

# Council Assembly (Ordinary meeting)

Wednesday 22 January 2014  
7.00 pm

The Charter School, Red Post Hill, SE24 9JH

## Supplemental Agenda No. 3

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### Contact

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Date: 17 January 2014

# Agenda Item 2.3

<b>Item No.</b> 2.3	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 22 January 2014	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Deputation Requests on the Theme – Active Communities and the Elderly	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Proper Constitutional Officer	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That council assembly notes the deputation requests received for consideration by this meeting as listed in paragraph 3 of the report.
2. That council assembly considers whether or not to hear a deputation from the three groups listed in paragraph 8 of the report.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Deputations received for this meeting

3. The following deputation requests have been received by the deadline for consideration by this meeting and they are listed in the order received below:

#### Themed

1. Connect
2. Stop Killing Cyclists Campaign
3. Consortium of Older Peoples Services in Southwark.

#### Other

1. Deputation request from Southwark Vegan and Vegetarian Society
2. Deputation request from Zacchaeus 2000 Trust (Z2K)
3. Deputation request from Safe crossings on Borough High Street campaign
4. The council's constitution and related documents

4. The details for the deputations on the themed debate are set out in this report. The details of the other deputation are set out in item 4.

### Procedure at the meeting

5. The council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (11) states that no more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting, and deputation requests shall be considered in the order of receipt. However the meeting can decide to suspend this rule in order to hear more or vary the order.
6. 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*
  - to refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/sub-committee.

7. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. One member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than 5 minutes. The deputation spokesperson or any member of the deputation nominated by him or her shall be invited to ask a question of the leader or relevant cabinet member. After this time councillors 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 seating area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Deputation requests on the themed debate**

8. The following deputation requests were the first three requests received on the theme. The deputations are listed in order of receipt.

#### **1. Deputation request from Connect**

The deputation request states:

The purpose of our deputation is to create awareness of aphasia.

#### **What is aphasia?**

Aphasia is a communication disability, which often follows a stroke or brain injury. People with aphasia can think clearly but variously find it hard to find words, understand what people are saying, write words, use numbers, money, tell the time, or read. The key thing to remember is everyone is affected differently. Intellect is unaffected, but sometimes people with aphasia find they are treated as though they are stupid, or are patronised by others who do not understand. People with aphasia know what they want to say, but may have a problem with communicating it. It is an invisible disability which makes it all the more difficult for others to comprehend.

To quote one of our members:

“Aphasia doesn’t mean the end ... can be a new beginning ... you have to recognise that you are different to what you were before ... and to cope with that.” (Sharon – a person with aphasia)

#### **How does Connect help?**

Connect is a charity for people living with aphasia. It offers groups and a range of opportunities to enable people with aphasia to:

- gain confidence
- raise self-esteem
- meet people who understand
- ‘re-connect with life’.

All our groups and activities are fully supported and run by people with aphasia. Connect’s ethos is to promote peer-led opportunities to enable people to re-connect with life. One of our members said:

“There is a huge gap between leaving hospital and learning to lead a ‘normal’ life again. I couldn’t have done it without Connect.”

## **2. Deputation request from Stop Killing Cyclists Campaign**

The deputation request states:

We would like to submit a deputation request to the next council assembly from the Stop Killing Cyclists Campaign under the theme of active communities and the elderly.

Following yet the death of another elderly Southwark resident in a cycling tragedy, we wish to make the case that investment in a segregated cycle-lane infrastructure could make a significant positive contribution to older residents, in terms of their activity in the community and improved health and how unlike many other cities, they are currently almost absent from Southwark's streets.

We would like to submit a list of demands that would positively address this absence.

The Stop Killing Cyclists deputation wishes to submit the following demands and extend an invitation to attend our special "lethal cycling planning-disasters" cycle-tour of the north and centre of the borough, that we are staging specifically for Southwark's politicians of all three major parties, whom we feel have failed us up to now:

- The council to set a target for journeys made by the over 50s by bicycle.
- Spend a minimum of 10% of transport budget on safer cycling infrastructure.
- Halt the de-facto officer ban on implementing the Southwark core strategy policy requiring all new developments to allocate physical space for cycling.
- Produce a map of the integrated largely segregated cycle-path network promised three years ago by the leader Councillor Peter John and cabinet member for the environment Councillor Barrie Hargrove prior to the council elections, not a metre of which has yet been built, despite the promise that it would be completed within four years.
- Reform Southwark's transport department into a walking, cycling and transport department, staffed by officers trained in "Go Dutch" pedestrian and cycling safe neighbourhood design.

