

ITEM 10

Minutes of the Camden Local Strategic Partnership

Thursday 9 July 2009, 10:30am, Camden Town Hall

Present

- Cllr Keith Moffitt (Chair of LSP), London Borough of Camden, Leader
- Professor David Latchman, Master, Birkbeck College
- Stephen Jordan, London & Continental Stations and Property, Managing Director
- Mick Hickey, Job Centre Plus, External Relations Manager – Central London District
- Ch Insp Louis Smith, Metropolitan Police (in place of Dominic Clout)
- Simone Hensby, Camden Community Empowerment Network (Chair) and Voluntary Action Camden
- Peter Ward, Camden Community Empowerment Network and Camden Police Community Consultative Group (in place of Shelagh O'Connor)
- Sarah Elie, Camden Community Empowerment Network and Somerstown Community Association
- Ruth Appleton, Camden Community Empowerment Network and Santé Refugee Mental Health Access Project (in place of Pat Stack)
- Moira Gibb, London Borough of Camden, Chief Executive
- Karen Wilson, Camden Housing Association and Co-op Forum and Origin Housing Group, Chief Executive
- Michael Quy, London Fire Brigade, Camden Borough Commander
- Rob Larkman, NHS Camden, Chief Executive
- Simon Pitkeathley, Camden Town Unlimited, Chief Executive (in place of Chris Shaw)
- Richard Bell, Learning and Skills Council London Central, Partnership Director

Also in attendance

- Cllr Chris Knight, London Borough of Camden, Executive Member Environment
- Sarah Mullen, London Borough of Camden, Assistant Chief Executive
- Finn O'Brien, London Borough of Camden, Head of Performance
- Jackie Barry-Purssell, Audit Commission, CAA Lead for Camden
- Joyce Saunders, Audit Commission
- Janet Capstick, Government Office for London, Locality Manager – North London
- Omar Ralph, Government Office for London, Locality Manager – North London
- Jonathan Mills, London Borough of Camden, Interim Head of Performance
- Donna Turnbull, Camden Community Empowerment Network, Strategy and Policy Officer
- Mary Burguieres, London Borough of Camden, Head of Policy
- Mike Webb, London Borough of Camden, Senior Policy Officer
- Chelsea Okung, London Borough of Camden, work experience student

1 Introductions and apologies for absences

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Andrew Marshall, Ann Baxter, Kevin Munslow, Paul Fox, Dominic Clout, Pat Stack and Shelagh O'Connor. Chief Inspector Louis Smith, Peter Ward and Ruth Appleton substituted for the latter three.
- 1.2 After a round of introductions, the Chair asked Michael Quy to comment on the recent fire in Camberwell. He couldn't comment on the specific incident due to the ongoing investigation but there would no doubt be some learning from it. His experience is that fire safety in Camden Council housing stock is good and getting better. The Fire Brigade works closely with the Housing Department on joint inspections. However there is still work to be done - there have been incidents in blocks this year and minor fire safety problems have been identified and are being dealt with. Michael encouraged partners to continue to invest in safety as the benefits are much greater than the costs of investment – a fire can cause £25,000 worth of damage to a single flat. The council has a good team but they have to cover a large housing stock. The Fire Authority will be writing to all local authorities and housing associations to remind them of their responsibilities.
- 1.3 Michael distributed leaflets about escaping a fire in a high rise and offered to provide more if partners required them e.g. to put in annual tenant packs.
- 1.4 Karen Wilson echoed the need for investment in preventative measures. However she commented that the legislation has become quite complicated and more guidance from the Fire Brigade would be useful. Michael replied that the 2005 legislation put the responsibility for fire safety with the owner and the Fire Brigade then advises on their proposals.
- 1.5 The Chair added that the council's recent stock condition survey was generally encouraging but there is always a need to double check after an event like this.
- 1.6 The Chair asked Rob Larkman for an update on swine flu. He stressed that the cases in the borough have been mild and self-limiting. Sufferers should contact their GP if they experience more severe symptoms and nominate a "flu friend" to collect any Tamiflu prescriptions from one of the four pharmacies distributing stocks in the borough. If we move to the next level of epidemic, five anti-viral distribution centres are ready to open across the borough.

