A lot can happen in just 10 years... "A lot of good things have happened in Kensington over the last decade. We should be shouting from the rooftops about them."

James Jones Bishop of Liverpool

It all started with an idea____

Kensington Regeneration Partnership was created in 2000 as part of the New Deal for Communities (NDC) initiative. This was a key element in the Government's strategy of neighbourhood renewal to tackle deprivation in 39 of the poorest areas in the country.

The New Deal programme's aim was to provide these areas with additional resources to reduce the gap, in terms of deprivation and inequality, between them and the rest of the country.

The idea was that, in each NDC area, the way these resources were spent would be overseen by a communityled partnership. This would bring together representatives of all the key local stakeholders – residents, voluntary organisations, community groups, the local authority, other public sector agencies and businesses. 39 parts of the country were designated as NDC areas. Each one had its own particular problems, but five key themes were identified as common to all – poor job prospects, high crime levels, educational underachievement, poor health and problems with housing and the physical environment.

Liverpool City Council successfully bid for £61.9 million of NDC funding for an area of 4,200 households covering parts of Fairfield, Kensington, Edge Hill and Wavertree. Although this was then the second most deprived part of the city, it had tremendous potential for renewal due to its location on major routes into the city and its proximity to the city centre, but historically it had received little money for regeneration.

The bid was driven by a group drawn from the Parks Partnership,

Liverpool City Council, the Liverpool Partnership group of public agencies and the private sector. The group drew upon community representatives from the local neighbourhood councils.

Over a 15-month period thousands of local people turned out to show their support for the bid and to tell the group what needed to change in the area, in particular the high levels of crime and poor environment. But the problems ran deeper and figures showed that there was a growing gap between the area, Liverpool and the rest of the country.

In 2001 a new partnership, Kensington Regeneration, was set up to run the ten-year regeneration programme in the area using the NDC money. Over the last decade this programme has been co-ordinated by a Partnership Board, with Board Members directing the strategy for the programme.

The Partnership Board has included residents who were elected by local people from all five local neighbourhoods (Kensington Fields, Holt Road, Edge Hill, Holly Road and Fairfield), Liverpool City Council and other agencies including Merseyside Police, Liverpool Primary Care Trust, Government Office for the North West and representatives of the local business community.

An Executive Management Team was recruited with the right mix of skills and experience to deliver the programme effectively. Three committees were set up to develop a strategy and annual delivery plans across the five NDC themes;

- Lifelong Learning, Employment and Enterprise.
- Development, Housing, Environment and Neighbourhood Services.
- Community and Quality of Life.

Two other committees were also established:

- Operations to conclude decisions for the Board on strategies, policies and plans including the annual delivery plan.
- Communications to manage the corporate communications strategy.





Over the past ten years Kensington Regeneration has been at the forefront of a wide range of successful projects to 'close the gap' between Kensington and the rest of the city by delivering a range of outcomes. To achieve these outcomes, the Partnership has worked with local people and agencies to develop innovative approaches which reflected real local priorities. Work has been undertaken with Focus and Issue Groups, Citizen's Panels and themed Task Groups.

The Partnership has achieved some outstanding successes. Here are just a few of the highlights of the programme...

An overview_

Creating a place to learn, work and do business

Kensington Regeneration's work with local schools has been one of the outstanding successes of its work in the area.

A key feature of the programme has been to improve the facilities available to local people. For example, the Partnership helped to create Kensington's own new secondary school, the multi-awardwinning Academy of St Francis of Assisi, a £21-million high-tech school in Newsham Park.

This has had a really positive impact on attainment levels – the number of students achieving five or more A* to C grades at GCSE level is now 25 per cent higher than in 2002.

The Partnership also supported the rebuilding of Kensington Infant and Junior School, the creation of the new Field of Dreams Nursery at

St Sebastian's Primary School and after-school facilities and parents' rooms across the area.

One of the main aims of the Partnership's work with schools has been to give children access to new learning opportunities and experiences.

The Music for Life project has been an outstanding example of this aspect of the programme, forging a unique link between the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the area's five local primary schools.

Funding from Kensington Regeneration has helped to provide additional equipment and resources for schools, and to enhance family learning opportunities in the area.

The success of these and other projects is reflected in the recent

achievements of the schools in the area. For example, all the primaries have recorded their best-ever SATs results in one or more subjects, and the Academy topped a Government league table as the fastest-improving school in the country at GCSE level.

Attendance levels in local schools and post-16 staying-on rates are now better than the Liverpool average.

As well as working with schools, Kensington Regeneration has been successful in helping older residents to acquire new skills.

A key base for this work is Kensington Community Learning Centre (KCLC), which was recognised as one of the best centres of its type in the country in the 2008 UK Online Centres Awards.

Another acclaimed Kensington Regeneration initiative has been the unique Kensington Bursary Project which has provided financial support to local residents on full-time degree courses, in return for their involvement in community projects in the area.

Kensington Regeneration has also worked hard to improve the employability of local people through initiatives to provide residents with job and training advice, work placements and support with accessing specific sectors of the jobs market.

Employers have been encouraged to take on Kensington residents via recruitment subsidies. Thanks to the work of JET Eastern Link and initiatives like the Transitional Employment programme and Jobs Boost, the Partnership has helped 1,497 residents to find work.







