

GREENWICH PARTNERSHIP

BOARD MEETING

**THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2008 AT 6.00 P.M. AT START GUNNERY,
ROYAL ARSENAL, SE18**

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Chris Roberts, Leader of the Council (Chair)
Councillor Peter Brooks, Deputy Leader of the Council
Adrian Tallett, ChangeUp Greenwich
Judy Smith, Greenwich Community Network
Steve Nelson, Chamber of Commerce
Mark Maddison, JobCentre Plus
Malcolm Rodrigues, Learning and Skills Council London East
Jigs Chana, Cameo Properties
Brian Cherek, Superintendent Partnership, Metropolitan Police
Vicky Clark, London Development Agency

Also in attendance:

Jill Crumpton, Co-ordinator Greenwich Partnership
Mary Ney, Chief Executive
Harcourt Alleyne, Acting Assistant Chief Executive (Policy and Partnerships)
John Anderson, Berkley Homes
Katrina Delaney, Head of Communications
Frances Dolan, Director of Strategic Planning
Graham Verge, Principal Corporate Support Officer
Daniel Wilkinson, Committee Co-ordinator

Councillor Paul Webbewood

I. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Michael Chuter (Greenwich Teaching Primary Care Trust). Christopher Jarratt, Borough Commander, Metropolitan Police

2. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Greenwich Partnership held on 13th December 2007 be agreed as a true and accurate record.

It was noted that the Grove Market Planning Application had been deferred from the Planning Board meeting of 20 December 2007

3. Urgent Business

There was none.

4. Update on the Docklands Light Railway

The Director of Strategic Planning introduced the report. She highlighted that the DLR extension was progressing and that 'ghost' trains would operate from June with public use starting at the beginning of next year. There would be a 'super crossing' in the town centre and there would be a design competition for improving General Gordon Square. Approval had been granted for the upgrade to the Lewisham line, which would begin shortly.

Resolved –

That the report be noted.

5. Asset Management Plan

A copy of the Metropolitan Police Estate Asset Management Plan Greenwich was circulated at the meeting.

Brian Cherek, Superintendent Partnership, Metropolitan Police presented the Plan to the Board. He highlighted that a bid had been put in to have a new custody facility, as the current one at Plumstead was inadequate. Facilities would include provision for Special Constables and also CCTV. The Plan addressed environmental concerns. The Safer Neighbourhood Team bases would be linked in and they were pushing ahead with a number of Safer Neighbourhood Team bases.

Councillor Chris Roberts stated that the Council would formally respond to the Plan shortly.

Resolved –

That the Asset Management Plan be noted.

6. LAA Indicators and Targets

The Principal Corporate Support Officer introduced the item. He explained that 35 indicators had been proposed for the LAA but there would be local targets alongside the 35 LAA ones.

Steve Nelson, Chamber of Commerce, expressed concern about the lack of a business related indicator. The Principal Corporate Support Officer replied that there were to be a local indicator that related to jobs. Vicky Clark, London Development Agency, thought there should be an indicator regarding economic growth of businesses rather than number of new businesses.

Adrian Tallett, ChangeUp Greenwich, said that as the voluntary sector and local authorities working together was high on the Government's agenda that should be reflected. He felt this was an opportunity for everyone to show what Greenwich Council did with the voluntary sector.

Councillor Chris Roberts explained that the aim was to strengthen the voluntary sector by making sure more money went to the front line and less on bureaucracy and this would be achieved by focusing on one organisation rather than diluting their aim by funding all of them. It was recognised that weaker organisations would be affected but they had to go through the process. He was looking for a better measure to show robustness rather than just a head count.

Judy Smith, Greenwich Community Network, said they needed to identify which departments in the Council ignored the voluntary sector as good providers of services. Councillor Chris Roberts said the voluntary sector would assist with that process.

Jigs Chana, Cameo Properties, queried how targets would be monitored which were not income driven, such as mental health. The Principal Corporate Support Officer replied there were quantifiable measures and that the national set of targets included mental health.

Jigs Chana, Cameo Properties, expressed concern that items which were not key priorities would not be treated as highly. Councillor Chris Roberts

explained that when a final list of 35 indicators was arrived at it would then be possible to spot where there were gaps and any such gaps would be covered by the local indicators. Councillor Roberts said they did not want more than 35 LAA indicators.

Resolved –

That progress on the LAA Indicators and Targets be noted.

7. Olympic Legacy

The Head of Communications gave an illustrated presentation to the Board.

The Head of Communications highlighted that a working party would be set up to look at the potential from the Beijing Olympics up to 2012. It was recognised that tourism, culture, investment and education would be affected in the Borough by the Olympics and that there was business opportunity for growth in those four areas. A lot of organisations were going to the Olympics, how those organisations were to be approached needed to be realised. It would be a window of opportunity and other boroughs would be ready by 2010. Planning had begun, a film had been made and a website was being considered

Councillor Chris Roberts said consideration had to be given to the less obvious legacy of the Olympics.

Jigs Chana, Cameo Properties, suggested that the Commonwealth Games in 2010 also be taken into account. He noted that the Mayor of London was encouraging boroughs to be the gateway for Asian investment.

Resolved –

That the presentation be noted.

8. Area Based Grant

The Principal Corporate Support Officer introduced the item. He explained that the Government was to make local funding more flexible. This created the opportunity to allocate money as desired, outside of existing streams that were already funded, and allowed realignment with the work of the LAA.

Resolved –

That the introduction of the Area Based Grant be noted

9. Woolwich Arsenal Development / Cross Rail

Councillors Chris Roberts and Peter Brooks stated that they would not express any opinion on the development as they were Members of Planning Board.

John Anderson, Berkley Homes, gave an illustrated presentation to the Board and distributed a booklet on the development. He emphasised that there had been wide consultation and the scheme had been subsequently modified. John Anderson added that Cross Rail had originally been timetabled for 2017, with the station box being delivered by 2014, starting work in 2011. However, the Government was now asking for everything to be brought forward by two years.

There was a discussion as to how people would move between the Woolwich Arsenal and Cross Rail stations, and the development of the surrounding area which was recognised to be under complex ownership. It was pointed out that other smaller developers had also helped to improve the area.

The issue of congestion on the roads into the area was raised, and how this could be tackled, particularly as it was a problem for business if traffic was not moving. It was recognised that problems occurred around the Woolwich Ferry Roundabout and it was noted that responsibility for that resided with Transport for London. John Anderson, Berkley Homes, explained that traffic links were improving with use of the river, DLR, Cross Rail and Waterfront Transit and that the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge was expected to take pressure off the Woolwich roundabout.

Councillor Peter Brooks stated the Council would again lobby Transport for London regarding the Woolwich Ferry Roundabout.

Resolved -

That the presentation be noted.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business

The meeting closed at 7.15 p.m.