

Southwark: A place for people

Q. *Do we want the borough's north, centre and south to carry on developing as 'three zones'? Or should we focus on 'town centres' and other places that people identify with?*

Q. *A wider mix of housing in each locality would create a more even spread of income groups. How could we do this while meeting increased housing demands to benefit existing residents?*

Southwark is attracting people. Its population is expected to grow by 10-18% between 2001 and 2016.

There are 256,000 people living in Southwark in 106,300 separate households. By 2016 there may be up to 301,000, needing 126,000 homes. The already diverse population of the borough is likely to increase, with about 43% forecast to be from black and other ethnic minority backgrounds.

There are obviously implications for housing and the local economy. At the moment, 53% of homes are rented from the council or housing associations, 32% are owner occupied and 15% rented privately. Public policy will have a major influence on whether these proportions change.

Of course the picture is not the same across the whole borough. Currently there are basically three 'zones' with different characteristics. North Southwark is seeing strong economic growth, more owner occupation and private rental for higher income groups. There is also a growing gap between those in well-paid jobs and those with low pay or unemployed. Central Southwark has greater social housing, more, but smaller, businesses and more low-paid work and unemployment. In some places more than 50% of residents are from ethnic minority communities. In south Southwark, the picture is of a slightly older, mainly white, owner occupying population – a more suburban environment.

A lot of what happens to

Southwark's economy is tied to London. But transport developments, such as proposed tube and tram links to Southwark could have a big impact locally.

Over the past decade the perception of Southwark has changed into somewhere that values culture, offers quality leisure time and is a good place for businesses. At present, these changes have impacted most in the northwest of Southwark. The rich literary, arts and industrial heritage in Dulwich, Peckham and Camberwell remains hidden or difficult to access. A challenge is to see whether a mix of business, better promotion of culture and higher education could help regenerate the centre and parts in the south of the borough.

In planning for the next ten years we could consolidate the 'three zone' approach – making improvements where possible, but largely leaving the north, centre and south of the borough to develop along current lines.

Or we could focus on 'town centres' and other areas with which people identify, such as Bankside/London Bridge, the Elephant & Castle, Surrey Quays/Canada Water, Bermondsey Spa, Walworth, Peckham, Camberwell and East Dulwich/Dulwich Village, all of which offer opportunities to build sustainable communities.

Such a plan would need involvement from the private and



public sectors to influence social renewal to benefit local communities and businesses. Indeed all possible approaches to making Southwark a better place for people require physical investment and a major drive to improve the skills base of the local community.



Opportunity for all

Q. *To reduce inequality, how far should we aim to bring benefits to everyone and how far should we concentrate on the neighbourhoods and people who face the greatest hardship or discrimination?*

Q. *What can be done that will have the greatest impact on reducing inequality and building social cohesion in Southwark?*

Southwark is one of the most vibrant, exciting and culturally diverse parts of London, thanks in part to its population which is made up of 37% black and

ethnic minorities, over 6% lesbian, gay or bisexual, 66% Christian and 7% Muslim.

But Southwark's population is also one in which some people

live in severe poverty while others enjoy significant affluence. Southwark is the 21st most deprived borough in the country based on its number of poor neighbourhoods. The number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance or incapacity benefit claims has risen in recent years and the overall level of unemployment is higher than the national average.

Employment rates for black and ethnic minority groups are 16% lower than for other groups. At the same time the proportion of people in higher earning professional, managerial and technical jobs is above the national average and increasing.

A prosperous borough

Q. *Economic conditions favour north Southwark while central Southwark is a focus for small, micro businesses. South Southwark is largely residential. What economic mix is desirable or achievable? And how could we encourage more innovative and creative businesses in central Southwark?*

Q. *Unless adult skills improve, some sectors of the population will continue to be dependent on benefits. How can we close the skills gap?*

Southwark has a diverse, young and growing population, but a workforce that is polarised in terms of employment and income. Only 65% of working age people are in work, though 50% of those working residents are in managerial or professional jobs.

Two-thirds of working residents work outside of Southwark. Therefore we need a perspective that extends to the wider London economy and beyond. We should also be aware of the vibrant informal economy, not captured statistically, but a possible source of great entrepreneurship. Southwark's main employment sectors are financial services and creative industries (espec-

ially in the north), transport and logistics, tourism and leisure, professional services, health-care, retail and ICT. Over 60% of all jobs in Southwark are in the north of the borough and only one-third in the centre, with the south more residential.