Creating a better, smarter place to live

Kensington Regeneration has brought forward three major new housing developments in the area with the help of two Housing Focus and Issues Groups – one for Edge Hill and one for Holly Road.

In total, the four schemes will eventually create 600 high-quality new homes in the area. They include a 126-property Bellway Homes site at Tunnel Road in Edge Hill. At this development, the Partnership ensured that homes were offered at affordable prices to local people, and residents affected by housing clearance in Kensington were given a priority purchasing period.

The other schemes are at Lomond Road/Grampian Road and at Gilead Street where developers Lovell are creating 175 homes for a mix of rent, shared ownership and outright sale. Kensington Regeneration has been responsible for a wide range of housing and environmental improvement works in all the area's five neighbourhoods, including the conservation areas of Kensington Fields and Edge Hill.

The Partnership has also helped to fund a programme of improvements to the area's retail facilities. More than 80 shops have been upgraded with new frontages and signs, new lighting and other improvements to the building facades.

Meanwhile, work is now well under way on one of the most important physical development projects of the whole programme.

This is the new Beech Street complex at the former ice rink and bingo hall site on the corner with Prescot Road. This ambitious scheme will include shops and offices as well as 50 apartments. In addition, the centre will incorporate a new fire station with community facilities to replace the area's ageing Low Hill premises.

Over the past decade Kensington Regeneration has encouraged local efforts to tackle grotspots, litter, fly-tipping, vandalism and graffiti.

Kensington's team of 14 Community Wardens have been at the forefront of implementing this part of the programme. As well as providing information and advice to residents on their street patrols, they are always on the lookout for environmental problems which they then report to the relevant agencies.

The Partnership helped to create the Kensington Clean Team as an

important new resource for the area. The team has operated across Kensington, cleaning up grotspots, removing fly-tipped rubbish and maintaining open spaces.

To support the work of the Clean Team, Kensington Regeneration has funded a number of community clean-ups and also community skips which have been placed in various locations around the area's five neighbourhoods once a month.

The partnership has worked closely with Liverpool City Council on measures to tackle the problem of rats, and made funding available, via an environmental grant scheme, to help community groups implement small-scale 'green' improvements at local level.



Community and quality of life

Community involvement has been at the heart of the work of Kensington Regeneration over the past decade.

The structure of the organisation has ensured that local people have been able to play a key role in its work. They have had the opportunity to comment on its progress on an ongoing basis.

Local community groups and voluntary organisations have received extensive support for their own initiatives and events. This has included operational support, provided by a team of community development workers, and financial support in the form of small grants from the Community Fund. In the most recent financial year, grants totalling £111,000 were given to 56 local groups. This was administered by Kensington Regeneration Community Interest Company (CIC).

Kensington Regeneration has also funded outreach worker posts

to provide support to the New Deal area's growing number of BME residents.

This aspect of the Partnership's work has resulted in some major successes including an annual festival of diversity, One World Week, which rapidly developed into One World Month, offering a huge range of events and activities.

Kensington Regeneration has also funded a range of measures aimed at making Kensington a safer place in which to live and work.

In the early years of the programme this involved improving the local security infrastructure with the installation of a network of 28 CCTV cameras across the area and the development of an extensive alleygating scheme.

The Partnership has funded Kensington's own Police Team who have done an excellent job in terms of tackling crime and improving community safety in the area.

The success of the Kensington Police Team has been widely praised by local people and has also attracted the attention of the judges of major regional and national awards schemes.

To support the efforts of the Police Team, Kensington Regeneration has funded a range of other community safety initiatives in the area including the Community Wardens, Nacro's Youth Inclusion Project and the Kensington Crime Alert project which works to prevent crime against businesses, shops and health facilities.

The Partnership has also supported a range of initiatives aimed at improving the health of local residents.

One such project was the creation of Kensington Community Sports Centre which has given residents of all ages local access to state-of-theart sports facilities.

Linked to this exciting new facility, the Partnership funded a youth sport outreach worker post to promote the healthy lifestyle message across the area and encourage more people to use the Sports Centre, Birchfield Park and other local facilities.

The work of HEAT – the Health Energy Advice Team – has been another Kensington Regeneration success story. This project addresses the health needs of local people, focusing in particular on housing and benefits issues and helping vulnerable residents to access energy-related home improvements.

In the most recent financial year, more than 2,000 people in Kensington benefited from HEAT's advice.



2000

The latter part of the year 2000 was a key period for Kensington Regeneration in terms of laying firm foundations for the remainder of the ten-year programme.

Staff, systems and structures were put in place to ensure that the Partnership had the robust framework necessary to embark on what Chair, Bishop James Jones, described at the time as 'the long journey of regeneration for this important gateway to Liverpool'.

However, even in those early days, there were significant successes for the Partnership like the Kensington Wired Up Communities Project, an innovative scheme to provide 2,000 local people with computer equipment and internet access.

The Partnership also began a decade of support for Kensington's community and voluntary organisations by establishing the Community Roots to Success Team.

In addition, a major consultation exercise was carried out on housing needs in the area, another key feature of the programme.

April 2000

The Government approves funding of £31 million for job, training, crime, health and environmental projects.

April 2000

The Partnership begins its first full year with The Bishop of Liverpool, James Jones, as Chair of the Board.

July 2000

The Partnership finalises its structure in terms of its Board, staff team, committees and Citizen's Panels.

