

Item No. 5.	Classification: Open	Date: December 6 2006	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Acting Borough Solicitor)	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That council assembly consider whether or not to hear a deputation from the, Southwark Education & Training Advice for Adults Learning Centre at Peckham Library.
2. That council assembly consider whether or not to hear a deputation from Southwark Pensioners Forum.
3. That council assembly consider whether or not to hear a deputation from the Campaign Group for Newington Reference Library.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, council assembly can decide to:
 - Receive the deputation at this meeting or a future meeting; *or*
 - That the deputation not be received; *or*
 - Refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/sub-committee.
5. 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 5 minutes. After this time members may ask questions of the deputation for up to 5 minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public gallery where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Deputation request from the Southwark Education & Training Advice for Adults (SETAA) Learning Centre at Peckham Library

6. The deputation request from the Southwark Education & Training Advice for Adults Learning Centre at Peckham Library states:

“SETAA ... is based on the second floor of Peckham Library. The service has been providing advice and support on all matters of education, training and employment for local people aged 19 plus for over 20 years and has also provided IT open learning since moving to the library in 2000.

“ ... However, the [Learning and Skills Council] LSC has made it clear to us that it is a Council decision to close SETAA, not the LSC’s.

“We ... ask you to seriously think again about closing down SETAA and its valuable services and to make sure that a proper evaluation is made of services provided and the effect of the proposed closure on borough residents, before any decision to close SETAA is put into effect”.

Deputation request from the Southwark Pensioner’s Forum

7. The Southwark Pensioners Forum wish to speak on the Forum’s recently published manifesto for older people and they seek the council’s commitment to including the manifesto’s recommendations in the council’s service priorities for older people.

Deputation request from the Campaign Group for Newington Reference Library

8. The deputation letter states:

“We wish to address council assembly regarding the future of Newington reference library.

The Thomas A. Gilbert Reference Library on Walworth Road is the only reference library left in this borough. It was opened in 1895 funded by local Newington people paying the penny rate. It is in one of the most deprived wards in London and is well-used 7 days a week.

We believe that the Libraries modernisation plan to close the reference library at Newington, with the accompanying restructuring of library staff, is not in the public interest.

We feel the consultation on the plans lately carried out by library managers has been insufficient and a sham.

Our campaign has wide support throughout the community and within the council.

We have always asked that the council install a lift to make the reference library DDA compliant and strongly believe it is in the interest of the welfare of the whole community and the public purse to do so.

We respectfully request the support of all councillors therefore to:

1. Call for an immediate halt to all plans to close and partially relocate the Thomas A. Gilbert reference library at Newington;
2. Call for a halt to the ongoing restructuring of reference library staff involved;
3. Call for a lift to be installed to make the reference library accessible to all members of the community whatever their means or ability.”

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

**Deputation request from (SETAA) Learning Centre at Peckham Library
Comments of the director of education**

9. Comments from the relevant chief officer will follow in a supplemental agenda.

Deputation request from the Southwark Pensioners Forum - Comments of the strategic director of health and community services

10. The council welcomes the role of the Southwark Pensioners' Forum in providing a valued contribution to policy formulation in Southwark. The pensioners' manifesto recommendations are wide ranging and crosscutting, reflecting the forum's ability to drive service improvement across the council.
11. This ability to drive service improvement, along with the council's commitment to improving life chances for older people in Southwark, is demonstrated by the recent launch of the Southwark's older people plan, *Independence and wellbeing for life*, which commits the council to an action plan to improve the quality of life for older people. This Southwark Alliance plan was developed in partnership with the council, older people themselves and the agencies that provide older people with services. This included working closely with the Southwark Pensioners' Forum to address the key issues that are outlined in the pensioners' manifesto.
12. To take forward this action, there will be an *Independence and wellbeing for life* working group, which will include representatives from each council service department, statutory agencies such as the PCT, the Pensioners Forum and the voluntary and community sector. This group will be functional by the end of the year.
13. In respect to the report to council assembly on how the manifesto recommendations will be implemented, the leader has written to the forum's chair setting out how this will be taken forward and outlining the wide range of support services that the council is already delivering for older people in Southwark, many of which are delivered in partnership with our vibrant voluntary and community sector. This response can be made available to council assembly.
14. To date, a number of council officers have been invited to address the forum to provide a response to the manifesto recommendations. The council welcomes the forum to continue this practice, as the council is committed to consulting with service users to enhance our ability to make Southwark a place for all people.

Deputation request from the Campaign Group for Newington Reference Library – Comments of the strategic director of environment & leisure

15. Comments from the relevant chief officer will follow in a supplemental agenda.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Cameron MacLean 020 7525 7236

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