



SOUTHWARK WORKING GROUP OUSELEY REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the SOUTHWARK WORKING GROUP OUSELEY REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION held on Wednesday December 14 2005 at 7.00pm at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Columba Blango

OFFICERS PRESENT: Bob Coomber, Chief Executive
Bill Murphy, Assistant Chief Executive
Jules O'Mahoney, Social policy
Nathalie Hadjifotiou, Head of social inclusion
Graeme Gordon, Strategic services
Nikki Fashola, Legal services
Nuala Conlan, Community involvement and development
Russell Profitt, Regeneration
C P Evans, Director of regeneration
Kelly Wallace, clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bowman, Councillor Humphreys. And Councillor Hook.

NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS AS URGENT

The chair gave notice that the following late item would be considered as urgent:-

Item 5 – Outcomes of the meeting of the strategic reference group on 12 December 2005

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

MINUTES

RESOLVED That the minutes of the meeting held on November 21 2005 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

The working group considered the items set out on the agenda, a copy of which has been incorporated in the minute file. Each of the following paragraphs relates to the item bearing the same number on the agenda.

1 STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COHESION IN SOUTHWARK (see pages 1 to 11)

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the working group notes the actions to date to develop and embed cohesion policy and practice into mainstream Council and partner activity.
 2. That the working group notes that the impact of council policies and services on good community relations is included as one element of an Equality Impact Assessment.
 3. That members consider what further actions they might wish to prompt, for example visits to mosques, member links with different communities, area-based cohesion events via community councils.

2 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND USER FEEDBACK – HARD TO REACH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND AREAS (see pages 11 to 23)

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the working group notes the range of strategies and actions in place to improve user feedback and community involvement.
 2. That the working group note that the resourcing of Community Interest forums will be considered, in partnership with Southwark Alliance, as part of the council's grant-aid programme.
 3. That the working group notes the arrangements for co-ordination and engagement in areas, linked to community councils and area-based renewal and regeneration.

3 IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR PLANNING (see pages 24 to 25)

- RESOLVED:**
1. That the working group notes the substantial progress made on the improvement to the planning service following the District Auditor's Report on *Award of Planning Permissions at 295-297 Camberwell New Road and 299 Camberwell New Road* as set out in Appendix 2.
 2. That the working group notes that ongoing oversight and scrutiny of any remaining actions should continue to be part of the mainstream performance management arrangements through the executive and scrutiny processes.

4 IMPLEMENTATION OF LORD OUSELEY REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS – NEXT STEPS (see pages 26-42)

RESOLVED

1. That the working group notes the initial phase of implementation of the recommendations in Lord Ouseley's report has been completed.
2. That the Audit Commission review on the council's framework for implementation will be available in January 2006, and that this will be reported to the executive.
3. That the working group agree that as phase 1 of implementation is now completed, that ongoing oversight and scrutiny of longer-term actions should be mainstreamed into formal executive and scrutiny processes as from 1st January 2006.
4. That the working group agrees that the five themes set out in paragraph 3.6 should be the basis of the mainstreaming strategy.
5. That related to the five themes, the Chief Executive and Chief Officers be required to develop medium-term action plans, with milestones and targets to address the longer-term nature of achieving measurable change in equality and diversity outcomes.
6. That the council continues to strengthen communication and promote dialogue across the range of equality and diversity forums and with the wider community about its policies and practices in respect of equality and diversity generally, incorporating the issues addressed in Lord Ouseley's report.

5 OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP ON 12 DECEMBER 2005 (see pages 43-47)

RESOLVED

1. That the working group notes the outcomes of the meeting of the strategic reference group that took place on 12th December 2005 (see paragraphs 10-15).
2. That the working group agrees that, following the mainstreaming of responsibility for the implementation of Lord Ouseley's recommendations to the executive, officers and executive members will maintain a dialogue and engagement with a wide range of community organisations and representatives across the full spectrum of equality and diversity dimensions.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm

CHAIR:

DATED: