

<b>Item No.</b> 2.3	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 27 November 2013	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Deputation Requests on the Theme – Local Business and Enterprise	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Proper Constitutional Officer	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That council assembly notes the deputation requests received for consideration by this meeting as listed in paragraph 3 of the report.
2. That council assembly considers whether or not to hear a deputation from the three groups listed in paragraph 8 of the report.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Deputations received for this meeting

3. The following deputation requests have been received by the deadline for consideration by this meeting and they are list in the order received below:
  1. BBI UK
  2. Latin American Business in Southwark
  3. Tower Bridge Road Alliance
  4. Local levy on large supermarkets within the borough
  5. Herne Hill Forum and Herne Hill Traders
4. The details for the deputations on the themed debate are set out in this report. The details of the other deputation are set out in item 4.

### Procedure at the meeting

5. The council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (11) states that no more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting, and deputations shall be considered in the order of receipt. However the meeting can decide to suspend this rule in order to hear more or vary the order.
6. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, council assembly can decide:
  - to receive the deputation at this meeting or a future meeting; *or*
  - that the deputation not be received; *or*
  - to refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/sub-committee.
7. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. One member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than 5 minutes. The deputation spokesperson or any member of the deputation nominated by him or her shall be invited to ask a

question of the leader or relevant cabinet member. After this time councillors may ask questions of the deputation for up to 5 minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public seating area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Deputation requests on the themed debate**

8. The following deputation requests were the first three requests received on the theme. The deputations are listed in order of receipt.

#### **1. Deputation Basic Business Initiative (BBI) UK**

The deputation request states:

As an enterprise support agency based in the borough, promoting entrepreneurship and self economic empowerment across Southwark, we would welcome the chance to talk about our current work, the challenges we face and also the input we need to have in council initiatives to ensure that local services meet the needs of our businesses. We would really appreciate the opportunity to put our points across.

#### **2. Deputation from Latin American Business in Southwark**

The deputation request states:

We are a group of business people representing the Latin American Business Community in Southwark.

This is an important community with many small and large businesses in the area. We are a vibrant and creative community with much to offer. Indeed we do not believe that it is generally known or appreciated how important we are to the commercial life of Southwark. We strongly believe that our contribution to the economy is of major importance. The Latin community has been active in the borough for generations and have fought very hard to present a positive identity for our culture.

Now, with the area around the Elephant being regenerated, we are concerned about our future. It would be a terrible loss to the area if, in the process of this regeneration, the positive, productive atmosphere created by Latin businesses was removed. An important consideration in this regard will be the costs of running our businesses. We do not want to be priced out of existence.

Instead, we want to propose a positive initiative which, we submit, will contribute to the future success of the Elephant regeneration. We propose the creation of a stronger Latin identity in the borough, and especially in the area of the Elephant and Castle. We now have second and third generations of Latin Americans living, studying and working in this country. We are here to stay. We ask to be taken seriously.

We would like to establish a distinct Latin character to the development, either a Latin Cultural Centre or a part of the Elephant development area which is designated as the Latin Quarter. We submit that the Elephant development will gain substantial benefits by being identified with the excitement, colour, creativity

and energy of the Latin culture. People of ALL cultures will be drawn to such an area.

We are a hardworking community, with wonderful music, food and arts. We are contributing to the daily life of Southwark in schools, in helping to protect the disabled, in the area women's rights. We have established many important media outlets – newspapers, radio and TV channels. We are active in the church. Our businesses serve not only to the Latin Americans but all the communities in Southwark. Help us to continue, and to expand our contribution to the life of our borough.

### **3. Deputation from the Tower Bridge Road Alliance**

The deputation request states:

I would like to request that council assembly on 27 November 2013 hear a deputation from the Tower Bridge Road Alliance (TRBA). The council assembly will be hosting a themed debate on local business and enterprise. As a local business association trying to improve Tower Bridge Road our organisation would welcome the chance to talk about our current work, the challenges we face and have faced and finally the input/communication we need to have in council initiatives to ensure that local services meet the needs of our businesses.

TBRA is a Community Interest Company setup in 2012. Supported by Southwark Council, the organisation has received over £100,000 since its inception to help revitalise Tower Bridge Road.

Project Lead, Tower Tandoori and local businesses believe by working together, they can make Tower Bridge Road a better place for businesses, residents and visitors. The shop front scheme has helped to refurbish rundown frontages for many businesses in Tower Bridge Road and is still in progress in its last stages. There are other projects which are in the pipeline, including a unique feature lighting project, an allocated refuse area project and a railway arch refurbishment programme.

Other projects, such as the tree lighting scheme have received funding from Southwark Council but have not received permission from TFL. Tower Bridge Road is part of the TFL network and therefore all roads, pavements, lampposts and trees are owned by TFL. The biggest challenge we have faced to date has been rejection from TFL. Without permission from TFL, making improvements to Tower Bridge Road is near enough impossible.

TBRA are seeking help from Southwark Council not just for funding but also help with making collaborations and lasting partnerships with TFL, Network Rail and any other authority for the benefit of Tower Bridge Road.

### **4. Deputation on introducing a local levy on large supermarkets within the borough**

The deputation request states:

The content of our deputation will be:

- description of the impact that large supermarkets have on local community life within the borough and the related local economic situation

- a brief explanation of something that could help the above situation: the case for submitting a proposal to the government under the Sustainable Communities Act that requests that the Council to be given the power to, if it so wishes, introduce a local levy on large supermarkets within the borough
- detail of the background to this proposal: a similar levy has already been legislated for separately by the Northern Ireland and Scottish Parliaments early last year
- detail of the support the proposal already has from other Local Authorities, e.g. Derby City Council, Weymouth & Portland Borough Council and Enfield Borough Council
- a request for the council to resolve to submit this proposal under the Sustainable Communities Act.

## 5. Herne Hill Forum and Herne Hill Traders

The deputation request states:

We would like to raise the issue of the problems that Herne Hill Traders are facing in Herne Hill after the devastating floods due to a burst water main in August. Herne Hill was an area being regenerated with new businesses starting up and a strong local community. The flood has set this back with potential long term damaging effects. We want to ask the council for their full support in obtaining recompense from Thames Water that will ensure the community can restore the good work done by all in the area over the last few years.

### Other deputation requests received by the deadline

9. The other deputation requests received by the deadline are set out in item 4.

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.6, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
<b>Report Author</b>	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	22 November 2013	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director Finance & Corporate Services	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
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