



**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
ORDINARY MEETING**

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 6 2006

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA No. 3

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5.	DEPUTATIONS – COMMENT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER	1.

NOTE: Please note that the above reports have not been circulated seven clear working days in advance of the meeting (council procedure rule 1.2 (1)). Therefore, in accordance with access to information procedure rule (5), the Mayor will be asked to accept the items as late and urgent.

Circulated: Friday, December 1 2006

For further information please contact Lesley John/Cameron MacLean 020 7525 7228/7236

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)	

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

1. 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”.

Comments of the director of education

- SETAA is an information, advice and guidance (IAG) service for adults.
- It is currently dependant on £200,000 of Learning and Skills Council (LSC) funding which we are advised is not appropriate for this purpose, since our LSC grant is intended to deliver learning and not IAG. The funding will therefore run out by the end of this academic year.
- The LSC already funds other organisations in Southwark to deliver IAG, with a total grant of £100,000 to Next Steps which in turn funds community delivery of this work. Officers are in negotiation with Next Steps to ensure that some of this work is delivered from the Peckham Library building.
- In order to comply with LSC requirements and to best meet the needs of local people, the funding currently used for SETAA is to be re-directed to providing learning opportunities in the much needed skills for life curriculum, which includes literacy, numeracy and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL).
- Whilst SETAA will cease to exist as a discrete organisation, the space it currently occupies will be retained for the delivery of adult learning, delivered

by Southwark Adult Learning Services, providing learning opportunities in the skills for life curriculum as well as ICT and some family learning activity.

- Officers are also working with alternative information, advice and guidance providers to ensure continued access to these services from the same space. This learning activity will be funded from Southwark's LSC grant and complies with funding requirements. The IAG work would be delivered by organisations working in partnership with the Council, but not through either Council funds or LSC funds allocated to Southwark. In addition to this, all staffing costs associated with the closing of SETAA will be contained in the current year's LSC grant. This is with the agreement of the LSC and reflects national developments.