## **3. Deputation request from Consortium of Older Peoples Services in Southwark**

The deputation request states:

### **Who we are**

The Consortium of Older Peoples Services in Southwark (COPSINS) consists of 6 voluntary organisations; Age UK Lewisham and Southwark, Alzheimer's Society, Blackfriars Settlement, Dulwich Helpline & Southwark Churches Care, Southwark Pensioners Centre and Time and Talents who are actively working in partnership to make life better for older people in Southwark.

The strength of the partnership comes through the combined expertise in providing befriending, social engagement and activity and accessible information and advice services. The geographical cover across the borough underpins the partnership work.

Whilst some of the services we deliver are funded by Southwark Council, we also bring in over £500,000 in additional funds from other sources to provide additional services to older people within the borough.

### **What are we asking for?**

We are asking the council to commit to becoming an age friendly borough and to develop a strategy to make this commitment a reality.

### **What does this involve?**

An age friendly strategy would move thinking about older people from the realm of health and social care and into all areas of council policy. It would include strategies that cover:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Income and employment
- Culture and learning
- Healthy ageing
- Care and support services
- Civic participation and engagement.

### **Why commit?**

As an inner city borough, Southwark has a young population, with people with the resources to do so, often moving out as they become older looking for a better quality of life. The remaining older population is often financially poorer, more isolated and with higher levels of health needs.

But Southwark, like most inner city areas, could be a great place in which to grow old. To achieve this we need to move thinking about age out of adult social care and health discussions and into all areas of planning particularly planning for the external environment and transport.

Much work is already happening in Southwark. This includes:

- Creating a Centre of Excellence for Older People
- Commitment to older peoples participation through the forum and co-production halving the price of meals on wheels
- Commitment to increasing the supply of extra care housing in the borough
- Bringing back wardens to sheltered housing
- Working to increase the quality of care in residential home sin the borough
- Committing to the Unison ethical care charter
- Funding a range of community services for older people
- Funding the SAIL project
- Investment in community buildings used by older people
- Don't Turn Your Back Safeguarding Campaign.

The above list demonstrates clearly the council's commitment to the well being of older people especially within the social care department.

Unfortunately our experience of working with older people is that where they are not the focus of a strategy their needs are often over looked or placed below those of children, young people and the working age population.

By committing to becoming age friendly borough we can ensure that there is no area of work in which the needs of older people are not addressed and that we create a borough in which people choose to grow old.

Developing an age friendly strategy would also enable us to start thinking about how we can meet the needs of the next generation of older people in the borough. If the older population in Southwark is now often financially and socially excluded the following generation may be even worse off. The 50+ age group are being disproportionately hit by the current welfare cuts with the incumbent health inequalities and are likely to enter their older age in a financially poorer position. We know that poverty and exclusion leads to worse health outcomes. Planning now will boost efforts to mitigate some of the negative effects of current policy.

#### **How do we do this?**

Southwark Council has developed good partnerships with older peoples groups in the borough. We are asking the council to look at how it can build on these to create further participation by older people and the voluntary and community sectors in creating a strategy for becoming an age friendly borough. An example of good practice that has been effective elsewhere is Manchester's Valuing Older Peoples Board, Advisory Panel and Partnerships. We believe that we have an infrastructure in place that, with support from the council and increased involvement of older people (50+), can be strengthened to develop the appropriate strategy.

The capability and willingness of the VCS to work together and with other services has been successfully demonstrated through the implementation of COPSINS and SAIL and provides the confidence that would underpin the development of the strategy.

#### **Other deputation requests received by the deadline**

9. The other deputation requests received by the deadline are set out in item 4.

#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Deputation Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.6, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
<b>Report Author</b>	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	17 January 2014	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director Finance & Corporate Services	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		17 January 2014

<b>Item No.</b> 4.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 22 January 2014	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Other Deputation Requests	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Proper Constitutional Officer	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly considers whether or not to hear a deputation from the groups listed in paragraph 5 of this report.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The full list of deputation requests received and the order in which they were submitted for this meeting is set out in item 2.3. The council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (11) states that no more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting. However the meeting can decide to suspend this rule in order to hear more or vary the order.
3. 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*
  - to refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/sub-committee.
4. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. One member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than 5 minutes. The deputation spokesperson or any member of the deputation nominated by him or her shall be invited to ask a question of the leader or relevant cabinet member. After this time councillors 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 seating area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Other deputation requests

5. The following deputation requests were received on issues other than the subject of the themed section of the meeting. The deputations are listed in order of receipt.

#### 1. Deputation request from Southwark Vegan and Vegetarian Society

The deputation request states:

We would like Southwark council to show official support for SouthwarkMeatFreeMondays.

