

Item No. 4.	Classification: Open	Date: 20.7.05	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation requests – Chief Officer Comments	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor)	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly notes the comments of chief officers on the following deputation requests:
 - Southwark Association of Street Traders
 - Friern Road Tenants and Residents Association.
 - Residents of Etherow Street.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The deputation requests report was circulated on the main agenda circulated on July 8 2005.

KEY FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

Deputation request from the Southwark Association of Street Traders - Comments from the strategic director of environment and leisure

3. Southwark Council is committed to ensuring that all its markets are the centre of excellence for lawful street traders. The council recognises that there is a need to modernise the way we manage and promote markets, this includes looking at the physical structure of places like East Street that makes shoppers feel that they are visiting a vibrant, exciting place whereby they can purchase goods at very competitive prices.
4. The Southwark Association of Street Traders with assistance from the directorate of regeneration commissioned a feasibility study/business plan to look into how East Street could be improved in terms of its appearance.
5. The London Development Agency funded this study at a cost of approximately £38k. The study provides a vision for the future of East Street, however we need to have a vision for all our markets. The study's recommendations of improvements came to £1.286,525.00. Unfortunately the council does not have the capacity to fund such improvements and therefore a mini best value review has been commissioned to take this forward – this will be a report to executive later this year.
6. In relation to the deferred item of February 23 and referred to in the deputation report, environment and leisure have carried out a 'benchmarking'

report that addressed concerns from previous audit reports and as a result of the police investigation into the markets office. The report highlighted 'best practice' from leading licensing authorities, such as, Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster that Southwark wished to emulate.

7. The Southwark Association of Street Traders was consulted on the findings of the report. Many of the recommendations from the benchmarking report have been implemented, although the revocation of licenses has not, as this has yet to be ratified by council assembly. The revocation of street trading licenses is currently the responsibility of the licensing committee.
8. The new Licensing Act 2004 places a heavy burden on members of the licensing committee that may require members of the committee to meet several times per week. Constitutional amendments relating to street trading were considered by both the licensing committee on the November 11 2004 and the standards committee on the November 18 2004. The licensing committee recommended that all street trading functions be delegated to an officer panel. This covered both functions previously exercised by members acting through the licensing committee and those personally exercised by the head of street trading.
10. This will be considered at council assembly on September 14 2005.
11. A report on fees and charges was due to be considered by the executive on July 12th but has been deferred pending the outcome of an equalities impact assessment.

Joint deputation request from the Friern Road tenants and residents association

12. The comments of the strategic director of environment and leisure are set out under motion 5 on pages 183 – 184 of the main agenda.

Residents of Etherow Street

13. The comments of the strategic director of environment and leisure are set out under motion 5 on pages 183 – 184 of the main agenda.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Team
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