

ITEM 8

Minutes of the Camden Local Strategic Partnership Thursday 23 April 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
- 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
- Pat Stack, Camden Community Empowerment Network and Disability in Camden
- Moira Gibb, London Borough of Camden, Chief Executive
- 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
- Paul Fox, NHS Camden, Acting Head of Public Health
- Rob Larkman, NHS Camden, Chief Executive
- Chris Shaw, Camden Town Unlimited, Chair

Also in attendance

- Joss Thomas, Audit Commission, Performance Specialist
- Sarah Mullen, London Borough of Camden, Assistant Chief Executive
- Finn O'Brien, London Borough of Camden, Head of Performance
- Cllr Flick Rea, London Borough of Camden, Executive Member for Culture (item 4 only)
- Fiona Dean, London Borough of Camden, Assistant Director, Culture and Sport (item 4 only)
- Oliver Myers, London Borough of Camden, Head of Sustainability (item 6 only)
- Rebecca Harrington, London Borough of Camden/NHS Camden, Assistant Director, Strategic Planning and Joint Commissioning (item 7 only)
- Mary Burguieres, London Borough of Camden, Head of Policy
- Mike Webb, London Borough of Camden, Senior Policy Officer
- Nancy Towers, Voluntary Action Camden, Health and Social Care Development Worker
- Claire Smith, London Borough of Camden, Senior Sustainability Officer (item 6 only)
- Janice Lim, London Borough of Camden, Senior Policy Officer (from item 4)

1 Introductions, apologies for absences

- 1.1 The Chair informed the LSP that Louise Matlock, the Government Office for London's lead for Camden has taken early retirement and he had written to her thanking her. Her successor, Janet Capstick, was unfortunately unable to attend today. Apologies were also received from Kevin Munslow, Cllr Andrew Marshall, Dominic Clout and Jackie Barry-Purssell. The Audit Commission was represented by Joss Thomas.

2 Recession in Camden

- 2.1 Sarah Mullen began by commenting on the Budget. Clearly the eye-watering borrowing and debt figures will put a tight squeeze on public finances although most of the efficiencies announced were in Whitehall. The Budget really brings home the reality of the depth and length of the recession and many commentators believe the Chancellor's growth predictions are overly optimistic. If so, the impact on the public finances will be even worse. Job Centre Plus will receive more funding, in particular to help young people unemployed for over 12 months. There will also be more investment in housing. Local government is required to make further efficiency savings but will get to keep them for now. The Chair was pleased that the three year local government finance settlement is not under threat. Sarah added that at least this gave local authorities some time to plan for the future.
- 2.2 Sarah then turned to the latest version of the recession dashboard. The unemployment figures for March showed another increase although the month-on-month increase slowed somewhat. Housing Benefit and worklessness figures also increased slightly. However the recession still isn't registering an impact on other indicators such as crime and council tax arrears. Visits to libraries have increased. In response to a request by the LSP, future versions of the dashboard will include a measure of health and well-being.
- 2.3 Simone Hensby gave an overview of the impact of the recession on the local voluntary sector. A third sector recession fund has been announced by the government but it appears to be going to the national and regional level rather than the local level, as will the £10m funding for volunteering brokerage. The London Council for Voluntary Services is running a campaign. Locally, there has been an increase in demand for voluntary sector services along with cost pressures from rent and energy bills. The impact of a fall in income from trusts will be felt more next year. There is an event planned with the council to discuss the impact of the recession.
- 2.4 The Chair reminded the LSP that they would be looking at the recession in detail again on 17 June. Sarah added that the LSP received the first monthly recession bulletin which includes an update on the implementation of the Recovery Fund. Simone asked Mick

Hickey about the fit between vacancies and the skill profile of job seekers. He commented that vacancies are down and it is hard to determine where the growth is. Job Centre Plus is working to open avenues with employers who are recruiting, as not all use their services. Clearly something is happening because 800-900 people a month are leaving the register, presumably mostly because they have found work. Job Centre Plus account managers are working with people to match them to jobs.