Current support includes:

- Over 200 Southwark residents
- Southwark's three MPs – Simon Hughes, Tessa Jowell and Harriet Harman
- 15 of Southwark's councillors
- Many local restaurants, cafes and churches and will soon have some schools on board.

Outcomes from Southwark council support:

- Officially support and acknowledge that SouthwarkMeatFreeMondays is a positive, healthy and beneficial programme.
- SouthwarkMeatFreeMondays in the council's own offices, and in the other public buildings for which it is responsible, including local schools.

Benefits for Southwark include:

- Better for residents' health – reduce illness and obesity. Oxford University's department of public health found eating meat no more than three times a week could save the NHS £1.2 billion in costs and prevent 31,000 deaths from heart disease, 9,000 deaths from cancer and 5,000 deaths from stroke every year.
- Better for the environment – reduce Southwark's carbon foot print – meat production uses more water, energy, land and creates more CO2 and methane than a plant based diet. United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization estimates livestock production is “one of the top two or three most significant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global”.
- Better for the animals – Billions of animals are farmed and killed for meat each year, most in intensive factory farms, ending their lives with a brutal death. Eating less meat is a compassionate step that helps prevent animal cruelty and suffering.

## **2. Deputation request from Zacchaeus 2000 Trust (Z2K)**

The deputation request states:

We would like to raise with the assembly issues surrounding Southwark's council tax reduction scheme and its impact on low income residents.

In April 2013 council tax benefit (CTB) was abolished and replaced by 326 local council tax support schemes in England. In Southwark a scheme called 'Council Tax Reduction' was introduced requiring a minimum payment of 15% of your council tax liability regardless of circumstances (excluding pensioners).

This meant that those Southwark residents formerly in receipt of 100% council tax benefit are now expected to pay council tax for the first time. For Band D property the annual bill is £182.27. Many of these low income households have been unable to pay this amount and by October 2013 over 6,000 had been issued with court summons for council tax arrears.

We believe, and our experience supporting Southwark residents shows, that the minimum payment required by the scheme is pushing some of Southwark's most deprived residents further into poverty.

We note that at this meeting the assembly is due to take a decision on the council's scheme for 2014/15 and feel it would be useful for councillors to hear how the current scheme has impacted on their residents.

### **3. Deputation request from safe crossings on Borough High Street campaign**

The deputation request states:

We call on Transport for London and Southwark Council to review crossing safety on Borough High Street and to create Green Man pedestrian crossings:

- 1) on all arms of the junction with Great Dover Street and Marshalsea Street
- 2) at the junction with Trinity Street and Great Suffolk Street.

The campaign for safe crossings on Borough High Street and its associated petition stems from the fact many people cross BHS every day at its junctions with a) Great Dover Street and Marshalsea Street and b) Trinity Street and Great Suffolk Street.

At the junction with Great Dover Street and Marshalsea Street there is no green man pedestrian crossing on the eastern arm between St George the Martyr church and Brandon House.

There is no green man pedestrian crossing at all at the junction with Trinity Street and Great Suffolk Street. Safe crossings are especially important in this area owing to the hundreds of families who live to the east of BHS whose children go to the many schools on the west side including Charles Dickens Primary School, the Cathedral School and St Joseph's Primary School, Friars Primary School, the London Christian School, St Saviour's and St Olave's school, the Bright Horizons nursery and the Arc nursery.

Many also wish to visit the parks close by such as Mint Street Park, Little Dorrit Park and the Red Cross Garden. The campaign has been run jointly between the SE1 Safe Roads campaign and Southwark Living Streets.

### **4. The council's constitution and related documents**

The deputation request states:

We want to raise issues in connection with the framework of the constitution and its relationship with other council policies and procedures in particular we are concerned that when it comes to implementing a particular policy or procedure little consideration is given to the fundamental principles contained within the constitution.

Subject areas include response times, the correct process, inconsistency and decision making.

We will expect to cover issues around the complaints procedure (not a specific complaint), code of conduct, code of corporate governance, employee code of conduct and council assembly procedure rules.

We hope to achieve support from members who in turn can have dialogue with officers to ensure the relevant policies and procedures can be firmed up where necessary which will in turn improve community confidence in the system.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228
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## AUDIT TRAIL

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<b>Report Author</b>	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	17 January 2014	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director Finance & Corporate Services	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	17 January 2014	

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)  
(SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA)  
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013/14**

**NOTE:** Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to  
Lesley John Tel: 020 7525 7228/7236

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		<b>Total:</b>	<b>110</b>