In many ways, Southwark 'works' as a borough: it is easy to reach jobs in the City and central London and while investment in the north of the borough may not have created many direct jobs for Southwark residents, the associated service industries have.

Many of the firms based in the borough meet the needs of its current population. But a significant number of small local

Patterns of inequality relating to age, income, gender, ethnicity and disability are not distributed equally across the borough. Of the 21 wards in Southwark, more than half are ranked in the 20% most deprived in the country. Two are in the most deprived 10%.

As well as the differential levels of poverty and exclusion that affect people of different backgrounds, a number of groups experience overt discrimination and harassment. For example, while levels have reduced, Southwark is the sixth highest of the 33 London boroughs for race hate crime, and the third highest in London

for homophobic crime. Domestic violence accounts for 6% of all crime in the borough with three-quarters of victims women, and young people are the largest victims of crime by other young people.

The choices are how far to concentrate improvements on interventions that would make Southwark a better place for all, or to focus on approaches that involve significant targeting and positive action of both people and neighbourhoods.

The 'better place for all' approach is based on the view that by making the borough a better place overall – better schools, public transport,



businesses and black and ethnic minority businesses do not thrive as well as they might. Unemployment also remains high and a quarter of the borough's working age population has low vocational skills.

So should we strive to change the nature of the local economy or do we build positively on existing features? We could have a sizeable impact on the prosperity of Southwark by influencing land use, coordinating and helping regeneration, providing

vocational training and support services for local residents, supporting transport developments, and influencing things like educational provision, the local environment and housing in ways that benefit the economy.

We could also encourage enterprise and employment by providing advice and support to small and medium sized businesses, focusing on particular sectors of the economy and parts of the borough, promoting local purchasing, and using planning to influence land use.

homes, health prevention for example – everyone benefits to some extent. Provided public bodies implement anti-discrimination legislation, all individuals should be able to take advantage of overall improvements.

But a potential outcome of a 'one size fits all' approach could be greater inequality. Increased social polarisation could lead to increased social and ethnic tensions, with the potential for higher income groups moving out, or living in separate communities. With services then concentrating on these wealthy areas this could result in choice for the 'haves', and welfare

provision for the 'have-nots'.

An alternative is to target key groups and neighbourhoods to reduce the inequality gap. This would involve a more 'bespoke' approach, acknowledging that people have different starting points, and different barriers to overcome.

To be effective, targeted action would need to be sustained over a significant period. Because much inequality is entrenched, new ways of intervening may be needed. Communities themselves would need opportunities to shape these interventions and their expertise used to make them successful.

Active and responsible citizens

Q. How can we best encourage and support residents to become active in their communities and encourage greater responsibility for people's own actions and those of others?

Q. How should public agencies change to give people greater confidence that their voices will be heard?

Southwark is a busy place for the 'community minded' but nobody knows exactly how many people are involved in voluntary organisations or come along to community meetings.

There are over 1,500 registered voluntary organisations in the borough and some 204 organisations are linked to the Southwark Multi-faith Forum. Over 250 tenants and residents associations are members of the Southwark Group of Tenants Associations, 220 people are environmental street leaders and 329 are neighbourhood watch co-ordinators.

300 individuals contact Volunteer Centre Southwark every month to seek volunteering opportunities and about 1,500 people a year from businesses also volunteer in Southwark. Meanwhile, there were 3,612 public attendances at community councils last year. In addition, over 800 local people serve on school governing bodies and about 4,000 young people go to youth clubs.

Despite all this activity there is evidence that not everyone either feels able or knows how to join in. One goal for 2016 could be to have a well-publicised and wide-ranging menu of formal and informal opportunities for people to be active in their community. We would want people to feel that being a good neighbour, sorting out a problem in their street or estate, and volunteering their skills to help

others is part of what living or working in Southwark is all about. This contribution to community well-being should be recognised and celebrated.

As well as opportunities to be active within the community, in 10 years we might anticipate greater partnership between local people and the public agencies that provide services to them. Building on the current community councils, local forums, area partnership bodies and scrutiny arrangements, we might see more local people helping to inform councillors and public agencies about how to design and deliver services.

It is in everybody's interest that people should choose voluntarily to behave in a way that respects others and does not impair other people's quality of life. Between now and 2016 we could promote both formal and informal citizenship education, so that from an early age young people have a good understanding of their rights and responsibilities.