2 Delivering Camden's Community Strategy: Camden Together 2007-2012

a) Camden Together biennial review

- 2.1 Mary Burguieres introduced this item, taking the LSP through slides outlining the work so far on the biennial review of *Camden Together*. It was quite rich in information; LSP members were not expected to absorb the whole document at once and it would be circulated electronically after the meeting.
- 2.2 When Camden Together was launched in 2007, partners committed to take stock of progress and review objectives two years on. Much of the content of the presentation is not new because the LSP has reviewed progress theme by theme over the past two years. However the biennial review is an opportunity to look at the bigger picture and challenge ourselves about the future, particularly in light of the changes in the economy.
- 2.3 The review will take account of new evidence, notably the Place Survey, the headline results of which were circulated with the papers. It is a new statutory survey covering the whole area, not just council services. The results of the survey should be seen in the context of Camden's own surveys particularly where there are differences and similarities.
- 2.4 Mary did not talk through the themes in detail but noted common issues across the "key challenges and horizon scanning" sections. The first is the impact of the recession. Often there has been no discernable impact to date or the impact is unclear. The second is the lack of real-time quality data to measure some of the commitments. This is particularly true for capturing the contribution of businesses to the borough's strategic priorities. The LSP recognised that it couldn't wait for the data to inform a response to the recession hence the initiatives in the Recovery Fund on town centres and key sectors of the economy.
- 2.5 It was proposed that the LSP consider the content of the review in greater detail at its seminar in September. Between then and now further analysis will take place involving the thematic partnerships and the Extended Planning and Performance Group.
- 2.6 David Latchman asked whether there was a disconnect between the perception-based Place Survey and reality. Mary replied that we know that generally there is a mismatch between perception and performance in public services. Public perceptions are important but they are often influenced by factors beyond our control such as national events.
- 2.7 Ch Insp Louis Smith said that drugs are a good example of this phenomenon. It is possible to build up an "objective" picture of drugs

from a range of police and PCT data. Camden residents want to know about enforcement work and this has the effect of heightening their awareness of crime and anti-social behaviour. Paradoxically this has been coupled with an increase in satisfaction with police work. This is not the same in other boroughs. Despite the range of data, we cannot identify the complete picture of drugs activity because unlike other crimes, its impact is not always apparent to the police.

- 2.8 Professor Latchman replied that this underlined the need to compare with other boroughs. The Chair said that Camden residents perceive gang activity to be much greater than it is. Ch Insp Smith said this was another example of where police success results in more negative perceptions because they tackled a gang problem and publicised the results.
- 2.9 Rob Larkman said that there was no single measure for drug use but a basket of proxy indicators are comparable across boroughs. Professor Latchman said that impressions are important to businesses – in his organisation some staff hadn't wanted to move to Russell Square because of perceived drug use in the area. The Chair added that there is a time lag with perceptions particularly for visitors – King's Cross is a good example of this.
- 2.10 Finn O'Brien said that we have only received the headline findings of the Place Survey so far. Detailed comparisons across London boroughs will be presented to the LSP when they are available. Simone Hensby said it would be useful to know how the questions were phrased as this would have a bearing on the response e.g. the focus of NI3 is very much on service delivery.
- 2.11 Janet Capstick added that the Government Offices were beginning to gather feedback from local authorities on the usefulness of the National Indicator Set (NIS) to measure change over time.
- 2.12 Echoing Mary's earlier point, Stephen Jordan said that we shouldn't be slaves to the data if we are to respond quickly – sometimes personal judgment is important.
- 2.13 Jackie Barry-Purssell said that other areas are grappling with the same issues and reiterated the importance of comparison with neighbours. She also suggested that a piece of work to compare actual performance and perception might be useful.

b) Local Area Agreement annual performance review 2008/9

- 2.14 Finn started by saying that data was not available for all indicators. She went on to highlight the targets which had been flagged as red:
- *Decent Homes* – this is the first data for this indicator because it was added to the LAA in the recent refresh. Although we are off-

target, we are making good progress with work taking place on 300 homes a day.

- *CO₂ emissions* – there is a serious data lag for this indicator. Extended PPG has already discussed the need to track activity in the absence of up-to-date data. The council is also investigating a performance tool produced by the Energy Saving Trust.
- *Business stock* – again a long data lag and the indicator's comparative basis means that even though we did well, our performance is flagged red because Westminster did even better.