3 Comprehensive Area Assessment

- 3.1 Finn O'Brien apologised for the late circulation of the presentation. The timescale for the area self-evaluation is very tight and it is still a work in progress.
- 3.2 The CAA framework went live on 1 April and one of its key elements is the area self-evaluation, which breaks down into 10 key outcome areas. Finn asked LSP members for comments on the detail of the self-evaluation and to highlight any gaps, particularly in the notable practice. At the moment, the self-evaluation is quite council-focused and partnership working needs to be better reflected.
- 3.3 The self-evaluation is structured around the four community strategy themes and the four elements the Audit Commission are looking for: Camden context, understanding local needs and translation into local priorities, delivery of improvements and outcomes in the area, and plans for future improvement.
- 3.4 The presentation summarises the key messages and gives some of the case studies and examples we intend to use in the self-evaluation. Finn did not talk through them in detail although she did highlight areas where the LSP has been directly involved: the recession is a good example of responding to changing local needs and the Climate Change Alliance demonstrates delivery of outcomes. The examples are illustrative and there is more work to be done on them. In terms of future improvement, the key things to highlight are awareness of where improvement needs to be made, performance management and how partnerships are able to respond. The self-evaluation should capture ongoing priorities and our long term ambitions for change.
- 3.5 The Chair thanked Finn for taking the LSP through a lot of information quickly. Finn said she thought it wasn't helpful to circulate the 30 page draft at this stage and that the thematic partnerships were looking at the detail. In particular, Dominic Clout was taking a lead on the "safe" outcome and the Economic Development Partnership on the economy outcome. The Chair asked for the draft narrative version to be circulated once it was complete at the end of next week. Finn said that LSP members could feed into the draft by e-mail over the next week through their partnership leads. Some partners were already involved

through the Extended Planning and Performance Group which met on Monday.

- 3.6 Sarah Elie said that volunteering and social cohesion should be mentioned in the future improvements section, particularly as they both have LAA targets. She also thought there should be more on the environment.
- 3.7 Simone Hensby felt there was more that could be said about disability and partnership working with the voluntary sector, particularly on outcomes-based commissioning. Finn said that this was mentioned in the council's separate Use of Resources self-assessment but we could also include in the self-evaluation. Pat echoed the point about disability, stressing personalisation.
- 3.8 Mick Quy gave a recent example of partnership working: the police, council and fire brigade recently brought a serial arsonist to court.
- 3.9 In response to a question from Karen Wilson, Finn said that any LSP partners who were not members of a thematic partnership could comment directly to her.
- 3.10 The Chair said that the draft narrative would be circulated at the end of next week for comment but in the meantime, partners could send contributions to inform the draft and asked Mike to circulate Finn's e-mail address.

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

- 4.1 Cllr Flick Rea introduced this progress report on the culture and leisure theme of Camden Together by stressing that it is not just about the Olympics. Camden has one of the best provisions of culture and leisure in the country. A recent national survey found that 67% of residents participated in culture activities, the highest proportion in the country. The council achieves a lot without much money by working with partners such as the British Museum and Hampstead Heath. In particular, it has recently been working closely with the PCT on outdoor gyms and free sports centre memberships. However there is much more to do such as ensuring a real legacy for the Olympics and reopening Kentish Town Baths.
- 4.2 Fiona Dean talked in more detail about what has been achieved and plans for the future. She echoed Cllr Rea's point about partnership – delivering outcomes requires the input of businesses and the creative and voluntary sectors through extensive partnerships. There are many facets to culture in Camden, from Bloomsbury to the borough's Irish heritage. 10% of jobs are in the cultural and creative sectors and the borough receives 4m visitors a year who spend £1bn. The British Museum is now the country's most popular visitor attraction and the new British Library Henry VIII exhibition overseen by David Starkey

should see its visitor numbers increase this year. We must work to meet existing targets but also be challenging ourselves to do more.

- 4.3 The report summarises current work under three themes: enhancing the attractiveness of the borough, promoting culture and making the most of the Olympics.
- 4.4 The first theme is about place-shaping, improvements to the public realm and open spaces e.g. in Russell Square and Waterlow Park. Areas of current work include the roll-out of 26 enhanced playgrounds and the securing of section 106 funding to improve Tavistock Square. The square will also become home to the India Garden, to be donated by the British Museum after its upcoming exhibition has finished, complementing the Gandhi Statue. There are a lot of urban realm improvements in progress in Bloomsbury and Camden Town.
- 4.5 Camden is very proud of its high level of engagement in cultural activities. Participation in sport is also high, the sixth highest in London, although improving health and well-being remains a major challenge, hence NHS Camden's investment in outdoor gyms. The literary tradition of Bloomsbury and the British Library is reflected in Camden's libraries. The Growing Your Library project will ensure that they meet the needs of residents and will enhance the signposting role of libraries.
- 4.6 Kentish Town baths will reopen in October 2009 if not sooner following the £25m refurbishment. The council has introduced free swimming for under 16s and the over 60s. However it still needs to get to the hardest to reach. Price isn't the only barrier to participation although the NHS Give it a Go scheme, in which 5 concessionary visits are rewarded by 6 months free membership, has proved successful.
- 4.7 The voluntary sector makes a significant contribution to cultural activities at many levels. Examples include Lauderdale House, Interchange and the Weekend College, which demonstrate the sector's ability to engage different audiences.
- 4.8 There has been a great deal of progress since the LSP's seminar on the Olympics six months ago. There are now 12 legacy projects including the Compete For procurement initiative, training delivered by the King's Cross Construction Skills Centre, the Academy for potential Olympians and Paralympians and Camden's contribution to the London-wide bike hire scheme. There will be a launch event for the legacy projects at the German Gymnasium on 2 June.
- 4.9 Overall, the report highlights the good progress we've made but challenges do remain: the recession will hit institutions that rely on shops and box office for income as well as grants, improving the health of all residents through sport, ensuring 2012 is meaningful for residents and delivering the public realm improvements.