December 2000

A major consultation exercise on housing needs in Kensington culminates in a series of Neighbourhood open days.



November 2000

The Community Roots to Success Team is set up to support Kensington's community and voluntary organisations.

September 2000

The Partnership receives Government approval for a DfES Wired Up Communities Project in Kensington, the first scheme of its type in the country. The aim of the project is to provide 2,000 local people with a recycled, internet-ready PC, new printer and various Microsoft software packages. A helpline is also established to provide residents with technical advice and support. 'Our vision is to enable local people to create a new Kensington which will be a location of choice for people and business, managed by the community for the community.'



2001

2001 was the year that Kensington Regeneration really got into its stride. For example, there was encouraging progress in terms of planning flagship projects like Kensington Community Sports Centre and the new secondary school for the area.

Projects with schools, and initiatives to help residents take advantage of new job and training opportunities, also began in earnest.

One of the Partnership's outstanding successes – the Kensington Police Team – was also established during the year and figures quickly showed that it was having a positive impact on crime in the area. The start of a major alleygating scheme was a further boost to community safety in Kensington.

Meanwhile, the appointment of Community Board Members from each Neighbourhood ensured that there would be local input into the Partnership's work throughout the programme, and that community representatives had the majority of voting places on the Board.



February 2001

The Partnership gives its backing to exciting proposals to create Kensington Community Sports Centre.

February 2001

The Partnership approves its first-ever round of Community Investment Fund grants totalling more than £96,000.

January 2001

POLICE

The Kensington Police Team is established and will go on to be one of the programme's outstanding successes.

March 2001

The Partnership establishes Stakeholde Groups focusing on issues including health and community safety.

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March 2001

The Partnership approves funding for a number of key local organisations. They include NACRO's Youth Inclusion Project, which works with young people at risk of becoming involved in offending, and Edge Hill Credit Union which is planning an expansion of the services offered to its members. Prospects 2000 and the Linx Project also receive support.

March 2001

The Government approves funding of £30.9 million for Kensington Regeneration's housing, environment and development programme in the area.

June 2001

Community safety in Kensington is given a significant boost as a major alleygating scheme gets under way.

July 2001

Work begins on the Kensington Regeneration housing programme with improvements to homes on Jubilee Drive.

September 2001

Work on helping Kensington resident: back to work begins with the appointment of JET staff for the area.

August 2001

Alexandra a

Kensington's own Police Team quickly has an effect on crime in the area. Figures show that there has been an encouraging decline in all crime, especially theft of and from vehicles. More crime is being reported, due to the visible presence of officers on the streets, and increased local intelligence is leading to more criminals being caught.

September 2001

Kensington residents are consulted as a Community Health Action Plan for the area is drawn up.

Autumn 2001

Primary school pupils and parents benefit from activities developed by the Partnership and Excite EAZ.

October 2001

Ten Community Board Members are appointed to the Partnership Board, two from each local Neighbourhood.

December 2001

Work begins in earnest on a drive to win Government backing for a new secondary school for Kensington. "Kensington Regeneration is really making a difference. Throughout the area there is evidence of change for the better and ambitious plans have been unveiled for future years."

Richie Keenan Deputy Chair, Kensington Regeneration ice

see us for / e confidential advice on: Debt Management mploym nt Advice Housing Issues ncy Gints Family Support

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2002

2002 was an important year in terms of a number of key themes of Kensington Regeneration's work.

In the education programme the first major physical project - the new Kensington Infant and Junior School - was successfully completed, with the Partnership also funding an exciting new music centre at St Sebastian's Primary School.

There was significant progress around community safety, with the start of work on Kensington's new CCTV system and the development of a project to distribute thousands of personal attack alarms.

Work began on demolishing properties in Lomond Road and Grampian Street, paving the way for new homes and heralding the start of the Partnership's housing programme.

And for the first time, many elderly and vulnerable residents in the area received an unexpected Christmas treat from the Partnership in the form of a luxury festive hamper.

263 2620 or visit www.heathmsington.org.us

E.A.T. KENSINGTON

Ith Energy Advice Team

Christ

February 2002

Ho Holls

Kensington Regeneration funds a new music centre at St Sebastian's Roman Catholic Primary School. The money helps the school to provide instruments for children who do not have their own. It also pays for music teachers to provide lessons on playing the guitar and a variety of brass and woodwind instruments.

March 2002

The Partnership pledges £700,000 to make plans for Kensington Community Sports Centre a reality.

February 2002

The Partnership supports a major expansion of the services provided by Kensington Fields Community Association.

March 2002

72

The amount of grants and benefits income obtained for residents by the Kensington Winter Survival Project tops £1 million.

May 2002

An election process is developed for resident involvement at Board leve – two per neighbourhood.

July 2002

Approval is given for an ambitious alleygating scheme across the whole of the NDC area.

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August 2002

John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister launches building work on the new Community Sports Centre.

INK

June 2002

A new corporate identity is developed for the Partnership on the theme of New Thinking New Kensington.

new

September 2002

Work gets under way on installing a network of 28 CCTV cameras around Kensington to boost community safety





www.kensingtonregeneration.com

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October 2002

The Partnership works to engage the business community, focusing in particular on the needs of small traders.

November 2002

Work begins on demolishing houses in Lomond Road and Grampian Road, paving the way for new homes.

December 2002

24

A popular annual project is launched when 200 elderly residents receive Christmas hampers from the Partnership.

