

<b>Item No.</b> 4.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 24 November 2021	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		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 deputations from the groups listed in paragraph 5 of this report.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. 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 (if the matter is not dealt with by council assembly, the matter shall be referred without debate to the relevant cabinet member who shall after consideration, respond with an open reply to the sender); *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

### Deputation requests

5. The following deputation requests have been received:

## **1. Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations (SGTO)**

The deputation request states:

“We come to this deputation as a group of council tenants and leaseholders from across the borough of Southwark. We bring a number of concerns regarding Southwark Council's New Homes Programme. High standards of consultation are required to establish genuine consent from existing residents to new housing developments within their estate.

The residents on estates where infill and/or rooftop homes are proposed have been poorly consulted on these developments - consultations have been ill-attended, questions have been leading and in many cases, widespread resident objections to proposed new homes developments have been ignored.

We welcome new homes developments were the majority of residents consent to the council's plans, and we recognise the desperate need for new council homes. But the loss of greenspace, or months of noise and disruption caused by the construction of rooftop homes, cannot be justified when residents do not consent. Residents have a right to greenspace and a right to quiet enjoyment - this cannot be taken from them without their consent.”

## **2. Living Streets and Southwark Cyclists**

The deputation request states:

“In our deputation, we would outline a number of the positive steps that Southwark has taken as a borough in the past 18 months (Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, School Streets, car-free Rye Lane, enabling more walking and cycling in lockdown) but also emphasise what more there is to do from the perspective of people walking and cycling and using public transport with a particular focus on reducing road casualties, improving air quality, addressing social justice and accessibility goals in relation to transport, reducing CO2 emissions, strategies for transport in the borough to become carbon neutral by 2030, getting more people walking and cycling and active, reducing the amount of (short) driven journeys and helping our town centres and high streets recover from the pandemic.”

## **3. Pauline Nandoo, Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers**

The deputation request states that they wish to speak on:

“Government asylum policy: the impact on people in Southwark; what the main challenges are as well as the risks experienced by refugee organisations supporting local asylum seekers and refugees. What current work is being done with the council, local statutory and voluntary sector partners to support asylum seekers and refugees and what more

needs to be done to strengthen the work in this area as a matter of urgency.”

#### **4. Hadi Sharifi, British Afghan Society**

The deputation request states:

“I will be talking about what we have been doing and what we have done until now.

We have been actively working to promote for the benefit of the public in particular, the Afghanistan community within Southwark. This includes the asylum seekers or refugees with view to enabling them better integrate into the society they live in. We do this by providing training courses, invite specialists in various fields to deliver speeches. We run regular meetings for women and children where they interact with each other more openly and exchange views and concerns. We hold Eid and New Year celebration event for all families to attend.

Since August 2021, we have been working at the forefront of the chaotic situation that happened in Afghanistan; we worked with various organisations and Southwark council to deliver all sorts of services, from filling out registration forms for GPs, school, Needs assessment, as well as sorting out clothes donation and distribution of the clothes, mobile phones and laptops for the newly arrived refugees.

We have been doing all these activities entirely from the money we have raised from within our community and have never had a physical address where people can approach as so we can help and be more productive. We can do a lot better and more if we had a place like a community centre where we can have regular volunteers as well as staff to work with families and individuals especially women within the Afghan community in Southwark who do not have or are aware of a lot services which they can access.

The place not only will sort the problem for the Afghan community but we can also help with other community members to ease off the pressure on both other organisations as well as the council.”

#### **5. Natalia Perez, Latin Elephant**

The deputation request states:

“A year on since the closure and demolition of the Shopping Centre in Elephant and Castle, Latin Elephant reiterates the demands for a proper scrutiny and enforcement of the s106 agreement signed by developers, so that every local trader that has been displaced is relocated; that the necessary Funds are released by developers to cover moving and fit-out costs and not passed on as a burden to us small traders; and that the

much needed investments in the relocation sites are put in place for the benefit of displaced traders as well as the local community.”

## **6. Rachel Bentley, The Litterati**

The deputation request states:

“We founded a volunteer litter-picking group in March 2021 in response to our concern around the persistent and growing litter and waste management problems in our neighbourhoods. We litter-pick individually or as a group several times a week collectively putting in around 45 hours a week. Through our efforts, we have pulled together observations from our activities that we would like to share with Southwark Council. Our aim is to share information in a constructive and community minded spirit that could be useful to the Council and enable them to take further steps to tackle littering and improve recycling rates and waste management across the borough.”

## **7. Emma McGovern, Leaseholders deputation on cladding and fire remediation works**

The deputation request states

We would like to make a deputation to explain why we strongly urge the council to not use the services of housing associations and developers who are not taking responsibility for their unsafe buildings.

With the cladding scandal and the need for so many buildings in Southwark to have fire remediation works there clearly is something terribly flawed with the current situation and until this is rectified the council should be distancing themselves from these organisations until they can prove that they are working to help leaseholders rather than pass life changing bills onto them. If they cannot even rectify their mistakes in their current housing stock they most certainly should not be allowed to build any more.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Deputation Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones <a href="mailto:constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk">constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk</a>
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.6, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones <a href="mailto:constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk">constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk</a>

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	19 November 2021	
<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 Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		19 November 2021