

Newham 2010 Local Strategic Partnership Constitution

The constitution is designed to establish the purpose and objectives of the Local Strategic Partnership, its powers and authority and the rules governing its operation.

1 Name

- 1.1 The Name of the Partnership shall be the Newham 2010 Local Strategic Partnership (hereafter referred to as the Civic Partnership).

2 Description

- 2.1 This Constitution applies to the Partnership's Civic Forum and sub sets of the Partnership known collectively as the Partnership 'family'. Namely: Executive Group; Community Board; Delivery Board; Five LAPB.

3 Mission

- 3.1 *The purpose of the Civic Partnership is to enable change to take hold in Newham. To enhance the capacity of our citizens and stakeholders and capture the potential of our opportunities. To take risks and carry our responsibilities in partnership. To learn from each other and grow in maturity and success.*

4 Aims and Objects

- 4.1 The objects of the Partnership shall be:
- To set the overall strategic vision for Newham and to secure partnership commitment and action to delivering the vision;
 - To develop and deliver the Community Plan for Newham to meet local needs and priorities;
 - To direct the allocation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund to influence mainstream service delivery;
 - To implement and further develop Newham's Community Plan;
 - To streamline strategic decision making, ensure community involvement and engagement and to provide effective monitoring to ensure partners policies and plans have desired impact;

- To work with and support the local authority and other statutory bodies in developing public service agreements and bending mainstream in order to bring about improved public services;
- To bring about the strategic alignment and integration of plans, partnerships and initiatives within Newham consistent with Partnership aims and objectives.

5 Powers

- 5.1 The Partnership is an unincorporated body and as such has no legal powers. It will operate as a collaboration of agencies and function within the legal framework of the individual members.
- 5.2 The London Borough of Newham will act as lead partner and discharge its obligation under the 1999 Local Government Act for improved service delivery and the enhancement of democracy.
- 5.3 The Partnership shall have the power to act as necessary, within the spirit of its collaborative arrangements, for the purpose of achieving its objects.

6 Membership

- 6.1 The Members of the Partnership will reflect key sectors and interests in Newham and shall reflect a balance between the Public, Private, Community and Voluntary and Faith sectors. The Partnership may from time to time review its membership in full meeting and regulate as it sees fit.

- Public Sector Membership

Three (3) council representatives – the Mayor and 2 Mayoral nominations.

- Community Forum Membership

Ten (10) representatives - one (1) from each of the Forums - will be elected by the Community Forum Steering Group to represent to Forums at meetings of the

Civic Partnership. Elected representatives will not be drawn from Elected Members of the LBN.

In addition, Ten (10) Chairs will be elected to lead the Forums' Steering Groups and to serve on the Partnership's Community Board. The Chairs and the Representatives shall not be the same person.

- **Voluntary and Faith Sector Membership**

Three (3) representatives – one (1) each from the community, voluntary and faith sectors – will be elected to serve on the Partnership.

Election will be organised by the NVSC through their work with the Community Empowerment Fund.

In addition, one (1) seat will be given to the Director of the NVSC.

- **Private Sector Membership**

Three (3) nominated representatives from the Business sector.

- **LAPB Board Membership**

Each of the five (5) LAPB Boards will elect one (1) representative.

- **Co-options (Special Interests)**

The Partnership shall have the power to co-opt two (2) additional members to the partnership with full voting rights who shall serve for one year or until the next review date, whichever is sooner.

Co-opted members will be drawn from either the under-represented sector of the community or for their particular expertise. Where members are drawn from under represented sectors of the community an appropriate level of support and

learning will be prepared to ensure delegates are able to participate as full partners.

- 6.2 The Partnership may from time to time invite representatives from other organisations, who shall not be members of the Partnership, to attend and speak but without voting rights.