- 4.10 The Chair commented that culture is one of the things that makes Camden special. At a recent meeting the Mayor of London, as someone who cycles through Camden, was pleased to hear about public realm improvements.
- 4.11 David Latchman said that the borough should take advantage of its concentration of higher education institutions. Universities are not just about skills and locally there are strong links with institutions such as the British Museum. In addition, research has shown that one overseas student brings in the equivalent of 20 overseas visitors. The Mayor is planning a campaign to promote London as a venue for study and there is scope for Camden to work with him in this area.
- 4.12 Fiona replied that the council is working with the University of the Arts on its move to the borough but recognised the need for a separate conversation to exploit existing partnerships. Cllr Rea added that links were developing with the Wellcome Trust and there could be scope to build on the council's relationship with UCL around its sports hall in Somers Town.
- 4.13 Ann Baxter stressed the importance of securing the Play Pathfinder funding for 17 play centres. So far they are proving to be very well-used. The Chair added that the change in mentality involved – parents becoming less overprotective - is just as exciting.
- 4.14 Rob Larkman recognised that 67% of the population engaging in cultural activities is very impressive but said that the other 33% need to be engaged. Given they are the most in need, he asked how much targeting is done. Fiona replied that unlike most local authority services, sports centres are in direct competition with the private sector. The pricing structure allows the council to use full charges to subsidise concessionary rates and initiatives. The outdoor gyms should also help. One of the hardest groups to reach is the Asian community especially women - a grassroots approach works best.
- 4.15 The Chair mentioned that three of London's four specialist Adult Education Colleges are in the borough and they still retain an element of "self-improvement" not just acquiring skills, particularly the Working Men's College. Fiona added that longer library opening hours were encouraging local people to use them.
- 4.16 The Chair wondered if the council and partners were challenging themselves enough. Cllr Rea replied that she acted as an effective challenge. She gave examples of projects in the pipeline – acquiring sports grounds for local football clubs and working with GLL to improve a derelict sports centre and refurbish the Oasis – to demonstrate that they never stand still.
- 4.17 Simone Hensby stressed the challenge in engaging "hard to reach" communities and welcomed the LSP's discussion. She mentioned the

work of community centres with hard to reach groups in sport and leisure. A lot of targeted work on culture and its use to promote social cohesion goes on in Camden but was not mentioned in the report.

- 4.18 Ann Baxter has recently been meeting with RADA to discuss the expansion of their community programmes, to reach children who might never have been taken to the theatre.
- 4.19 Karen Wilson echoed Simone's point about capturing community and neighbourhood activities which are outside the statutory sector. For example, Origin were recently awarded a £150,000 grant from the Football Foundation.
- 4.20 Stephen Jordan felt the borough should play to its strengths in the current economic climate and culture is one of its biggest. Family outings and domestic tourism are real opportunities for economic resilience. We should seek to strengthen the education and cultural magnets we already have rather than chasing new jobs. The Chair agreed, adding that, like a school with a good catchment area, the borough needs to demonstrate how it adds value to its extensive cultural offering.
- 4.21 Sarah Mullen said that the recovery package contained funding to market the visitor economy, which would build on the "Only in London" campaign to be launched next week by the Mayor and London Councils. Camden will also be launching its own "Love Your High Streets" campaign shortly. Chris Shaw added that the temporary Canal Market has generated 50 new businesses and 200 jobs, creating enterprise and improving the offer for visitors. Camden should encourage people to visit other parts of the borough, regardless of their entry point.
- 4.22 Paul Fox said that NHS Camden had promoted its Give it a Go campaign in community centres. The needs assessment which preceded it is actually an interesting document and a good example of community engagement through focus groups and interviews. A strong message was that cost is a barrier to participation. One of the four gyms participating in the Give It a Go scheme was in the voluntary sector.
- 4.23 The Chair thanked Cllr Rea and Fiona Dean for sparking a good debate. Cllr Rea thanked the LSP for the prompt about small businesses – recessions can be good for starting up small, creative businesses and Camden Town is a good place to do it. She added that theatres were bearing up, proving that people need cheering up in a recession.

