



Southwark Council  
Tooley Street, PO Box 64259  
London SE1 5LX  
Telephone 020 7525 7208  
e-mail: @southwark.gov.uk

14 June 2011

Dear Councillor,

### **Themed Debate: Sports and Young People**

In April 2011 we held our first themed debate on “The future for Southwark- rising to the community challenge”. This followed the work of the Democracy Commission last year which considered the council’s primary decision-making forum: council assembly. The commission found, through consultation with local residents, experts and councillors, that council assembly should have a more consensual atmosphere and should spend more time discussing the local issues that matter to residents. One of the recommendations it made to bring this about was to change the way assembly meetings work to allow time for themed debates on issues of local concern. The commission also recommended that council assembly meet in venues outside of the Town Hall.

We are pleased to formally announce that the second themed debate will take place as part of the next Council Assembly meeting **on Wednesday 6 July 2011 at 7.00pm in Walworth Academy, Shorncliffe Road, SE1 5UJ**. The theme is “Sports and Young People”.

The debate will focus on:

- Showcasing the talents and potential of young people in Southwark
- What sport means to young people, and the capacity of sport to open pathways to broader opportunities and achievements
- How different sectors and partners can work together at a time when budgets are tight to maximise provision and access to sport for young people.

The debate will provide valuable input towards a review of the council’s Sports Strategy which runs to 2013 but is up for review.

There are a wide range of issues affecting sports and the role of young people, some of which we have discussed recently but this debate gives us an opportunity to hear the views of our community and consider how to develop our plans for the future, for example around sports development and improving access to an participation in physical activity.

We would like to encourage all councillors to:

- Consider the theme at their community council meetings
- Speak in the debate
- Submit a motion.

Ahead of the meeting, we will also be asking residents and community groups to:

- Keep an eye on the website where they will be able to post their views, or even submit a question or raise a deputation at the July meeting from mid-June: [www.southwark.gov.uk/democracy](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/democracy)
- Attend Council Assembly on 6 July from 7.00pm at the Walworth Academy to hear the debate
- Submit a council question – Deadline: Midnight, Thursday 30 June 2011.

We think this is an exciting opportunity for you to have your say and directly influence the issues at one of our most important meetings. I look forward to your involvement in this important community debate. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions or suggestions.

Yours faithfully

Councillor Catherine McDonald  
Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Councillor Veronica Ward  
Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure,  
Sport and the Olympics