Because Southwark is such a busy place, the array of participation structures and volunteering opportunities can be bewildering. They may also only reach some sectors of the community. To achieve our goal for more active citizens, we may need to work harder across the public sector to improve information, streamline and coordinate structures, and ensure that there is a consistent network of support.

Modern, accessible services

Q. What more could be done to improve and simplify access to services and ensure that everyone who wishes to, takes up the services they are entitled to?

Q. Could services be better organised – regionally, cross-borough, borough-wide or in neighbourhoods?

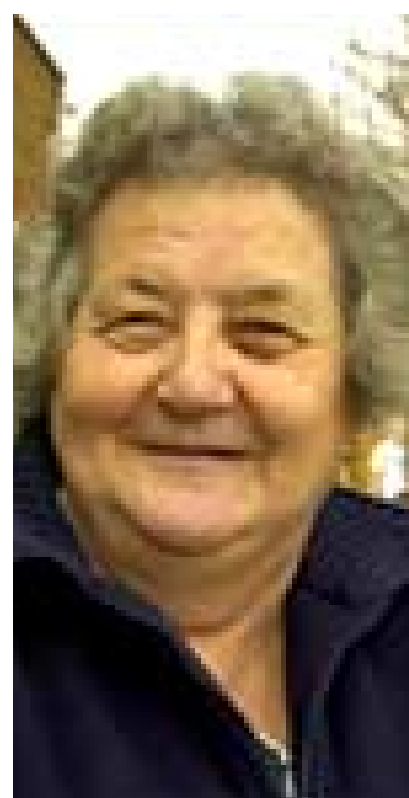
There is a need to modernise services and at the same time to ensure equal access to them.

Customer expectations of what it means to deliver services to a good standard are increasing. In much of the private sector and some public sector services, the times and ways services are delivered are designed to suit customers, rather than the service deliverers. Choice and personalisation of services in areas such as health, education and housing is also a growing expectation of customers. This trend will continue across public sector.

Our vision for modern accessible services in 2016 might be to ensure people understand our services, that they match the expectations of our diverse community and they are easily accessible. We should respect service users by keeping promises and explaining our actions well, using technology effectively, while safeguarding equal opportunity of access for all.

There are many practical things that can be done to achieve this goal, including improving how the public sector works in partnership and explaining more clearly how services fit together.

Meeting this goal will also require a significant culture change within the public sector. There may be merit in having a 'Southwark public service contract' or charter, which



establishes standards and outlines roles and responsibilities of both service providers and users.

Examples of ways in which services could be improved include: making better use of existing resources (for example development of community schools); taking advantage of technological developments to provide services more efficiently; organisations working more effectively together; providing support and advice about local services and providing greater choice to service users on matters such as where and how services are provided.

Learning for life

Q. *With limited resources, how do we best develop schools to become learning centres for the whole community, while raising achievement standards?*

Q. *Are there different ways of bringing into learning young people and adults who have missed out on opportunities or who are disaffected?*

The number of children in Southwark is increasing. By 2016 we may have 5000 more primary and 2000 more secondary school pupils – many from minority communities.

Education remains a dynamic sector and there are already many initiatives underway which will have a direct impact over the next 10 years. Things like 'Every Child Matters', a central government initiative which requires us to focus on individual children and their learning needs, not just in school but within the community.

The proposed Children's Trusts will bring services for children more closely together. This offers an opportunity to develop a more coherent approach to meet the needs of individual children, and increase their chances of success in learning and in life.

The notion of 'extended schools' is also important. An extended school is a hub for the local community where a range

of services can be accessed either through direct provision on site or through direction to other local service centres. For pupils, evidence indicates that attainment, behaviour and attendance improve as a result.

For parents/carers and



families, greater involvement in their children's learning is often complemented by a greater willingness to engage in personal lifelong learning. For the wider community, as local people become active partners in identifying and addressing local needs, there is a growth in community confidence and a sense of greater pride in local schools.

Within 10 years we might expect all schools to be 'extended schools', acting as hubs for their local area. Together with children's centres, post-16 colleges and adult education centres, each hub would have an age speciality (early years/primary, secondary, post-16) around which would be



a wider package of formal and informal learning opportunities that met local community needs across all age groups. Within the secondary sector particularly, there would be a combination of broad and specialist subjects offered at each school.