5 Compact for Camden

- 5.1 Simone Hensby began this item by stressing that the Compact is not just about the voluntary and community sector (VCS). Partnership working delivers a better product for all, including the private sector. The Compact dates back to 1998 and the government's "Getting it right together" document which states that all local authorities and NHS organisations should have a compact. The approach is now somewhat dated, as is the original Compact for Camden adopted in 2004. A report to the LSP in 2007 reaffirmed the partnership's commitment to the Compact and the Community Strategy progress reports have reflected its principles. The report called for an updated Action Plan. This was developed by the Compact Steering Group, which includes members of most LSP organisations.
- 5.2 The Action Plan comes at an opportune time given the CAA's emphasis on the third sector, particularly the shift from grants to commissioning, the presence of volunteering and social cohesion in the LAA and the new National Indicator 7 on a thriving third sector. The Action Plan reflects these agendas and is structured into five themes: stronger partnerships and collaboration between sectors, consultation and influencing local decision making, infrastructure, funding relationships and service delivery, and volunteering.
- 5.3 A good example of effective partnership working is the Community Advisor Safeguarding partnership between Children's Services, the police and the VCS, which is recognised nationally as good practice. The VCS has an important role to play in raising awareness of its work and the fact that there are over 1500 VCS organisations in the borough, many of which do not receive public sector funding. The sector needs to better explain what it does and how partners can engage with it. Another key area of work is on outcomes-based commissioning which should deliver both value for money and quality.
- 5.4 The Chair wondered how the private sector's engagement with the VCS, corporate social responsibility (CSR), was faring in the recession. Chris Shaw replied that he would expect it to be under pressure. In the past, the larger businesses based in Camden Town such as MTV and Viacom offered staff days off to do voluntary activity. He said he would be happy to ask his major members about it and report back to the LSP on 17 June. Stephen Jordan agreed, saying many city firms who were supportive are now cutting back. Some activities were tokenistic so are possibly no great loss as they mainly benefited the company through good PR and staff development.
- 5.5 Simone Hensby said she had anecdotal evidence that CSR is under pressure although one organisation was reporting an increase this year. A less superficial approach which matches people to placements is more useful for the receiving organisation. Stephen Jordan thought long term relationships were the most valuable as they allow volunteers to really understand the organisation. He cited an example of a bank supplying a treasurer to a local organisation over many years.

- 5.6 Sarah Elie added that VAC had a support project for trustees. While short-term projects like painting have their place, longer term commitment in areas such as trusteeship, marketing and finance is essential. Although there are increasing legal responsibilities associated with acting as a trustee, it does tend to be occasional and so fits well with full-time paid work.
- 5.7 The Chair said that in the current climate taking a pay cut but keeping busy with pro bono work is an attractive alternative to redundancy for staff in the legal sector. David Latchman echoed this point, saying that the Mayor is asking London businesses not to lay off staff but rather to reduce their working hours. This frees up time which could be used to volunteer. Simone reported increasing interest in volunteering locally – a recent recruitment drive for finance and accountancy expertise resulted in 25 applications and 14 appointees. People are recognising that there is a personal payback in new skills and experience.
- 5.8 Ann Baxter said that Children's Services fully supported the Compact and that there are examples of partnership working in mainstream statutory services, not just on the edges.
- 5.9 The LSP approved the Action Plan and the monitoring arrangements, including an Annual Report in a year's time.

6 Climate change update

- 6.1 Oliver Myers presented this report and introduced Claire Smith, the Camden officer leading on the Climate Change Alliance and climate change adaptation.
- 6.2 There is a lot to report since the last six monthly update on the activities of the Climate Change Alliance. The Alliance was formally launched in November 2008 and now has 40 members. The Advisory Board has met frequently and the council is grateful for LSP members' representation. The measure and the target, a 10% reduction by April 2012, have been agreed. Baselineing is in progress and should be completed by July. There are three levels of involvement and these form the basis of the awards, which were held for the second time this week. A support service for SMEs, Carbon Confident, has been set up. Finally, last month the Alliance held its Spring debate on climate change and the recession, introduced by Cllr Moffitt, chaired by a partner from Olswang with speakers from Atkins, Camco and Argent.
- 6.3 Oliver went on to introduce the council's work on adapting to climate change, which fits into a London level Mayoral Strategy. Impacts of warmer weather on areas such as walking and cycling, housing and public health are already reflected in the Local Development Framework. Adapting to climate change is primarily about assessing risk. The council has begun this work and the next step is to involve

partners, offering support to carry out risk assessments and to start taking steps to adapt. Oliver asked LSP members to nominate a contact person in their organisation, possibly their member of the Climate Change Alliance.

