

Item No: 4	Classification: OPEN	Date: 14 June 2004	Meeting Name: Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:		REFERENCE TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY: Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee – Public Engagement Elephant and Castle Regeneration Project – Scrutiny Review	
Ward(s) or Group affected:		All Wards	
From:		Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Sub - Committee [24/05//04]	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers the recommendations contained in the Regeneration and Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee scrutiny report on public engagement in Elephant and Castle Regeneration project, i.e.:

- i) *Developing a Definition of Community Engagement:*
 - *That CIDU in partnership with Southwark Alliance, try to develop some principles that could create a Southwark Blueprint for community engagement;*
- ii) *That Southwark Council needs to make much more effort to ensure that local people are able to attend meetings and participate fully by:*

Practical Recommendations:

- *Holding smaller group meetings to encourage a diversity of people to participate;*
- *Ensure that the role of and remit of what the community is being asked to decide is clear from the start of the consultation process;*
- *Ensure that presentations and information are clear and accurate and do not contain jargon;*
- *Ensure that attention is paid the practicalities of holding meetings, such as holding the meeting at convenient times and places, an appropriate venue in the appropriate languages of the community and providing incentives for the public to attend such as food;*
- *That more creativity is given to community engagement, such as using theatre, involving local schools.*

Strategic Recommendations:

- *That the Council should incorporate responsibility for overseeing community engagement at a senior level;*
- *That the Council strategically streamlines the many different units within the Council addressing community engagement;*
- *That the level of assistance for community activists is established prior to beginning any community engagement exercise;*
- *That the Council look to attract specific external funding opportunities to develop community engagement and capacity building skills within the community, especially amongst 'hard to reach' community groups.*
- *That the Council conduct two parallel communication processes during regeneration processes, one targeted to the general public that keeps them notified of major developments and one targeted to those who want to have a closer role in the process.*
- *That further research is conducted to assess the best way to conduct hard to reach communities, in particular youth groups.*

iii) Youth Recommendations:

- *That the Council encourage the development of youth oriented social research training programs and the establishment of youth oriented conferences which can provide a forum for youth opinion on regeneration projects.*
- *That the Council conduct more community capacity building is done to engage young people;*
- *That the Council conducts further research of its own, and looks to best practice, in alternative mechanisms for engagement of youth.*

iv) Diversity Panel Recommendations:

- *That the Council review the Diversity Panel to assess how to best ensure it remains a successful forum for the Elephant and Castle regeneration project. This review should specifically examine opportunities for the Diversity Panel to attract and maintain membership;*
- *The Diversity Panel should possibly become the core body for identifying and involving community involvement in physical regeneration processes to enthuse attendees;*
- *Membership of the Panel should be widened so as to foster genuine consultation, feeding into the SRB programme in its final stages and then beyond as the SRB scheme concludes;*
- *Specific attention should be given to attracting and retaining Hard To Reach groups onto the Diversity Panel;*
- *Outreach work should commence on existing and potential Diversity Panel members to ascertain why turn-out is so low. Strategies should be adopted to address these issues;*

v) General Recommendations

- *That prior to any community engagement exercise the Council is clear what people's role is in consultation and if they are aware of what decisions they are being asked to make;*
- *That adequate resources need to be afforded to consultation exercises, as they are resource and time intensive;*
- *That an internal audit is undertaken of management level staff in the Regeneration Department and Southwark departments that conduct community consultation, to ascertain the efficacy and adherence to the requirement that these officers are aware of other community engagement work within Southwark and other Local Councils;*
- *That an internal audit is undertaken to ascertain CIDU's success in transferring knowledge of community involvement across other Southwark Departments, and whether further action needs to be taken to guarantee that this action is effective;*

vi) Peckham Partnership Recommendations

- *The Sub – Committee note the recommendations of the Peckham Partnership Study; however recognize that each regeneration project is unique and the recommendations from the Peckham Partnership Study cannot be transferred to the Elephant and Castle regeneration project.*
- *The Sub – Committee note that there is scope for continuous monitoring and evaluation of regeneration projects through the use of new indicators that are being developed by the Audit Commission.*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Overview & Scrutiny Sub-Committee requested in August 2003 that the Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee conduct a scrutiny examining issues surrounding public consultation in relation to the Elephant and Castle regeneration project.
3. At the meeting of Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee (RTSSC) held on 29th September 2003, Members agreed to develop a forward-looking approach to the review and focus on community engagement and involvement. It was agreed at the meeting that the terms of reference for the scrutiny were to:
 - Define Community Engagement/Involvement;
 - Establish what mechanisms are effective for engaging with the community;
 - Establish what mechanisms for community engagement/involvement are in place as part of the Elephant and Castle project;
 - Consider the recommendations of the Peckham Partnership Scrutiny.

4. Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Sub Committee received evidence at their meetings of 4th November, 19th November, 3rd December, 10th, December 2003 and 23rd February 2004.
5. The 23rd February 2004 meeting was held at a location outside the Town Hall [at the London College of Printing], was independently facilitated and invited evidence from members of the public, members of the Elephant Links Diversity Panel and Southwark Action for Voluntary Organisations (SAVO).
6. Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Sub-Committee finalised the report at their meeting of 24th May 2004. A copy of the report is attached at Appendix A.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. None.

LEGAL & FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. None.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Agenda and Minutes	Scrutiny Team, Rm 3.16 Southwark Town Hall Peckham Road London SE5 8UB	Stephanie Dunstan Scrutiny Team T: 020 7525 7231 Or Lucas Lundgren T: 0207 525 7224

AUDIT TRAIL

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Report Author	Stephanie Dunstan, Scrutiny Team	
Version	Final	
Dated	Friday 28 th May 2004	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	No	No
Chief Finance Officer	No	No