We would need to continue the policy of targeting those with additional needs. This includes supporting the emotional and social development of vulnerable children. It also involves tailoring learning to take account of ethnic and cultural issues, and continuing the partnership with the voluntary, faith and business sectors to find new ways to address underachievement. It involves making sure that young people can access support and guidance to ensure they are able to enter adult life and the world of work fully equipped for its challenges.

More effective partnership and collaboration would also be needed to raise adult skills

levels in the borough.

We need to recognise the importance for Southwark's future of teachers and other professionals who impact on learning. We need to make Southwark a place where people want to work, and where the quality of relationships between schools, learners of all ages, parents/carers, public agencies, and the wider community is nationally regarded as one of mutual support and respect.



A cleaner, greener borough

Q. *What more could be done by everyone to keep our streets, estates and parks clean and attractive, assuming we do not have a lot more public money?*

Q. *What might be the most practical and useful actions that public agencies can take in Southwark to promote sustainable ways of living, and how might we get public buy-in?*

Thriving communities have streets, parks and open spaces that are clean, safe and attractive. This sends a message that people and public agencies care about the area and the people who live or work there as well. It also makes people feel safer when out and about.

The environment is high on local people's list of concerns. A 2004 Mori poll revealed that rubbish collection was seen as the most important service run by Southwark Council, followed by street cleaning. Respondents also saw street lighting and recycling as important.

Making a place more liveable

and sustainable is affected both by people's attitudes and behaviours and what public agencies and private companies do. Fly tipping, dumping of cars and litter may be easier if the area is uncared for, so the attitudes of 'dumpers' needs to be tackled. And while many say they are concerned about air pollution and traffic congestion, most still want to use a car.

The new Southwark Unitary Development Plan should be adopted in 2006 and will provide a framework for the next ten years. By using this Plan we could redevelop land efficiently and reduce the need to travel.



We could place further restrictions on cars through increased parking controls and wider congestion charging. Southwark could then become a place where cycling, walking and public transport is the easiest way to get about. This would help reduce congestion, noise and air pollution.

Streets may be redesigned and made more attractive for walking, with large areas and streets given over to the pedestrian. This would enable tree planting and mean a redistribution of road space. If we want to win back spaces for the public then all agencies need to be involved in the process, from the design of walking routes from home to shops, to street furniture and shop fronts. An agreed style for different areas, perhaps using public art as a focus, could provide character.

With a potential rise in energy prices and global warming creeping up the social agenda, we could lobby government for regulations that require higher environmental standards. Then energy efficient buildings, efficient water use, using building materials from sustainable and recycled sources could become a reality.

Those delivering

neighbourhood services such as refuse collection and street cleaning work at a local level can take specific action to deliver a cleaner, greener, safer borough. Moreover companies such as gas, electricity and water providers and Network Rail all have a major impact on the environment in Southwark but do not always think locally. Greater partnership and collaboration with them would help.

The main policies and frameworks for achieving improved liveability and sustainability are in place. The challenge is to translate those into actions on the ground. This will involve making the links between day-to-day and longer-term sustainability issues, so that they are working to support each other. We also need to recognise that major private and public developments will continue to happen in the borough, and that how we influence those to support sustainability will be crucial.

Getting the most appropriate level for the delivery of services and ensuring that they are responsive to local needs in each area will help, as will building the awareness and involvement of local people, and encouraging 'cleaner, greener' aspirations and behaviour.

A safe place

Q. What might be the priorities for promoting a 'safety first' borough involving communities, public agencies and businesses, and how might we achieve them?

Q. What more might we do to prevent crime and reduce re-offending?

Achieving a safe Southwark is about reducing crime and disorder but is equally about road, fire and food safety, child protection, health and safety at work, safe housing and safe places to have fun.

Encouragingly, crime rates in Southwark have gone down in recent years. The average crime rate (total notifiable offences) declined from 188 per 1,000 people in 2002/03 to 181 in 2004/05 (projected), though certain crimes such as street robbery, violence and alcohol related offences are worrying.

The biggest social cost of crime is fear, which can affect how people live their life. Declining crime rates are

mirrored by an increase in numbers of residents feeling safe walking outside. While, in general, across Southwark people feel safer walking by day or night, concerns have increased in some areas. The main reasons given by residents for feeling unsafe after dark were muggings and street crime, drug dealing, and the presence of groups of teenagers.

With scarce resources, we need a balance between prevention and enforcement.

Prevention may bring long-term improvements by tackling causes, while enforcement is about more immediate responses to deal with consequences.



