

## Healthy Communities Committee

<b>Public Health Commission(to be held as standalone inquiry)</b>
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Southwark Council took responsibility for public health in April 2013. Since its inclusion, there has been no comprehensive scrutiny of the work that it has done to date, its future priorities, and where the council needs to be doing more to ensure its success.

The inquiry should look into:

- How the Public Health function been integrated into the Council
- What are the national expectations for public health
- What their priorities were over the past 12 months
- What outcomes they can show
- What their priorities are over the coming 12 months

### **Potential witnesses**

- Public Health England
- Public Health Department, Southwark
- Health & Wellbeing Board
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- Cabinet Member for Public Health

### **Methodology**

- Verbal and written submissions from each of the calls for evidence
- 'Scrutiny in a Day'

NB. This would be a standalone inquiry, held separately from the current scheduled Health Scrutiny meetings.

## **Inquiry One: Healthy Communities**

The health of our community is intrinsically important to the health of our borough - the way our constituents interact with their surroundings has a major impact on the health & well-being of our residents.

Many of Southwark's high streets are dominated by shops that encourage poor health and finance choices, which damage the lives of residents and cost the taxpayer money.

With public health now the responsibility of the Local Authority, we should be able to do a lot more to encourage our residents to make positive choices.

This inquiry would look at:

- The current state of our community - from shops, to pubs and bars, to leisure centres
- The current legislation that governs our control over our high streets
- How other councils have taken steps to tackle problems on their high streets
- What we can do as a council to encourage our high streets to be healthier
- What impact this is having on the health of residents

### **Potential witnesses**

- Cabinet Member for Public Health
- Cabinet Member for Community Safety
- Cabinet member for Regeneration
- Chair of Licensing Committee/Head of Licensing
- Chair of Planning Committee/Head of Planning
- Youth Community Council – they conducted a report into the shops on the Walworth Road
- Community groups – e.g. Walworth Society
- Business networks – local & national
  - Tower Bridge Road Alliance
  - Blue Bermondsey Business Association
  - Peckham Town Team
  - Walworth SE17 (Walworth Road & East Street Market)
  - Camberwell Business Association
  - Southwark Chamber of Commerce
  - Business Extra

- o British Property Federation
- Business Improvement Districts
  - o Better Bankside
  - o LondonBridge BID
  - o Waterloo Quarter
- Kings Health Partners, Guys & St Thomas
- Public Health Department, Southwark Council
- CCG
- Public Health England
- Healthwatch
- LondonSchool of Economics. LSE Cities Future of London's Town Centres - including the ethnographic studies done on the economies & culture of Walworth Road and Rye Lane
- New Economics Foundation , Reimagining the High Street
- Move Your Money – initiatives with councils in Lambeth, Liverpool & Preston (<http://moveyourmoney.org.uk/news/city-of-preston-supports-move-your-money/>)
- Citizen Advice Bureaux
- The Portas Review, and update  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/6292/2081646.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6292/2081646.pdf)

### **Methodology**

- Visits to high streets throughout the Borough
- Calls for evidence & appearances at committee
- Series of community events - Elephant & Castle; Rotherhithe; The Blue; East Dulwich
- Survey with Southwark residents

## **Inquiry Two: Home Care**

In November 2013 the Council signed up to the Ethical Home Care Charter, which committed to improving working terms and conditions for hundreds of local care workers.

Whilst we have so far committed to a number of these proposals, there are three elements that are as yet not being taken forward.

1. Not using zero hours contracts in place of defined contracts
2. payment for travel time between clients
3. occupational sickness schemes

Through introducing these elements of the EHCC, there will be a significant impact on the working conditions for home care workers.

Through this inquiry, we would hope to further understand where we are up to on delivering each of these elements, and how we can make progress towards achieving them.

### **Potential witnesses**

- Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
- Adult Social Care team at the Council
- Unison
- Local care organisations

### **Methodology**

- Verbal and written evidence
- Community visits - day with a care worker