

Item No. 11.1	Classification: Open	Date: 25.6.03	Meeting Name Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation Requests : Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		ALL	
From:		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor & Secretary)	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Assembly decide whether or not to receive the deputation and should it agree to do so, at which meeting it should be received.

BACKGROUND

2. A request for a deputation has been received from the Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations in conjunction with Parkside Neighbourhood and Harris Street Housing Forum.
3. The deputation request states:-
 - a) That they have no confidence in the way the 1-4 Housing Options have been handled
 - b) That they support Option 1 – to keep their 16 Neighbourhoods as they are;
 - c) or, Option 2 – ‘The Merging of Smaller neighbourhoods into Larger Neighbourhoods’ if tenants in these areas agree to the merger taking place.
 - d) That the Housing Forums remain in 16 Neighbourhoods.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.7 (3) the request that a deputation be received stands referred to Council Assembly to decide whether or not it wishes to receive the deputation.

Council Procedure Rule 3.7 (9) sets out the procedures to be observed at Council Assembly meetings:-

Standing Order 24 (5) sets out the procedures to be observed at Council Assembly meetings:-

Composition of Deputations

The Deputation shall consist of no more than six persons, including its spokesperson.

Speech on Behalf of the Deputation

Only one member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the Council Assembly, her or his speech being limited to 5 minutes.

Questions

Members of the Council Assembly may ask questions of the deputation which shall be answered by their spokesperson or any member of the deputation nominated by her or him, for up to 5 minutes at the conclusion of the spokesperson's address.

Debate

At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation may remain (subject to any resolution excluding attendance of the public) but shall take no further part in the proceedings.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

5. Comments of the Strategic Director of Housing

1. As part of the Final Vision report for the Best Value Review of the Housing Management service submitted to the Executive on 3rd December 2002, the 4 options considered by the review Project Board were included as Appendix K.
2. As part of the Project Board discussions, each of the 4 options, were discussed in detail in terms of whether the option:
 - Would improve performance of the service to achieve top quartile in London within 5 years
 - Would be cost effective
 - Would increase customer satisfaction with the delivery of services
 - Was in line with services provided by better performing local authorities.
3. The Project Board considered the evidence in relation to all 4 options and agreed that Option 4 would be recommended to the Executive as the option that provided the best opportunity for the housing management service in Southwark to improve.
4. The Executive received a detailed report which analysed the information gathered throughout the review process and in particular took into account the results of consultation, challenge, comparison and competition as required by the Government. This feedback incorporated various tenant and resident views, which were supported by a deputation from SGTO and the Trade Unions. The Executive resolved:
 - i) That the final Vision and Action Plan for the Housing Management Scheme as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.
 - ii) That option 4 be supported, which includes proposals for a reduction in the number of neighbourhoods to a smaller number of Areas as outlined in Appendix K to the report. A further report, on the number and boundaries for areas to be adopted, will be submitted to the Executive during the implementation phase of the review.

- iii) That the proposals for developing the support for tenant and resident involvement as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report be agreed. The outcome of this review be reported alongside the review of the Tenant Fund due to report in early 2003 (as set out in paragraph 6 and 7 of the report).
5. Further deputations were received from various tenant groups at both the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 18th December and a further meeting of the Executive on 6th January 2003. However, despite these deputations the Executive reached the view that its original decision of 3rd December would stand with the addition of the recommendations of Overview and Scrutiny on 18th December 2003 which were:
- i) That the Best Value review of Housing Management (Final Vision) be referred back to the Executive for reconsideration.
 - ii) That the Executive take into account the following particular concerns of Overview and Scrutiny Committee i.e.:
 - a) That tenants and residents associations be clearly advised that formal consultation on the implementation phase of the Best Value review of Housing Management will be undertaken. This should be fully explained by Housing Management through active engagement with stakeholders.
 - b) That the important role of neighbourhood sub-offices within Option 4 of the Best Value Review in providing opportunities for tenants and residents to discuss matters in person be acknowledged. Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends that the option of sub-offices be actively pursued in the implementation stage of the BVR where appropriate.
 - c) That the Executive be asked to formulate proposals for improvement and consultation and engagement with stakeholders in future.
 - d) That detailed consultation on the implementation phase of the review be undertaken on the basis of the Tenant Participation Compact. That the review should be getting information to individual tenants' and residents' associations.
6. In relation to the request that the Housing Forums remain in 16 Neighbourhoods, Council Members should be aware that no decision has yet been taken on the number of Forums which will operate in the new structure. This has been one of the topics for discussion at Neighbourhood Forum meetings during the last 2 months, the recommendations from which will be presented to a special meeting of Tenant Council on 7th July 2003, before the Executive considers this topic on 29th July 2003.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

APPENDIX A

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Support Manager (Executive)	
Report Author	Kevin Flaherty, Constitutional Support Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	13.06.03	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Strategic Director of Housing	Yes	Yes
Borough Solicitor & Secretary	Yes	No
Executive Member		
Date final report sent to Constitutional Support Services	13th June 2003	