

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 27 January 2016	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Deputation Requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That cabinet considers whether or not to hear a deputation from the groups listed in paragraphs 4 – 6 of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, cabinet 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.
3. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. Only one member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than five minutes. After this time cabinet members may ask questions of the deputation for up to five minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Deputation requests

Mint Street Adventure Playground

4. Mint Street Adventure Playground (MSAP) deputation states:

“We are making a representation on behalf of volunteers and parents at Mint Street Adventure Playground (MSAP), Friends of Mini Mints, Sporty Mints, SE1 Parents, BoroughBabies.

We appreciate that Southwark Council is currently in a very difficult position and needs to make major cuts too many services and that we are lucky that MSAP will remain open. However, we are also very concerned that cuts will have a extremely detrimental impact on our community due to the significant reduction in high quality supervised play sessions and don't understand why the cuts are not being considered on a site specific basis. The community have volunteered hundreds of hours over the past 10 years and have contributed significantly to the design of a new, larger building that is due to be constructed next year. This has been designed specifically to provide further commercial opportunities to help fund an increase in free supervised play service provision at MSAP, not a reduction. We believe MSAP should be used as an example of thriving

community facility that can even contribute financially to other facilities that don't have the capacity to raise funds. The success of MSAP means that we live in an area with a strong community and limited youth crime. We are very concerned that a reduction in supervised play operating hours will effect the most vulnerable in our community and could result in children hanging around on the streets unsupervised and lead to the creation of youth crime and violence. Maintaining community cohesion and building bridges with the wider social context is what MSAP does best and this can only be done with a strong team of play workers supported by an even wider group of parent and community volunteers. MSAP will go through a significant period of transition over the next 2 years during the build process and it is important that we are able to retain our existing and very experienced staff. These staff are seen as much more than just workers but rather are important members of our community. Whilst we know other experienced staff could be brought in, the existing staff know the children of our community, provide advice on personal and interpersonal difficulties which helps those children to regulate their emotions. They help to foster good relations between children who don't necessarily get along well and are also able to manage questionable behaviour of adults to protect the play environment of our children. It is important to recognise that continued provision of 35 hours of supervised play generates huge returns for the kids and wider community thereby reducing costly interventions by police and social services later on."

On behalf of Service Users of Adults with Learning Disabilities

5. The deputation states:

"On behalf of my friends and fellow customers of Family Mosaic I would like to make a deputation regarding changes in floating support services provided in Southwark for adults with learning disability. We are disappointed in the cuts made to our service and feel that the council has not adequately involved us in making decisions about our support.

This group represents 61 adults with learning disability living in Southwark. We are upset at the recent termination of our floating support service provided by Family Mosaic. We have not been giving long enough to deal with this and we are angry at the way it has been done. We were not involved or asked if we are happy. Our opinion matters and we are disappointed by the way Southwark has dealt with this."

Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers

6. The deputation states:

"Southwark Council has indicated that it wishes to be perceived as a 'refugee friendly' borough in spite of cuts, and yet has made funding cuts to a number of local Refugee Organisations with whom we work or have worked very closely. The council intends to make a cut of £7,998 in addition to the projected cut of ca. £29,000 funding to SDCAS from Children's Services from 1 April 2016. [...]

If this decision of cuts does go ahead, it would make it very difficult for us to continue to support a campaign for Southwark to be considered as a 'refugee friendly' borough."

7. Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers have submitted a number of documents in respect of their deputation, including a longer statement and a

letter of support from Southwark Law Centre set out at Appendix A, and two recent case studies circulated separately to cabinet members.

Community impact statement

8. The Southwark Constitution allows for deputations to be made by groups of people resident or working in the borough.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

9. The deputation requests were received in line with the constitutional deadline for the receipt of deputation requests and are therefore eligible for consideration by cabinet as to whether or not to hear the deputations at this meeting.

REASONS FOR LATENESS

10. The deadline for the receipt of deputation requests was midnight 21 January 2016, after the main cabinet agenda despatch on 19 January 2016. It has therefore not been possible to send out this report five clear days in advance of the meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet procedure rule 2.11 on deputations (page 163 of the constitution):	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055 or Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395
Link: Cabinet procedure rule 2.11 (deputations)		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Submission from Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Paula Thornton / Virginia Wynn-Jones, Constitutional Officers	
Version	Final	
Dated	25 January 2016	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	25 January 2016	