December 2002

The new Kensington Infant and Junior School, replacing a Victorian building, is opened by Cherie Blair. Kensington Regeneration funding helped to provide a zoned playground and a safe pathway to the school. The playground includes a high energy area with secure fencing for football, a less energetic play area and quiet areas for pupils to enjoy. "This has been a very satisfying year – I think the changes that are happening are already having a real effect on improving the education and job prospects for local people."

John Caton

Chair of Lifelong Learning, Employment and Enterprise Committee, Kensington Regeneration

2003

2003 was a very important year in terms of a number of Kensington Regeneration's flagship physical projects. Lensiston

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SureStart

Contractors began work on Kensington Community Sports Centre and the Life Bank, while the first children moved into the new Field of Dreams Nursery at St Sebastian's Primary School.

And as part of a visit in August, Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott also formally gave the green light to the area's new City Academy.

The year also saw the launch of two of the Partnership's most successful education initiatives – Music for Life and the Kensington Bursary Project.

Meanwhile, the Partnership's success in supporting refugees and asylum seekers in Kensington attracted the interest of Home Office Ministers who visited the area.

New figures also demonstrated that Kensington Regeneration's work was already making a significant difference – unemployment was down and educational attainment was up.

January 2003

10

A Health Working Group is formed to work with mainstream agencies on tackling the causes of ill health.

February 2003

Kensington Regeneration appoints an officer to co-ordinate its work with black and minority ethnic groups.

January 2003

Kensington Community Learning Centre presents its first group of students with in-house training certificates.

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February 2003

2,000 personal attack alarms are distributed to residents as a further boost to community safety in the area

March 2003

More than 50 Kensington residents have found jobs through Partnership-funded ILM schemes. They are now working in sectors as diverse as healthcare, logistics and furniture restoration. Residents can also access help from the Jobs Boost project with the cost of travel, childcare, training, tools and specialist equipment.

March 2003

The Partnership publishes a directory of agencies, community groups and voluntary organisations working in the area.

Merseyrail

May 2003

Partnership Chair, Bishop James Jones, performs the ground-breaking ceremony on the Life Bank development.

March 2003

Edge Hill

New figures show the impact the Partnership is having – unemployment is down and educational attainment is up.

Northern 1

April 2003

Building work on Kensington Community Sports Centre gets under way on the site of a former reservoir on Jubilee Drive. The £2.2-million development is set to include an all-weather football pitch, sports hall, gym and aerobics room, and will play a key role in Kensington Regeneration's plans to improve the health of local people.

July 2003

getting the go-ahead for a new community garden in Birchfield Road.

June 2003

£15 million of funding is approved for the new Kensington City Academy in Newsham Park.

August 2003

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott visits Kensington and formally approves the area's new City Academy. THE OF ME

September 2003

Nursery and reception class children move into the new Field of Dreams Nursery at St Sebastian's Primary.

September 2003

Home Office Ministers visit Kensington to see the support available to refugees and asylum seekers.



October 2003

The HEAT team – formerly Kensington's Winter Survival Project – move to new premises in Durning Road.

September 2003

The Partnership launches its Bursary Project giving degree students financial support in return for voluntary work.

October 2003

The Partnership stages the first in a series of five events focusing on health and lifestyle issues.

November 2003

The Partnership launches the innovative Music for Life project, a unique link between the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and the area's five local primary schools. Each school has its own RLPO musician taking weekly music lessons. There are also regular performances in the schools, for local groups and even at the Philharmonic Hall.

December 2003

The Partnership begins an exciting new era when Lynn Spencer is appointed as its new Chief Executive. "The population of Kensington is always changing and we have to make sure that we involve people from every culture in our plans for the future of the area."

Ola Laoye

Board Member, Kensington Regeneration



With the half-way point of the Kensington Regeneration programme on the horizon, and a new Chair and Chief Executive at the helm, 2004 proved to be another very successful year for the Partnership.

Kensington Community Sports Centre opened its doors for the first time, and received a warm reception from residents. The Field of Dreams Nursery was given a VIP launch by Lord David Puttnam, and work began on the site of what would become the Academy of St Francis of Assisi.

New figures showed that unemployment in Kensington was falling significantly, and with the introduction of the Partnership's New Futures initiative, there was real confidence that this trend would continue.

The year also saw the launch of the Community Wardens and two events that would become highlights of the Partnership's calendar – the Community Awards and Kensington Summer Fun Day.





January 2004

Rensington

Prince Andrew visits Kensington, meeting residents who have benefited from Partnership job and training projects.

February 2004

Kensington Crime Alert is launched to prevent crimes against shops, businesses, schools and churches in the area.



Community

January 2004

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Kensington Regeneration and Community Seven launch their team of Community Wardens. The aim of team members – who wear distinctive uniforms – is to offer information and advice to residents and to be 'a visible and easily identifiable presence in the area who will help to make Kensington a safer place to live, learn, play and work'.

LICE

February 2004

The Streets Ahead initiative is launched n Kensington giving residents a range of advice on their doorstep.

April 2004

More than 100 Kensington youngsters perform alongside RLPO musicians at a special Music for Life concert.

March 2004

Kensington Regeneration holds its first Community Awards event to honour the area's neighbourhood heroes.

April 2004

The Partnership unveils plans to establish bi-monthly Neighbourhood Assemblies throughout the area.

