

Full Commission Meeting

Meeting: 16th March 2023 14:00 – 16:00 | Online

Attendees:

Commissioners

Ashok Sinha (Chair)
David Elliott
Malini Mehra
Charlotte Wood
Jo Blackman

Secretariat

Emma Carroll
Nusrat Yousuf
Jon Emmett

Apologies:

Leonie Cooper, Dimitri Zenghelis, Paul Toyne, Richard Templer, Maria Adebawale-Schwarte, Syed Ahmed, Nick Mabey

1. Welcome and introductions

- David Elliott introduced his new role in the Future Forest Company (focused on Natural Capital).
- Ashok will soon leave his role at the London Cycling Campaign to become the CEO of Ashden.

Actions:

- Secretariat to send register of interests to all commissioners
- Commissioners to complete and return (as needed)

2. Feedback from LSDC meeting with the Mayoral Head of Policy

- London's competitiveness, Social Value, the Just Transition & Green Finance was discussed, exploring linkages with the Mayor's agenda for the next year
- The Mayoral Head of Policy has experience as a local councillor, for think-tanks and in research and has significant environmental experience.
- Discussion included barriers to setting up structures and work programmes around green finance, while flagging the economic benefits and opportunities brought by London's transition to net-zero
- The Commission is keen to ensure that all Deputy-Mayors move forward on sustainability, decarbonisation, and net-zero

Action:

- Secretariat: Schedule a follow up meeting between the LSDC and Mayoral Head of Policy, with an agenda to be agreed by the LSDC Chair and secretariat. The agenda will be based on progressing key aspects of the commission's Just Transition and Social Value proposals. Meeting to be scheduled for end of May/early June 2023

3. London Partnership Board

- Inaugural meeting of the London Partnership Board took place on 16/03/2023. Ashok is the new Environment Representative.
- The board replaces the London Recovery Board (which was set up following the pandemic)
- The board is co-chaired by the Mayor and the Leader of Camden Council and brings together representatives from the third sector, community organisations and public sector bodies (TfL, Police)
- Focus of the meeting was on retrofit – interventions focus on poverty, cost-of-living crisis, jobs, and inequality.
- Ashok's interventions on behalf of the commission were focussed on the paramount need to achieve the Mayor's commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2030, and that this must be done so in a "whole society" fashion that maximises social justice, strengthens the economy and ensures accountability. This intervention was drawn from the work of commission workstreams.

Actions:

- Ashok Sinha to schedule a conversation with Cllr Georgia Gould to discuss how the environment is addressed in the work of the London Partnership Board
- Ashok Sinha to schedule a conversation with the Strategy Director of London Councils, to talk to the net-zero agenda and green agenda through the London Partnership Board

4. LSDC Comms & LCAW

- The LSDC's draft comms plan for 2023-24 was presented. Commissioners agreed with the structure and content.
- This is focused around 3 primary aims:
 - To position the LSDC as a key voice for sustainable development in London
 - To maximise stakeholder engagement with the LSDC key messages e.g., report recommendations and policy positions
 - To diversity and grow the reach and audience of the LSDC's work
- Comms activity will look to be proactive, responding to external hooks (events, key weeks, and parliamentary activity). Focus will be given to LSDC work on Social Value, Just Transition, WiCT

Agreed: Commissioners will share their own comms work - e.g. Syed's report launch on Community Energy London's vision; Malini is speaking at an event on gender equality; Charlie is speaking on climate utopia at Museum of London.

5. Just Transition

- A draft report on London's Just Transition was circulated for consideration, which has been developed following desk-top research and consultation with stakeholders.
- The report makes seven recommendations for the Mayor of London and Borough leaders.
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Agreed:

- The report's recommendations are pitched at the right level (strategic rather than policy details)
- A peer review process including boroughs and expert witnesses will now be included in the sign-off process

Actions:

- Malini and Nick: add further text on the green economy and share with Jon on 24th March.
- Jon: Produce an updated timetable for report sign-off and launch, including the peer-review process (and who this should include) and an earlier subgroup meeting date.

6. Work Programme Update - Social Value

- Work is underway with consultants to embed Social Value into the London Plan, engaging through the Planning through London process.
- The LSDC is presenting the report to New London Architecture on 27th March 2023.