Effective enforcement will always be necessary as part of keeping Southwark safe. Targeted, intelligence-led action around particular problems – closing a crack house, arresting a street robber, dealing with illegal fly-tipping, closing unhygienic food outlets both deal with the problem and send a message to others.

With a prevention approach we might reduce traffic speeds on residential roads, routinely check fire and food safety across outlets and provide education

on a range of safety issues.

Through the Safer Southwark Partnership, we have a strong foundation on which to build. Public agencies with a remit for safety have a track record of working together on the ground, and of jointly managing staff.

So to create a safer Southwark over the next ten years, we may need a 'whole community approach' at borough and neighbourhood levels, while being able to respond to new aspects of safety arising from an 'open all hours' economy, national threats and changing public aspirations and expectations.

Communities could be involved in discussions about policy and resourcing dilemmas – for example in relation to prevention, targeting, enforcement, rehabilitation, and universal versus specialist services. This would in turn strengthen the confidence and cohesion of communities, increase pride in the borough, and encourage people to be proactive about their own safety and the safety of others, in the home, on the streets and in workplaces.

A healthy borough

Q. What could be our priorities for promoting a 'healthy borough', involving communities, public agencies and business, and how might we achieve them?

Q. Are there better ways of organising services that would help reduce the risk of ill-health?

The health of Southwark's population is getting better but is still not as good as elsewhere. We have the second highest rate nationally for teenage pregnancy, relatively high rates for HIV, poor sexual health and low life expectancy for men. Deaths from circulatory diseases and cancers are also of concern, and these are disproportionately associated with poverty and particular ethnic groups.

Improving the health of local

people requires sustained long-term action. Recent national priorities set out in the Public Health White Paper 'Choosing Health' and in the guidance to modernise health and social care services will provide the policy framework for the next 10 years.

Southwark's own health Local Development Plan has health promotion and prevention as a key objective.

Key issues over the next 10

years are likely to be obesity, smoking, sexual health, teenage pregnancy and improving mental health. Effective, healthy choices in these areas will lead to higher than average life expectancy.

Health education and health promotion will be critical in supporting the making of healthy choices. In 10 years we might expect to see the borough's population having access to the 'best' information, understanding what it means and how to use it. We might expect to see every citizen investing time to improve his or her personal health and well-being.

We might seek to create a Southwark where the culture of 'making healthy choices' is targeted with extra effort and resources at groups and neighbourhoods experiencing disadvantage, poorer access to services and poorer health.

The national debate about choice and the diversification



of services is likely to accelerate in the future, and this will of course affect the nature of provision in Southwark and outside. But shifting the focus from the management of ill-health to the promotion of good health and well-being will impact on how health services are run and delivered over the next 10 years. Changing administrative arrangements, and the move toward integrated multi-agency working should lead to a more holistic focus on the health needs of the individual.



Don't forget to have your say

Now that you have read some of the issues and questions posed for the future of Southwark, we want your views. Email thoughts, opinions, suggestions and further questions by the end of July 2005 to responses.southwark2016@southwark.gov.uk, fax 020 7525 7324 or visit www.southwarkalliance.org.uk/southwark2016



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French

La stratégie de la communauté de Southwark donne la vision pour le future de la municipalité. Au cours de 2005 l'Alliance de Southwark et le Conseil de Southwark chercheront les opinions de la population sur ce qu'on considère important pour les prochaines 10 années, afin d'avoir une nouvelle stratégie de communauté à April 2006, une stratégie que nous portera en avant à 2016. Discussions en plusieurs langues auront lieu pour former la nouvelle stratégie. Pour avoir des détails, veuillez visiter www.southwarkalliance.org.uk/southwark2016. Si vous avez besoin d'une traduction, vous pouvez aller au bureau One Stop Shop, 122 Peckham Hill Street, SE15.

Spanish

La estrategia comunitaria para Southwark establece la visión de futuro para este municipio. Durante este año 2005, Southwark Alliance y Southwark Council quieren recoger las opiniones de la gente sobre lo que será importante en los próximos 10 años. Para así poder configurar una nueva estrategia comunitaria de aquí a abril de 2006 que nos lleve hasta el 2016. El debate para la creación de la nueva estrategia tendrá lugar en distintos idiomas. Si necesita más datos vaya a www.southwarkalliance.org.uk/southwark2016 o a la One Stop Shop, 122 Peckham Hill Street, SE15 si necesita ayuda con la traducción.