- 2.15 Performance on worklessness is on track, not least because the refresh resulted in new targets reflecting the recession. We are keeping a close eye on developments through the recession dashboard.
- 2.16 Janet Capstick recognised the strong partnership working in Camden but stressed there were challenging times ahead not only for the delivery of the LAA but also the wider performance framework of the NIS and CAA. The Government Offices would be doing some research on the usefulness of LAAs in improving public services.
- 2.17 Finn asked the LSP to agree the social cohesion target as set out in paragraph 5.7 of the report. The Chair was concerned that NI1 did not reflect relations between people of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, an important part of social cohesion. He asked if it was possible to reflect this in the basket of indicators. Finn said that there might be other sources of information e.g. the Social Capital Survey. Janet said she would find out what other boroughs were doing.
- 2.18 Karen Wilson asked if the indicators in the basket all had equal weighting. Finn replied that they did. Although she was not involved in its development, she added that while some could have been given greater weight, we might then question whether those with less weight should be included at all.
- 2.19 Ruth Appleton asked whether asylum seekers are included in the worklessness data. Mick Hickey replied that they weren't because it is based on benefit claims. He agreed to find out what data is available and send it to Ruth.
- 2.20 Finn drew the LSP's attention to the proposal that the Heath and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) take responsibility for 8 targets. The creation of the HWBB was approved by the Council's Executive and work is taking place over the summer to prepare for the first meeting in the Autumn once the new Director of Public Health is in post. The overcrowding target could also become the responsibility of the HWBB as it is not currently allocated to a partnership.
- 2.21 Rob Larkman said that the terms of reference for the HWBB should reflect the fact that the NHS Camden board has ultimate responsibility for mortality and other health indicators. Finn said that this is reflected

in the individual LAA delivery plans by NHS Camden being identified as the lead *partner*, whereas the HWBB is the lead *partnership*.

- 2.22 Ch Insp Smith said that perception indicators (NI21 and a Public Attitude Survey) are now a key driver for the police. Although we are awaiting the full results, the Place Survey does indicate that Camden is below the London average on NI21. Camden borough police now have targets to improve performance on NI21 by 8% and on the Public Attitude Survey by 4%.
- 2.23 This will result in policy changes locally. While the council and the police have a good relationship locally, there is room for improvement in communications systems. One issue for the police is that its calls are handled through three London-wide call centres, which are often unhelpful when calls relate to areas of local authority responsibility.
- 2.24 There are also areas where the police and the local authority could work more closely together. NI21 could become more of a priority for the council's *Your Camden* magazine. There might also be scope for co-ordinated weeks of action in "perception hotspots". Sarah Mullen agreed to discuss communications issues further outside the meeting. The Chair added that *Your Camden* does cover crime and anti-social behaviour issues and that he would like to think that the council's call centre refers callers to the police where appropriate. He thought there were some quite simple things that could be done to improve communications.
- 2.25 The LSP formally agreed the recommendations with the exception of that relating to the social cohesion basket of indicators.

3 Comprehensive Area Assessment

- 3.1 Jackie Barry-Purssell, the Audit Commission's CAA lead for Camden, shared the emerging findings of its Area Assessment which had been circulated to the LSP with the agenda.
- 3.2 She began by emphasising the strength of partnership working in the borough. The partnership is very inclusive and willing to tackle thorny issues.
- 3.3 There are three questions asked by the Area Assessment. The first is how well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations? This is a definite strength for Camden as reflected by the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement. Working with the voluntary sector is also strong.
- 3.4 Performance is good overall on the second question, about how well outcomes and improvement are being delivered. Jackie highlighted:
- Multi-agency work in Camden Town
 - COO-L service

- Kentish Town Health Centre's work on reducing health inequalities
 - Engagement of older people and delivery of services
 - Sustainability
 - Place shaping and regeneration – clear progress in Swiss Cottage and Camden Town but a major challenge on decent homes
 - Swift and robust response to the recession
- 3.5 The areas for future focus for this question relate to areas where the Audit Commission is still forming its opinion, where there is a need for further evidence or where a partnership response is needed.
- 3.6 Decent Homes is an example of the latter. Following on from the December 2008 report to the LSP on managing growth, the Audit Commission is looking for reassurance on future milestones and more clarity on the new approach.
- 3.7 Other areas for future focus are:
- Impact of Camden Town work
 - Dealing with anti-social behaviour concerns
 - Impact of the Family Drug and Alcohol Court
 - Sustainability
 - Outcomes-based commissioning
 - Worklessness
 - Impact of recession on estate renewal
 - Social Cohesion Forum
 - Impact of the Local Safeguarding Children Board on trafficking
- 3.8 A final area for future focus not mentioned in the document is the regeneration of King's Cross. The Audit Commission want to understand how the other components of regeneration fit in and to look at it in the round. This will be done through a meeting.
- 3.9 Work on the final question on prospects for future improvement is ongoing. However horizon scanning is well established in the council.
- 3.10 Overall, the assessment so far is positive. Housing is the biggest risk and more information is needed although the Audit Commission recognise that it is a challenging environment.
- 3.11 The assessment will be finalised by the end of September and will include assessments of specific services such as Children's Services and Adult Social Care. The assessment will be made public in December following further engagement with LSP partners.
- 3.12 Jackie finished by saying that partners have 10 days to formally respond to these emerging findings.

