



## Kensington and Chelsea Social Council's Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the 28 October 2025  
10.00am to 11.30pm

### 1. Opening and welcome

Angela Spence (AS), CEO of KCSC welcomed everyone to the AGM and began by stating that she would present on two items prior to the start of official AGM business. AS went on to present firstly on the departure of Joe Batty.

- Joe was Head of Community Development at KCSC and worked in the organisation since 2017 following Grenfell. AS highlighted some of the key areas of work lead by Joe including:
  - Establishing the Grenfell Network Group (GNG) in 2017 and the GNG E- bulletin, set up in 2018
  - Setting up Community Engagement & Resident Association Training
  - Working with a community planner - facilitated meetings and masterclasses, resulting in 30 submissions and ongoing dialogue in response to the RBKC New Local Plan Review (NLPR)
  - In collaboration with the Community Planner produced [A Guide to Planning and Influencing](#)
  - Working with the Volunteer Centre K&C alongside the Grenfell Network Group gave input to the development of RBKC's Charter for Public Participation

The presentation on Joe was followed by an update on KCSC. AS updated the following:

- Due to the loss of Joe and no replacement funding, there will now be less of a focus on community development. However, KCSC will continue to search for new funding, given community development is part of KCSC's current three year strategy
- KCSC will be leaving Museum of Brands on 30 November
- Plans for KCSC taking over the management of the Freston Road Hub have changed but KCSC will be based at the Hub on a part-time basis
- KCSC's Staff team has reduced due to a reduction in funding and there is an urgent need to look a longer-term sustainable structure for KCSC.

### 2. AGM welcome

KCSC's Chair - Shelina Thawer (ST) - formally opened the annual KCSC AGM meeting, noting that the annual report was available online. [View KCSC's Annual Report here](#)

### 3. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following individuals and organisations: Helen Cylwik, Simone Stephen (KCSC Trustee), Anna-Louise Thomond (KCSC Trustee), Ella Camille (Chelsea Big Local), Funeka Bailey-Robinson (Happy Feat), H Tweed

(Native Spirit Festival), John McNulty (Chatsworth Court Residents Association), Kathleen Lyons (Westway CT), Maria Mahmood (The Reflection Project), Margaret Parker (Kensington and Chelsea Neighbourhood Watch Association), Michael Jones (Peabody Tenants Association), Patricia Valley (Peabody Tenants Association), Tariq Kaidi (Minds United Sports Club CIC), Teresa Meekings (Community Massage London), Thirza Philpott (Eastry and Foreland House), Tina Learmonth (Volunteer Centre Kensington and Chelsea Food Bank), Vanessa Kelly (Chelsea Big Local), and William Roberts (Venture Community Association).

#### Proxy Forms Completed

Minds United, Chatsworth Court Residents Association and Astell Street Residents Association.

#### **4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous AGM (29 October 2024) were presented to members. Voting was conducted by raising approval cards. No objections were raised. One abstention was recorded from Minds United CIC.

#### **5. Matters Arising**

Nothing to note.

#### **6. Chair's Address**

The Chair – Shelina Thawer (ST) reflected on the achievements and challenges of the year for Kensington and Chelsea Social Council (KCSC). ST began by stating that despite ongoing economic pressures, she was proud of the resilience of the voluntary and community sector. ST added that the 2024 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment revealed increasing child poverty and persistent inequalities in life expectancy, emphasising the sector's crucial role in addressing these issues. ST went on to highlight several achievements for KCSC throughout the year including:

- The launch of the Voluntary Sector Assemblies under the theme 'A Fairer Place', focusing on poverty and inequality and accessible advice services.
- Securing £394,000 for a three-year Community Solutions programme supporting young people's mental health.
- Continuing to manage NHS self-care contracts, with VCS partners delivering over 6,000 sessions
- Providing direct organisational support to 114 organisations with a 93% satisfaction rate.
- Membership growth by 35%, and feedback returns increasing by 70%, showing strong engagement with KCSC.

ST went on to close by updating on the status of KCSC, adding that due to financial pressures, KCSC will move from the Museum of Brands to the Freston Road Hub.

ST went on to say that as she enters her final year as Chair, she would encourage members to consider becoming a KCSC trustee. ST ended by expressing her gratitude to all stakeholders and to KCSC trustees who stepped down during the year.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

As Treasurer, Modan Deb (MD) presented the Treasurer's Report for the accounts April 2024 to March 2025.

- Income for 2024–25 was £1.162m, this was down £105,000 from the previous year due to completion of previously funded projects.
- Expenditure for 2024–25 was £1.388m, a reduction of £244,000 on last year.
- Net movement in funds meant an overall reduction of £226,000.

MD went on to update on the Balance Sheet and Reserves

- Funds carried forward were £510,000 compared to £738 the previous year.
- Restricted funds were £329,000.
- Unrestricted general funds were £181,000, down £42,000 compared to previous year
- Designated funds were £2,000.

MD went on to state that expenditure was largely due to £619,000 distributed as grants to voluntary and community organisations. KCSC's Net current assets were £513,000, mostly in cash. Finally, for reserves, trustees designated £150,000 to cover six months of operating costs.

MD went on to acknowledge KCSC's funders for 2024-25 which were: North West London ICB, RBKC VSSF and Public Health, Trust for London, Tudor Trust, and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.

MD ended by stating that KCSC is financially secure for 2025–26 with continued NHS and council funding. Appreciation was extended to all KCSC members for their support

## **Appointment of the Auditor**

MD confirmed that the 2024-25 Accounts were audited by Goldwins Ltd. MD then asked members, by show of hands, if happy to receive the accounts.

## **Members approved to receive the 2024–2025 accounts with one abstention from Minds United CIC).**

MD then notified members that Knox Cropper LLP has been appointed as the new auditors following an earlier tender process. MD asked members by show of hands if happy to approve Knox Cropper as the new auditor.

**Members approved the appointment of Knox Cropper as the new auditors until the auditor with one abstention from Minds United CIC).**

#### **8. Appointment of KCSC Trustees**

The following trustees were confirmed for the year ahead: Modan Deb (Treasurer), Remzije Duli, Lucy Knight, Peter Okali, Simone Stephen, Dr Shelina Thawer (Chair), and Anna-Louise Thomond (apologies sent). The meeting also acknowledged the departure of KCSC trustee Helen Cylwick following six years of service.

#### **9. Q&A**

A concerns was raised regarding the potential £82m funding reductions announced by RBKC. It was highlighted the importance of lobbying efforts, collaboration between infrastructure organisations, and sector-wide engagement to influence decision-making. Emphasis was placed on coordinated messaging and shared principles to mitigate the impact of cuts.

#### **10. AOB**

ST confirmed KCSC's relocation from the Museum of Brands to the Freston Road Hub. Furniture and equipment will be made available to members on a first-come, first-served basis, with self-arranged collection.

ST invited attendees to consider applying for trustee roles. A QR code linking to the recruitment brief has been provided. ST ended by encouraging those interested to engage with existing trustees after the meeting or with Angela (CEO).

#### **11. Adjournment**

There being no further business, ST adjourned the meeting.