Bengali

সাউথওয়ার্কের কমিউনিটি পরিকল্পনা এই বরোর ভবিষ্যৎ উন্নয়নকে লক্ষ্য রেখেই করা হয়। সাউথওয়ার্ক এলায়েন্স ও সাউথওয়ার্ক কাউন্সিল ২০০৫ সনে যে পরিকল্পনা করেছে তা এলাকার মানুষের মতামতের উপর ভিত্তি করে আগামী দশ বছর বিশেষ গুরুত্ব দিয়ে। অতএব, ২০০৬ সনে আমরা যে কমিউনিটি পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণ করবো তা আমাদেরকে ২০১৬ সন পর্যন্ত নিয়ে যাবে। নতুন পরিকল্পনার উপর বিভিন্ন ভাষায় আলোচনা হবে। দেখুন ওয়েবসাইট-

www.southwarkalliance.org.uk/southwark2016

অথবা আসুন-ওয়ান স্টপ শপ, ১২২ পেকহাম হিল স্ট্রীট, এস ই ১৫, অনুবাদ করে সাহায্য করা হবে।

Chinese

南華克社區策略是為著展望本區的將來。在2005年內南華克聯盟機構和地方議會正公開諮詢，找出未來10年公眾認為重要的事項。因此到2006年4月，我們可以有全新的社區策略覆蓋至2016年。新策略形成前的討論將使用不同的語言。有關細節可以瀏覽網頁 www.southwarkalliance.org.uk/southwark2016，或者如果需要翻譯服務，請到訪一站式服務店，地址 122 Peckham Hill Street, SE15。

Somali

Kooxda qorsheynta ee Southwark waxay dejinayaan aragtida dheer ee mustaqbalka degmada Southwark. Sanadkan 2005ta dhexdiisa ayaa isbaheysiga Southwark Iyo dowladda hoose ee Southwark waxay goobayaan aragtiyada, dadka iyo sida ay u arkaan waxyaabaha muhiimka ah ee la qaban karo 10ka sano ee soo socoto.

Sidaa daraadeed bisha abriil ee 2006da waxaan awood u leenahay inaan helno kooxda cusub ee qorsheynta Southwark taasoo horay inoo wadi doonto illaa 2016da.

wadahadalada lagu dhisi doono qorsheynta cusub waxaa lagu soo bandhigayaa luqado kala duwan. Booqo bogga, www.southwarkalliance.org.uk/southwark2016fordetails, ama the one stop shop, peckam hill street, SE15 caawinaad ay la socoto turjumid.

Turkish

Southwark Belediyesi'nin (Southwark Council) yöre halkı stratejisi (community strategy), ilçenin geleceği hakkında yeni bir perspektif sunuyor. 2005 senesi boyunca, Southwark Birliği (Southwark Alliance) ve Southwark Belediyesi, önümüzdeki on sene zarfında nelerin önem kazanacağı konusunda kişilerin görüşlerini almak istiyor. Bu sayede Nisan 2006 tarihi itibarıyla, 2016 senesine kadar gelişme kaydetmemizi sağlayacak nitelikte yöre halkına yönelik yeni bir strateji belirleyebileceğiz. Bu yeni stratejiyle ilgili tartışmalar değişik dillerde yapılacaktır. Bu konuda daha detaylı bilgi almak için İnternette "www.southwarkalliance.org.uk/southwark2016" adresine bakınız veya bu bilgilerin kendi dilinize tercüme edilmesini istiyorsanız One Stop Shop'un "122 Peckham Hill Street, SE15" adresindeki şubesine gidiniz.

Vietnamese

Chiến lược cộng đồng của Quận Southwark sẽ đề ra kế hoạch cho tương lai của quận. Trong năm 2005, khối liên minh quận Southwark và Hội đồng quận Southwark sẽ tìm hiểu ý kiến của người dân xem họ coi những gì sẽ là quan trọng trong 10 năm tới; do đó đến tháng 6/2006 chúng ta có thể có một chiến lược cộng đồng mới đến tận năm 2016. Các cuộc thảo luận nhằm xây dựng chiến lược mới này sẽ được thực hiện bằng các thứ tiếng khác nhau. Hãy xem trang web www.southwarkalliance.org.uk/southwark2016 để biết thêm thông tin hoặc hãy đến van phòng One Stop Shop, 122 Peckham Hill Street, SE15 để được giúp đỡ dịch ra tiếng mà bạn muốn.