

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 7 December 2021	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Deputation requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That cabinet considers whether or not to hear deputation requests from:
 - Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations (SGTO)
 - Elephant and Castle traders and representatives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, cabinet 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 cabinet, 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.
3. 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 five minutes. After this time cabinet members may ask questions of the deputation for up to five minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. The deadline for receipt of deputation requests for this cabinet meeting was midnight 1 December 2021. These requests were received within this constitutional deadline.

Deputation requests

Southwark Group of Tenant Organisations (SGTO)

5. The deputation would like to identify a number of concerns regarding Southwark Council's New Homes Programme. The deputation state that high standards of consultation are required to establish genuine consent from existing residents to new housing developments within their estates. It has been claimed that residents on estates where infill and/or rooftop homes are proposed have been poorly consulted on these developments and that consultations have not been well attended and their objections have been considered. The deputation welcome the new homes developments were the majority of residents consent to the council's plans, and recognise the desperate need for new council homes but it is felt that the loss of greenspace, or months of noise and disruption caused by the construction of rooftop homes, cannot be justified.

Elephant and Castle traders and representatives.

6. The deputation have requested to address cabinet to speak about a number of significant challenges being faced by several independent traders. A summary of the issues submitted by this group:
 - Some have not been relocated
 - Some have been relocated but to relocation sites they have not chosen (with a negative financial and business impact)
 - Some very established long-standing businesses that are facing significant delays in the negotiations with developers in respect of lease terms, fit-out costs and storage, and issues in relation to the relocation fund which is covered by the s106 of the Elephant and Castle development
 - Request a written commitment from developers to relocate displaced traders
 - Request that the necessary funds are released so that moving and fit-out costs are met by developers and not passed on as a burden to small traders
 - Request that every independent trader is successfully relocated, and that the much-needed investments in the relocation sites like Elephant Arcade are put in place for the benefit of displaced traders as well as the local community.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

5. The Southwark Constitution allows deputations to be made by groups of people resident or working in the borough.

Climate change implications

6. The deputation process has no direct implications.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet procedure rule 2.12 on deputations:	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk
Link (copy and paste into browser): http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s80630/Cabinet%20procedure%20rules%20November%202016.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
Report Author	Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	2 December 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		2 December 2021