7 Proceedings of the Partnership

- 7.1 Following this Review the Partnership shall review the appropriateness and balance of its membership a minimum of once in every three calendar years. The first review of the membership will take place by March 2006. The review will be communicated to a full Partnership meeting as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- 7.2 Any member of the partnership may resign by giving not less than one months' notice in writing to the Secretary.
- 7.3 If a member of the Partnership changes to a different employer, moves to a different geographical neighbourhood or outside of the borough of Newham, loses his or her honorary position or paid post, their membership of the Partnership will automatically cease with immediate effect. The vacancy will be referred back to the appropriate selecting, electing or nominating organisation or Forum to fill the vacancy as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- 7.4 Should the Partnership consider the need to terminate the membership of an individual for good and sufficient cause they may resolve, acting by two-third majority of the members present and voting at a meeting of the Partnership, to expel that member from the membership.
- 7.5 Move to terminate the individual's membership should be conducted in the form of a member's motion and seconded by additional members. The member shall have the right to be heard and may be represented hi/herself or be represented by Partnership member. Any vacancy arising from termination will be referred back to the appropriate selecting, electing or nominating sector or Community Forum to fill the vacancy as soon as is reasonably practicable.

- 7.6 Except where the constitution provides otherwise, a decision of the Partnership should be reached by consensus. Should consensus not be possible, a vote may be requested. Should a vote be agreed it should be resolved by majority of half of the members plus one of those present and voting at the Partnership meeting.
- 7.7 Any member of the Partnership who is unable to attend a meeting may nominate a named substitute to represent the member of the Partnership, which is selected, elected or nominated by him or her. The substitute may speak and vote on behalf of that member of the Partnership. If a substitute is used more than three times in a year the member sending the substitute shall automatically cease to be a member. If any member is so removed the selecting, nominating Community Forum shall appoint a new member to the Partnership who shall hold until the next review period.
- 7.8 The Partnership may resolve to remove any member of the Partnership who fails to attend for three consecutive meetings. If any member is so removed the sector selecting, electing or nominating that member shall appoint a new member to the partnership who shall hold membership until the next review period.
- 7.9 The Partnership may meet together for the dispatch of business, adjourn and otherwise regulate its meetings as it sees fit providing it meets not less than every three calendar months.
- 7.10 No business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Partnership unless a quorum of members is present. A quorum shall be half of the members of the Partnership providing that at least one member of each of the five sectors are present. If a quorum is not present within thirty minutes of the scheduled starting time of the meeting it shall be adjourned to such a date, time and place as may be determined. Notice of the date, time and place of the resumed meeting shall be sent to members as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- 7.11 The Partnership may establish 'work-streams' as it sees fit. The composition, remit, powers and authority of any 'work-streams' shall be determined by the Partnership at the meeting approving the establishment of the 'work-stream'. Such a 'work-streams' may include co-opted members provided that co-opted

members do not constitute more than one third of members of the ‘work-stream’. Co-opted members may attend and speak. The work of ‘work-streams’ will be managed through the Delivery Board and report back to the Partnership through this Board.

8 Financial Year

- 8.1 The financial year of the Partnership shall run in accordance with that of the Council as accountable body, commencing on 1st April in each calendar year and shall end on 31st March of the next calendar year.

9 Officers of the Partnership

- 9.1 In accordance with the Partnership’s role, the Chair of the Partnership will be the Mayor who shall hold the position until the next Review is completed in March 2006.
- 9.2 A Vice Chair from each of the Partnership’s priority sectors will support the Chair in the execution of the Partnership’s duties. The Chair will nominate a delegate from the Partnership to represent the Community, Health, Safety and Business sector to assist the work of the Partnership. The Chief Executive of London Borough Newham and the Chair of the Community Board will assist the group.
- 9.3 The group will constitute an Executive Group with authority to make operational decisions on behalf of the Partnership. All operational decisions will be reported to the next possible meeting of the full Partnership.
- 9.4 The Executive Group shall not be empowered to alter or adjust changes to the Partnership’s constitution or protocols but may make recommendations to the full Partnership.

10 General Assembly

- 10.1 The Partnership shall hold a General Assembly meeting not less than four times in each calendar year.

11 Changes to the Constitution

- 11.1 This constitution may be changed by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at a meeting of the Partnership. The notice of the meeting must set out the terms of the changes proposed.

12 Dissolution

- 12.1 If the Partnership decides it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Partnership it may do so by calling a meeting of the Partnership for which twenty-one days notice shall be given. The Partnership shall be dissolved if the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the meeting.