7 Health and Wellbeing Board proposals

- 7.1 Rebecca Harrington began by saying that the proposals were developed with health and social care partners, particularly Paul Fox and NHS Camden. The new Board is the evolution of the Public Health Partnership to incorporate health and well-being and some social care. The proposals are based on research commissioned from OPM, which shows that many other local authority areas have health and wellbeing partnerships to help them focus on key issues such as health inequalities, prevention and promotion. The new Board should help to provide a similar focus for Camden in a time of change and greater leadership for the “Connected” theme of the Community Strategy.
- 7.2 The new Board would draw together the remits of the existing Health and Social Care Advisory Group and the Public Health Partnership. It would report to the LSP. There have been discussions with the voluntary sector about their representation on the Board and the first meeting would finalise the membership. Other bodies have commented that paragraph 4.4 of the report should stress the advisory role of the Board rather than “exercising strategic direction”. This will be amended and paragraph 4.12 further clarifies this point. Due to the timing of meetings, the LSP is being asked to endorse the Board pending the approval of the Council’s Executive.
- 7.3 Paul Fox said he was very supportive of the proposals. It would have to be an influencing body given the difference in capacities of the various partners. He felt resourcing should follow the example of the other thematic partnerships. The Board would add value by providing a home for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- 7.4 Mick Quy said that the Fire Service were running a wellbeing pilot and all Camden stations have ambassadors. This reflects the fact that all recent fire deaths are associated with health issues such as age, disability and drug and alcohol use. Therefore the Fire Service would be keen to participate.
- 7.5 Paul Fox said this was a good example of the fact that by its very nature health prevention and promotion work happens all over the place and the Board would help to bring it together. Rebecca added that the joint appointment of the Director of Public Health would cement the partnership and focus it on public health.
- 7.6 Simone Hensby was concerned about how older people’s issues would be reflected on the Board and how existing older people’s structures would relate to it. Rebecca said that the terms of reference listed the

groups the Board would inform and be informed by. Once the Board is set up, it will make links with older people's groups and check it is working well. Ann Baxter also stressed the need for links to children's health.

- 7.7 The LSP endorsed the proposals for a Health and Wellbeing Board.

8 Thematic partnership updates

- 8.1 Ann Baxter said that the LSP will receive a report on the changes to the governance of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board at its next meeting. The Board had an awayday to discuss the changes yesterday. The report will also include changes recommended by the Laming Review.

- 8.2 The Economic Development Partnership (EDP) signed off the Economic Development Framework 2009-2012 at its meeting yesterday, which will help to deliver the LAA targets and community strategy aims for employment, skills, business and enterprise. The EDP has also reviewed itself to check it is fit for purpose, particularly in the context of the CAA. As a result, it has agreed to set up a sub-group, the Business and Enterprise Forum, building on the success of the LSP's Business Summit last year and the recent breakfast meeting for businesses on the recession. In addition, business representation on the EDP itself will be improved. Mary Burguieres suggested that the LSP receive a report from the EDP in the autumn.

9 Minutes of the previous meeting

- 9.1 The draft minutes of the meeting on 17 March were agreed.

10 Matters arising and future business

- 10.1 There were none.

11 Any other business

- 11.1 The Government Office for London has invited bids from local areas for a new Migration Impacts Fund. Three bids are being prepared in Camden, on street activity and A10 nationals (led by Community Safety and the Police) preventative work in relation to gangs (led by Children, Schools and Families) and extending and developing the Safeguarding Community Partnership Advisor programme (led by Voluntary Action Camden). The bids have not yet been finalised so the LSP agreed to endorse them in principle and that the Chair would take them forward. They will be discussed in more detail at the Social Cohesion Forum next week.

12 Dates of forthcoming meetings

12.1 The LSP noted the forthcoming seminars on 21 May and 17 June, and the business meeting on 9 July.

Summary of decisions and actions arising from the meeting

- LSP members to contribute to draft of CAA self-evaluation and comment on the draft once it is complete.
- The LSP approved the Compact for Camden Action Plan and the monitoring arrangements, including an Annual Report in a year's time.
- LSP members to nominate a contact person in their organisation for climate change adaptation, possibly their member of the Climate Change Alliance.
- The LSP endorsed the proposals for a Health and Wellbeing Board.
- The LSP to receive a report from the EDP in the autumn.
- The LSP endorsed the three bids to the Migration Impacts Fund.