April 2004

Richie Keenan takes over as Chair of Kensington Regeneration from the Bishop of Liverpool, James Jones.



May 2004

Kensington Community Sports Centre opens its doors and receives what a spokesman describes as a 'fantastic reaction' from local residents. One early visitor praises it for being 'reasonably priced and very accessible'. Another says that staff are 'very friendly' and that the centre offers 'very good value for money' compared with other similar facilities.

June 2004

Lord David Puttnam officially opens the new Field of Dreams Nursery at St Sebastian's Primary School.

May 2004

Unemployment in Kensington has fallen faster than expected in the last year from 10.4 to 8.2 per cent.

June 2004

The Partnership approves funding for a major new Lovell housing development in Gilead Street.

June 2004

Clearance work begins on the site of the new Academy of St Francis of Assisi in Kensington.

July 2004

Kensington Regeneration stages the first in a series of very successful Summer Fun Days at Fairfield Police Club. The regular format includes celebrity appearances, stalls and displays, music and dance performances, fairground rides, sports competitions and taster sessions, animals from a community farm and loads of Kensington Regeneration giveaways.

October 2004

The gates open at Birchfield Community Park created with Partnership funding next to Phoenix Primary School.

September 2004

The Partnership launches its New Futures scheme to increase employment opportunities for local residents.

December 2004

The Partnership approves funding for high-tech security features to prevent crimes against local schools. "We are only approaching mid-way and there is still plenty more to do. However, there is now a real sense that the area is improving and a strong belief that this will continue."

Lynn Spencer Chief Executive, Kensington Regeneration

2005

Looking back at 2005, one event stands out above all others – the opening of the Academy of St Francis of Assisi in September.

As the first City Academy in the country to have the environment as its specialism, there was national interest in the new school. As a result, it was later honoured with a VIP opening performed by Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Elsewhere during the year there was good news on the job and training front – an expanded JET Eastern Link team would help 300 residents to find work in its first 12 months.

Two major events also made their debut in 2005/2006 – Kensington African Festival and One World Week, soon to become One World Month, Other highlights of the year included the opening of the Bell Tower Community Garden, the launch of a team of five Neighbourhood Workers and the development of a major new campaign to tackle hate crime in Kensington.

January 2005

Dozens of jobs are on offer at Kensington's soon-to-open Academy of St Francis of Assisi.

March 2005

The Bell Tower Community Garden is opened on land between the Life Bank and Kensington Infants School.

March 2005

More local heroes are honoured when the Partnership stages its second Oscars-style Community Awards event.

April 2005

A delegation from Kensington is invited to meet Prime Minister Tony Blair at a community event in London.



Partnership funding helps to support the first Kensington African Festival which attracts over 700 visitors.

April 2005

The Partnership unveils its new team of Neighbourhood Workers – one for each of the five Kensington neighbourhoods.





May 2005

The new-look Kensington Family Support Group is launched to help the families of drug and alcohol abusers. The group – originally created in 2000 – will offer a wider range of information, advice, guidance, education and support services with the help of funding from Kensington Regeneration and Central Liverpool Primary Care Trust.

September 2005

The new high-tech Academy of St Francis of Assisi opens its doors to its first group of students. Principal Jim Burke hails the new building as 'magnificent', saying the 'surroundings and facilities are second to none'. He adds that 'it will be very exciting for staff and pupils to work in this ultra-modern school with all the latest technology'.

July 2005

Liverpool Olympic swimming hero Stephen Parry is the VIP guest at Kensington's second Summer Fun Day.

8

July 2005

A new Partnership-funded sports directory is published listing all the area's sporting activities and facilitie:

September 2005

Residents take part in the first rehearsal of the Kensington Community Choir project.

October 2005

first of what will become an annual festival of diversity – One World Week.

October 2005

Kensington Regeneration funding helps to create the new Merseyside Regional Chinese Association.



October 2005

An enhanced JET Eastern Link team helps 300 Kensington residents into work in its first year. "Our students are very proud of their new school and seem to be aware that they are in at the start of a really exciting new development for the area."

Jim Burke

Principal, Academy of St Francis of Assisi



2006

Seven years into its programme of improvements in Kensington, the Partnership continued to break new ground during 2006.

The installation of high-tech security devices had virtually wiped out crime against local schools, and there was also new funding for a laptop loan scheme in local schools and other state-of-the-art classroom learning equipment.

The Partnership also pumped additional resources into the very successful Kensington Police Team, funding two new constables and the purchase of a new police vehicle.

Elsewhere, work began in earnest on improving retail facilities in Kensington and plans were unveiled for an exciting new complex of homes, shops and a fire station on Beech Street.

Other projects were also having a positive impact in different ways. For example, environmental improvements had helped to drive up property prices in Fairfield and the Academy of St Francis of Assisi was named the fastest-improving school in the country at GCSE level.

February 2006

Prime Minister Tony Blair officially opens the new Academy of St Francis of Assisi in Kensington.

January 2006

HEAT unveils a new scheme to train Kensington residents for jobs in the information and advice sector.

January 2006

A major new campaign is launched by the Partnership and the police to tackle hate crime in Kensington.

March 2006

Kensington Regeneration gives residents the chance to air their views at its first Neighbourhood Conference.

April 2006

The Kensington Police Team is expanded and a new police vehicle purchased with Partnership funding.

