

Education and Local Economy Scrutiny Commission

Preliminary draft recommendations – Equalities

Data

The Commission supports the Council's intention to consolidate all equalities data and recommends that it is ultimately provided to the public in an accessible fashion (i.e. as open data)

Reporting

- The Commission supports the Council's intention to conduct a benchmarking exercise comparing the Council's proposed equalities framework model to that of other boroughs
- The Commission recommends the draft equalities framework is submitted to the Education and Local Economy Commission for comment once it is substantially drafted
- The Commission supports the Council's intention to conduct an equalities audit once the equalities framework is complete and recommends that the Council develops a transparent mechanism for assessing progress annually for performance across the equalities framework.

Capacity-building and capacity-identifying

- The Commission recommends the Council evaluates current stakeholder groups and interested parties – including statutory consultees – as part of an "Equal Voices" audit. Where there are gaps in representation, across all the protected characteristics, this should be recorded and a framework developed to increase participation. Particular attention should be paid to Black, Asian and minority ethnic participation, along with disability status, sex and age.
- The Commission recommends that the Cabinet member for Equalities establishes closer links with business improvement districts (BIDs) and business groups in Southwark to help strengthen engagement and connection between business and residential communities, and improve coordination and expertise sharing on equalities matters.