- 3.13 The Chair highlighted the recent emergency meeting of the Social Cohesion Forum on the alleged harassment of young Somalis by the security services. Partners were able to respond quickly because systems were in place. The Chair thanked Dominic Clout for his involvement in the meeting.
- 3.14 Finn asked Jackie to elaborate on the Audit Commission's interest in affordable housing provision. She replied that she wanted to know how the approach has changed in light of the recession. Finn and Jackie agreed to continue the discussion outside the meeting.
- 3.15 In response to a question from Ch Insp Smith, Jackie said that the Audit Commission had had input from the police but any additional comments could be filtered through Sarah Mullen.

4 Camden's Children's Trust Partnership

- 4.1 Daxa Kotecha guided the LSP through the three main sections of the report – achievements, Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) and priorities for 2009/10.
- 4.2 The next three-year Children and Young People's Plan is in preparation and will be published in September to fit into the budget setting process for the Council and NHS Camden. There has also been a governance review the main outcomes of which are a streamlining of the five sub-boards, expanding the membership of the Children's Trust Partnership Board (CTPB - formerly the Children and Young People's Partnership Board), and a bringing together of use of resources and performance management.
- 4.3 The key achievements in 2008/9 were:
- Progress on Building Schools for the Future
 - Good GCSE and A level results
 - Refurbishment of playgrounds and a new adventure playground in Kilburn as part of the Play Pathfinder scheme
 - Improve attendance and progression to university among Looked After Children
 - Launch of Young Apprenticeship schemes and diplomas last September with more to follow this September
 - Creation of an integrated youth service, encompassing universal, targeted and specialist services
 - Improved health outcomes – all schools gaining healthy schools status, low teenage pregnancy rates and higher immunisation rates
- 4.4 The LPSA involved working towards stretch targets in return for a reward grant and came to an end in April. The reward grant has not been finalised but the CTPB expects to receive a sum of between £2.5m and £4m. It will be paid in two instalments in 2010 and 2011 with an equal split between capital and revenue. The CTPB are preparing

for an allocation in 2010 of about £1m for each. The capital will be allocated through an open bidding process for grants to the VCS to improve youth facilities. The revenue component will be used to commission two year contracts from internal and external services aligned to priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan.

- 4.5 Key areas of focus for the CTPB this year are:
- Safeguarding children
 - Development of locality-based services
 - Transfer of responsibilities for 16-18 education to the local authority from the LSC
 - Preparing for the forthcoming duty to reduce child poverty
- 4.6 The Chair thanked Daxa for a very clear presentation and congratulated the CTPB on its achievements in the LPSA. Rob Larkman said he had been unable to attend the Board's recent meeting but thought the change of partnership name to Children's Trust sent a powerful message.
- 4.7 Michael Quy asked if BSF was addressing the benefits of sprinklers in new build schools. Simone Hensby welcomed the new cluster approach to schools and children's centres but said that government thinking was that there is still a need for outreach to get people into the clusters. She said she would be happy to share the information she had. Sarah Elie reminded the CTPB that community centres also play an important role as community hubs. Daxa said she would respond to each of these comments outside the meeting.