May 2006

The Partnership unveils ambitious plans for new homes, shops, offices and a community fire station on the corner of Beech Street and Prescot Road. The landmark development will occupy the former ice rink and bingo hall site. Partnership Chair Richie Keenan says the scheme will 'transform a derelict area and create an exciting new focus for the Neighbourhood'.

EN A PIZ

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February 2006

The Partnership funds a new laptop loan scheme to support pupils in local schools and their parents.

April 2006

Schools in Kensington receive £120,000 of Partnership funding for state-of-the-art learning equipment.

June 2006

High-tech security equipment funded by the Partnership has virtually wiped out crime against local schools.

June 2006

More than 30 shops along Kensington are being given a major facelift with the help of Partnership funding. The scheme involves new shopfront windows, repairs to roofs and brickwork and the repair or replacement of windows on upper floors. The aim of the project is to support local businesses and hopefully attract new traders to the area.

11

July 2006

Hollyoaks star Emma Rigby – alias Hannah Ashworth – is the VIP guest at the third Summer Fun Day.

June 2006

Around 250 Kensington children take part in a showcase Music for Life concert at the Philharmonic Hall.

October 2006

Figures show that the Partnership's environmental improvements in Fairfield are driving up property prices.

November 2006

Norma Williams becomes the third Chair of the Partnership, taking over from Richie Keenan.

October 2006

One World Week becomes One World Month, offering an even wider range of diversity activities and events.

December 2006

The Partnership distributes desk sets to 1,000 local children to encourage their enjoyment of school.



"Kensington Regeneration is having a really positive impact – the Partnership is making a difference to the lives of local people and changing the area for the better."

MORI survey

2007

As 2007 progressed, there was increasing evidence of the success of Kensington Regeneration's work and the projects it had funded.

As a result, the Government gave it an 'excellent partnership' banding in its annual assessment for the year.

Elsewhere, there were honours for Kensington Community Learning Centre (best UK Online Centre in the North West) and the Kensington Police Team (Merseyside's Neighbourhood Team of the Year).

On the education front, Kensington Infants School was judged to be 'outstanding' by Ofsted inspectors and Sacred Heart Primary achieved its best-ever SAT results.

There was also good news for Kensington schools in terms of attendance figures and post-16 staying-on rates.

Other highlights of the year included the start of work on three flagship housing projects, the Bellway schemes at Lomond Road and Tunnel Road and Lovell's Gilead Street development.

January 2007

A MORI survey shows a 16 per cent rise in the number of residents satisfied with living in Kensington.

February 2007

Approval is given for the major new Bellway housing development at Tunnel Road in Edge Hill.

April 2007

The Partnership contributes £73,000 towards a range of family learning projects in local primary schools.

January 2007

The MORI survey also shows a 16 per cent drop in the number of esidents affected by crime in the are

February 2007

Business support service Dream High celebrates the opening of the first new company it has helped.

June 2007

A special celebration event marks the official opening of the St Sebastian's Community Garden

May 2007

Kensington Regeneration creates a Community Interest Company to carry on its work after 2010.

July 2007

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6,000 residents enjoy the Summer Fun Day, a record figure that is almost double the 2006 attendance.

June 2007

More than 1,000 residents enjoy events organised as part of the third successful Kensington African Festival.

new thinking new kensington

July 2007

The Partnership organises a special event to highlight the job opportunities available in the NHS.

July 2007

Bellway Homes begins work on Joshua Place, its 126-property housing scheme on Tunnel Road.

July 2007

Kensington Infants School is judged to be 'outstanding' - the highest grade possible - by Ofsted inspectors.

According to their report 'it provides first-rate care and support for all who attend'. They add that 'it is difficult to see what more the school could do for its pupils'. Special praise is given to the support available for children for whom English is an additional language.

August 2007

The Government awards Kensington Regeneration an 'excellent' banding in its latest annual assessment.

September 2007

fee

Sacred Heart Primary School celebrates its best-ever SATs results after three years of continuous improvement.

November 2007

The Kensington Police Team is named Neighbourhood Team of the Year in the first Total Policing Awards.

December 2007

Housing developer Lovell begins work on a £24-million scheme to create 175 new homes at Gilead Street.

September 2007

The Partnership helps to fund a new centre for complementary therapies and wellbeing classes in Kensington – the first of its kind in the area. Healing Space is a not-for-profit social enterprise offering therapies at affordable rates. Its services include acupuncture, homeopathy, aromatherapy, reflexology, reiki and remedial massage.

October 2007

Kensington Community Learning Centre is recognised as the North West's flagship UK Online Centre. "We are delighted that Kensington Regeneration has been judged to be an 'excellent partnership' by the Government. This is a huge achievement that local people in particular should take credit for."

Norma Williams Chair, Kensington Regeneration

2008

With Kensington Regeneration now well into the final quarter of its programme, planning for the future beyond New Deal funding became increasingly important.

A key element in this planning was Kensington Community Interest Company, the vehicle created by the Partnership to manage its legacy, sustain the benefits of the programme and retain community involvement.

However, as this work continued, Kensington Regeneration continued to introduce successful new initiatives like a welcome pack for refugees and asylum seekers new to the area.

Other highlights of the year included the most successful jobs fair in the Partnership's history and St Sebastian's Primary School achieving its third outstanding Ofsted report in a row.

