to issues. Rachel suggested regular informal progress updates and Cllr Marshall said it would be OK as long as it wasn't too burdensome.
- 5.14 Rachel was asked about the Placeshaping Board. It is currently a cross-council body only but there are plans to widen it out to partners in the future.
- 5.15 Stephen Jordan mentioned that he had met CTU to look at the linkages between King's Cross and Camden Town. They both recognise the need to knit the two areas together given St Pancras is now a major gateway to London. The canal offers a natural link between the two and they are planning further discussions with other organisations based along it.
- 5.16 The Chair said that the next Community Strategy monitoring report, on culture and leisure, would be the final one in the cycle. At the July meeting there will be an overview of the first two years. The LSP will need to think about how the Community Strategy is monitored after that point.

6 “Closing Time” – Camden Primary Care Trust’s Annual Public Health Report 2007/8

- 6.1 Paul Fox introduced this report by explaining that each year the PCT takes a thematic approach to its statutory duty to produce an Annual Public Health Report in order to make it more accessible. Alcohol was chosen for this year’s report because it is a real issue in Camden and requires partnership working to address it. Paul’s presentation is available with the papers for this meeting from www.camden.gov.uk/lspmeetings.
- 6.2 The Chair mentioned that the binge drinking in his ward, West Hampstead, can be attributed to its young, affluent population. Simon Pitkeathley thought it was important to distinguish between pubs and off sales given that a lot of harm is done by cheap alcohol from supermarkets and off licences. He also stressed the role of late night food bars as flashpoints for alcohol-fuelled crime. Paul Fox agreed with this assessment but said there was no hard data to back it up. He reiterated the link in his presentation between consumption and cost.
- 6.3 Shelagh O’Connor said the problem for street drinkers was the high alcohol content of drinks not just the cost. In some cases, treatment is about encouraging drinkers to consume standard strength drinks. Paul said that while the Prove It scheme focused on underage sales, there was scope for test purchases aimed at discouraging retailers from selling to obviously intoxicated drinkers.
- 6.4 Karen Wilson asked if there was any data on the ethnic origin of alcohol misusers as this would help to target interventions. Paul replied that NHS ethnicity coding has historically been poor although it is better for extreme events such as alcohol-related deaths. However the PCT has used social marketing to address attitudes in particular communities. After initial concerns about stereotyping, the work provided important insights about attitudes to alcohol and Paul offered to share the reports.
- 6.5 Dominic Clout thought the Best Bar None scheme was extremely valuable. It has gone from strength to strength and really changed the behaviour of licensees. The council and its partners should extend and promote it. He agreed that kebab shops should close at 2am and echoed the point that alcohol misuse can be tackled if partners work together.
- 6.6 The Chair thanked Paul for his presentation.

7 Election of the Vice Chair

- 7.1 Although Rob Larkman was not present at the meeting, he had indicated to the Chair that he was willing to be nominated as Vice Chair for another year. The Chair did so and was seconded by Dominic Clout.

Rob Larkman was therefore reappointed as Vice Chair until March 2010.

8 Thematic partnership updates

- 8.1 Ann Baxter updated the LSP on three areas of activity of the Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP):
- Raising standards especially through the £250m Building Schools for the Future programme, which is about transforming secondary education rather than building schools.
 - The national Children and Young People's Health and Well-being Strategy, aimed at joining up DH and DCSF work on issues such as alcohol.
 - Lord Laming's recently published review of safeguarding arrangements. It made some of recommendations for CYPPs including stronger links with the Safeguarding Children Boards. Revised "Working Together" guidance will be published and Ann said she would report to the LSP once the implications are clear.
- 8.2 The Chair thanked Ann for her contribution to Lord Laming's report.

9 Reports and updates on LSP seminars and working groups

- 9.1 The Chair reported that the Social Cohesion Forum decided at its meeting on 12 January that it would become more structured and develop a forward work programme based on the findings of the Social Capital Survey.
- 9.2 It also agreed delivery plans for NIs 1 and 6, and Local Indicator H and to pass responsibility for NI 6 to the Economic Development Partnership.
- 9.3 The Chair added that in his role as the Chair of the SCF, he thought the Forum should look at the impact of the recession on social cohesion, although there was no evidence of increased tensions so far.

10 Minutes of previous meeting

- 10.1 The minutes were agreed.

11 Matters arising and future business

- 11.1 The Chair said the LSP would need to decide how it would monitor progress on the Community Strategy after the July meeting.

12 Any other business

- 12.1 There was none.

13 Dates of forthcoming meetings

13.1 The LSP agreed the dates of meetings for 2009/10, noting the shift to Thursday of the seminars and the additional seminar on 17 June.

Summary of decisions and actions arising from the meeting

The LSP will:

- receive a version of the dashboard at every business meeting until further notice
- use the seminar on 17 June to review progress on the response to the recession and explore whether further interventions are required as evidence emerges.
- consider how the Community Strategy is monitored in the future at its July meeting
- Rob Larkman was re-elected as Vice Chair of the LSP until March 2010