5 Recession in Camden

- 5.1 Sarah Mullen reported that the discussion at the LSP recession seminar on 17 June was very useful. The council would be using some of the contingency in the Recovery Fund to improve links with key players in the creative and cultural industries and to build on the visitor economy work already under way such as the guide to Camden being produced over the summer.
- 5.2 The recession dashboard tabled at the meeting did not show many major changes. Unemployment is still ticking up but there was only a small increase over the past month. However we should not be complacent especially as numbers tend to increase over the summer. There will be more work done on the emerging issue of youth unemployment, building on the recent bid to the Future Jobs Fund. The bid covers 120 jobs and given the tight timescales, the partnership did well to meet the deadline.
- 5.3 Surprisingly many indicators such as crime are still showing green but the partnership should keep monitoring the situation and be prepared for aftershocks. The Leader added that the monitoring was important despite or perhaps because of issues not materialising. Contrary to

expert opinion, London hasn't been as badly hit as the rest of the country. However there are new issues arising that could not have been predicted, such as the surge in demand for primary school places prompted by the stagnant housing market – unlike in the past, parents are not moving out of the borough when their children reach school age.

- 5.4 Stephen Jordan briefed the LSP on a recent seminar organised by the council and led by Robert Chote of the Institute for Fiscal Studies. It was a downbeat and sobering message. Although Camden has responded robustly to the recession, it will not escape the coming scythe of cuts. Robert Chote used the government's own figures to show that it will take two parliaments to get the public finances back on an even keel. There has been a structural change in the economy which will mean that taxable revenue will not return to previous levels. This will probably result in a mix of tax increases and cuts in services. In this climate, LSP partners will need to think carefully about their priorities.
- 5.5 The Chair said it would be hard to the public to understand these cuts as they will probably coincide with an upturn in the economy. Janet Capstick said the Government Office for London was looking across the capital at where there are pinch points in services.
- 5.6 Simone Hensby reported that the Camden Volunteer Bureau was seeing a dramatic increase in volunteering across a range of skills. There was also anecdotal evidence of an increase in demand for VCS services such as advice, an impact on costs and demand for usage of facilities by statutory agencies. Voluntary Action Camden is planning an event in September on the impact of the recession on the VCS.
- 5.7 Stephen Jordan reminded the LSP that the strong Euro and the inward visitors it brought was keeping the London economy buoyant.

6 Thematic partnership updates

- 6.1 Mick Hickey reported back from the Economic Development Partnership. The outcome of the aforementioned Future Jobs Fund bid should be known in early August, with programmes starting in October if successful.
- 6.2 Mick also informed the LSP of the recent review of Camden Working, the council's family of employment and skills services. The review concluded that it is broadly fit for purpose but some changes would be required to meet the challenges of the current economic climate – greater quality assurance for services, a flexible funding pot for training and closer working with Job Centre Plus. The changes will be implemented over the summer.

7 Reports of LSP seminars and working groups

7.1 The Chair reported that the seminar on the recession, the creative industries and the visitor economy was really brought to life by the venue, the Heatherwick Studio. The place-shaping seminar was also very stimulating. Andrew Barry-Purssell, the GLA's chief planner, was impressed that Camden was engaging with stakeholders on infrastructure issues in this way. The seminar brought together organisations such as Network Rail who are making decisions which have a real impact in Camden. One conclusion from the seminar was that the normal LSP did not have all the right people around the table for discussions about infrastructure. Therefore it was proposed that an infrastructure subgroup be set up. The LSP agreed to consider terms of reference for the group at its next business meeting.

7.2 The Social Cohesion Forum was mentioned under item 3 above.

8 Minutes of previous meeting

8.1 The minutes of the 23 April meeting were agreed.

9 Matters arising

9.1 Mary Burguieres reported that the outcome of the LSP's bid to the Migration Impact Fund had been delayed by the ministerial reshuffle. Janet Capstick added that it should be known later today.

10 Any other business

10.1 As it was his last business meeting before retirement, Michael Quy said that he had enjoyed working with the LSP. The Chair thanked him for his contribution.

11 Dates of forthcoming meetings

11.1 The LSP noted the seminar on the biennial review of Camden Together on 17 September and the business meeting on 15 October.

Summary of actions arising

- *Camden Together* biennial review presentation to be circulated to LSP members.
- Comparisons of Place Survey results across London boroughs and details of the methodology will be communicated to the LSP when they are available (Finn O'Brien).
- Explore the scope for reflecting relations between people of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds in the social cohesion basket of indicators (Finn O'Brien).
- Police and Council to discuss how to better work together to improve perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour (Sarah Mullen and Ch Insp Louis Smith)

- LSP members to send further comments on the CAA emerging findings to Sarah Mullen.
- Terms of Reference for the infrastructure subgroup to be considered at the LSP business meeting on 15 October.