Meanwhile, local projects continued to attract the attention of the judges of major awards scheme with further honours for the Tunnel Road housing scheme, Kensington Community Learning Centre and the Kensington Police Team.

March 2008

Kensington Regeneration job initiatives have helped more than 300 residents into work in the last year.

April 2008

The Partnership distributes hundreds of carbon monoxide alarms to residents across the area.

February 2008

The first issue of Kids in Kenny is published, a Partnership-funded magazine produced by local young people.

March 2008

Figures show a 31.5 per cent reduction in robberies in Kensington and a 27 per cent rise in public confidence.

April 2008

St Sebastian's Catholic Primary School achieves its third outstanding Ofsted report in a row – a record matched by only 20 schools nationwide. The Kensington school is also recognised as the best Spanish-speaking school in the country. These honours – together with its wide-ranging programme of extra-curricular activities – make it a real centre of excellence in the area.

May 2008

artsberg

Partnership working on the Tunnel Road housing scheme is recognised in the Strictly Regeneration! Awards.

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Filter Control

May 2008

Barbara Disley wins the top honour in the Community Awards for her work on the Cheviot Road community garden.

June 2008

The Kensington Regeneration CIC unveils its new Community Fund grant scheme for groups in the area.

July 2008

The Partnership organises the best jobs fair in its history – 250 residents check on the vacancies available.

July 2008

Kensington Community Learning Centre is recognised as one of the country's best in the UK Online Centres Awards.



September 2008

The Partnership launches its new welcome pack for refugees and asylum seekers who want to live in Kensington. Available in nine languages, the pack includes a wide range of useful information with sections on jobs and training, education, finance, housing, health, crime prevention, fire safety, transport and local authority and community services.



November 2008

Kensington Community Learning Centre wins one of the top honours in the nationa Regeneration and Renewal Awards.

December 2008

kensington

The Kensington Police Team wins another major honour when officers are recognised in the National Justice Awards.

November 2008

A special event celebrates the Partnership's work with schools over the lifetime of the programme.

November 2008

The Partnership funds an event which is designed to raise teachers' awareness of Polish culture. "I would like to congratulate the Partnership on its many achievements over the last decade, and also praise the local community who have been the backbone of the regeneration of the area over this period."

Colin Hilton Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council

2009

In its last full year, Kensington Regeneration continued to invest heavily for the benefit of local people. Projects to receive support ranged from the reopened swimming pool at St Anne's Primary School to Metal's new arts centre at Edge Hill Station.

Work also began on the flagship Beech Street complex which includes shops, apartments and a new community fire station.

Meanwhile, residents were settling in well at two major new housing developments in the area – Bellway's Tunnel Road scheme and the Lovell development at Gilead Street.

An independent evaluation of Kensington Regeneration's work over the past decade by Liverpool John Moores University proved to be extremely positive, with the Partnership also being honoured as the best in the country by the judges of the prestigious Regeneration and Renewal Awards.

With the end of the programme in sight, two major celebration events were held at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral and at Liverpool Town Hall.

April 2009

07

The Partnership invests significant resources in new capital projects in the area for the benefit of local people. They include Metal's new art centre at Edge Hill Station, a baby room at the Field of Dreams Nursery, IT equipment for Kensington Fields Community Association and a new mini-gym at Sacred Heart Primary School.



The swimming pool at St Anne's Primary reopens for use by local schools, thanks to Kensington Regeneration funding.

April 2009

An assessment by top polling organisation MORI says the Partnership has achieved 'significant improvements' in Kensington.

April 2009

Residents who have moved to the Joshua Place housing development describe it as a 'dream come true'.

April 2009

The Edge Hill conservation area has a spruce new look following Partnership-funded environmental improvements.

MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESONSERV

May 2009

Edge Hill Credit Union moves to improved premises at 164 Kensington with the help of Partnership funding.

April 2009

Partnership funding helps to refurbish Colomendy's Camp Terrig for use by local young people in the future.



MAL

May 2009

More than 600 people attend the first Kensington International Food Festival supported by the Partnership.

July 2009

Kensington Regeneration funds a new training centre for the area's non-English speaking residents.

October 2009

Construction begins on the site of the major new complex of shops, apartments and a fire station at Beech Street.

October 2009

Kensington Regeneration is recognised as the country's best community-led Partnership in the Regeneration and Renewal Awards.

October 2009

An independent evaluation of the Partnership's work by Liverpool John Moores University says it has been of 'huge benefit to the area', adding that by March 2009, 29 of its 32 targets had been achieved, 22 of them by a considerable margin. The report gives special praise to Kensington Community Learning Centre, HEAT, the Police Team, the Community Wardens and Music for Life.

October 2009

Partnership Chair Norma Williams wins a prestigious Leadership in Regeneration Award.

November 2009

PPPP -

A spectacular final awards event at Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral celebrates the Partnership's ten years of success.

December 2009

Residents and community representatives attend a civic celebration event at Liverpool Town Hall.

October 2009

Railway Station, supported by the Partnership, is officially opened.

"There have been real improvements in reducing crime, creating jobs, planning new homes and improving education. And the reason it has worked is the close involvement of the community."

Cllr. Mike Storey Lord Mayor of Liverpoo

2010

As the Partnership began its final few weeks, there was confidence that there was now sufficient capacity in Kensington to continue the regeneration of the area.

Chair Norma Williams commented: "I believe it is essential that we regard March 2010 not as an ending, but as the start of a new era in the regeneration of Kensington.

"There will be new opportunities and new sources of funding open to us in the future, if the local community continues to work together as it has done over the lifetime of the New Deal programme.

"We've made really good progress on the regeneration of our area over the last few years. Together, the community can now go on and finish the job."

This view was reinforced by Chief Executive, Lynn Spencer, who said: "I am confident that when we 'pass the baton' to the local community at the end of the programme, the future of the area will be in very good hands."

March 2010

The Partnership closes its doors for the final time.....but the regeneration of the area will continue.



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"I would like to pay tribute to the many local residents who have been involved in the programme. It is their ideas, local knowledge and commitment which have helped to make the regeneration of Kensington a reality."

Lynn Spencer Chief Executive, Kensington Regeneration

Summary of facts_

- Kensington Regeneration and its partners have invested £96 million in improving the area.
- Crime in Kensington is down 44 per cent on 2002 with vehiclerelated thefts down by 92 per cent.
- Kensington residents have obtained more than 4,000 accredited qualifications over the past decade.
- Funding from Kensington Regeneration has helped to improve more than 80 shops in the area.

- The Partnership has helped
 1,497 people to find work
 over 700 more than its target.
- 469 new affordable childcare places have been created in Kensington – 200 more than anticipated.
- 2,900 young people in Kensington have been involved in youth projects
 twice the expected figure.

- 25 per cent more Kensington students now gain five A* to C grades at GCSE level than in 2002.
- All Kensington's primary schools have recorded their best SATs results in one or more subjects.
- Kensington Regeneration has provided financial support to more than 200 local community groups.
- More than 200 students have received financial support from the Kensington Bursary Project.
- 4,300 Kensington residents have benefited from healthy lifestyle projects – three times the target.

- Kensington Regeneration has been responsible for building or improving 1,897 homes – four times the target.
- Kensington Regeneration and its projects have won more than a dozen major awards in recent years.
- The proportion of Kensington residents in paid employment rose by 10 per cent between 2002 and 2008.
- Kensington Regeneration has supported community groups on 2,400 occasions – 900 more than expected.

The journey continues



Although Kensington Regeneration officially comes to an end on March 31st 2010, the area will continue to benefit from the many improvements it has set in train over the past decade.

The Partnership's legacy to Kensington includes major new facilities like Kensington Community Sports Centre, the Academy of St Francis of Assisi and the Life Bank, all of which will be used by future generations of local residents.

Similarly, the new housing projects that are currently being developed in the area are set to become vibrant new Kensington communities of the future.

In addition, many of Kensington Regeneration's successful projects and services will continue to be available to local people, albeit with new sources of funding or as part of other organisations. Examples include the Community Wardens and HEAT.

However, the area will continue to benefit from Kensington Regeneration's work in other, less visible, ways.

Residents who have found work, or taken up training opportunities with the Partnership's help, will be able to carry on using their new skills and experience to compete successfully in the jobs market in the future.

In much the same way, increased levels of attainment in Kensington schools will also help local children and young people to aim higher as they progress through their lives.

There is however a general belief that Kensington Regeneration's most important legacy will be the way it has empowered the local community. This was certainly the view of Bishop James Jones, the first Chair of the Partnership, in a recent interview.

He said: "Kensington Regeneration has put local people in the driving seat in terms of taking control of their own lives. I believe it has given residents the skills and confidence they need to continue improving the area by taking full advantage of future regeneration funding opportunities, as and when they arise."

In the same interview, Bishop James also had a message for residents: "I want to urge people to get involved in their local community," he said. "Don't leave the decision making to other people – get involved yourself and make a difference."

Residents who do want to play a part in the ongoing regeneration of their area can get involved with Kensington Community Interest Company (CIC).



This was established by the Partnership as a key part of its succession plan to ensure that the regeneration of Kensington continues beyond March 2010.

The plan – the result of extensive discussions and deliberations over a number of years – sets out how the improvements and benefits of the past decade can be capitalised on in the future. In particular, it focuses on the arrangements for:

- Sustaining the benefits of the programme.
- Retaining resident and community involvement.
- Further investment in Kensington.

The Community Interest Company will play an important role in achieving these objectives. It is a limited company which has been established to ensure continuity of community leadership and to provide a mechanism for ensuring the Partnership's legacy continues to benefit residents and the area.

The CIC is managed by a Board of Directors who drive the strategy of the organisation. The majority of the Directors are Kensington residents, with other representatives from the education and private sectors.

The Company has already played an active role in the regeneration of Kensington by managing initiatives for

the Partnership including the Community Fund and the Kensington Bursary Project.

Community Interest Company Chair, local resident Jimmy Baptista, explained the role of the organisation: "The CIC has been created to put community benefit at the heart of everything it does and to conduct activities for community purposes.

"The Company wants to see the regeneration of the area continue and is committed to playing a key role in making that happen."



2001	Planning for a number of flagship projects begins
2002	Completion of the first major physical scheme
2003	Making an impact in education, training and jobs
2004	Kensington's new sports centre opens its doors
2005	Pupils move into the area's new City Academy
2006	Continuing to change the area for the better
2007	Official recognition as an 'excellent partnership'
2008	Planning the future regeneration of the area
2009	Looking back on ten years of success
2010	The start of a new era of regeneration

