

Item No. 3.1	Classification: Open	Date: 13 July 2022	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Community Evidence on the Themed Debate	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Introduction

1. The council assembly business panel agreed that the theme for council assembly in July 2022 should be "Supporting Southwark Residents with the Cost of Living Crisis".

Community evidence on the theme

2. The deadline for community evidence was 11.59pm, 7 July 2022.
3. The following requests have been received by the deadline for consideration by this meeting and they are listed in the order received below.
4. Which community evidence shall be considered and the length of each submission will be established by way of a programme motion at the start of council assembly. Community evidence shall be conducted under the existing rules for public participation.
5. If the community evidence 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.

Submissions

1. Age UK

The community evidence requests states:

"We would like to present the impact of the cost of living crisis on older people - particularly rising energy costs - and explain how local charities, and we as a newly formed partnership with other local charities are campaigning together to ease the burden on older people in our borough. We would also like to discuss a strategy across all organisations and the local council, in terms of positive ways to support older people to ensure they are maximising their income (this will also include carers and those with disabilities)."

2. Citizens Advice Southwark

The community evidence requests states:

“To give evidence on Citizens Advice Southwark’s concerns about the impact of the cost of living crisis on local residents, to explain how we are working to address this, especially working in partnership with others, and to ask for support from the Council to help address this.”

3. Spring Community Hub

The community evidence requests states:

“Spring Community Hub exists to make sure no one in our community goes hungry. But we don’t just provide food, we work alongside people to help them escape food poverty, build confidence and find community. We run food bank sessions five days a week, providing healthy, fresh, culturally sensitive and exciting food parcels to people whilst we assist them to address the underlying cause.

- Food bank (Four centres located in Southwark over 5 days)
- Spring Stars Holiday Club(0-16)
- Spring Up Youth After School club(age 11-14)
- Spring Up Women (sewing sessions, Raising awareness about domestic abuse, health and well-being and personal development program, hair and beauty)
- Back2work (Providing 121 and group support in the areas of mental health, Unemployment, Immigration, Housing, wellbeing, Debt management and personal /professional development.
- Business start-up/Development
- Spring Kitchen (Providing healthy school standard and culturally sensitive meals for our holiday and After school clubs)
- Cloth Bank (Age 2 years and above)

The Impact of the Cost of Living Increases on our Guests

We are seeing an increase in working people and those who are receiving benefits require our services and those who did not expect to require our service. Many of those working professionals who are coming to us for the first time are deeply concerned about the increase in the cost of living and worried that they are not going to be able to survive.”

4. Steve Hedger, Albrighton Community Centre

The community evidence requests states:

“As a front line provider of food to those suffering food insecurity I would like to speak on this subject from the perspective of a Community Fridge.”

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Constitution	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk 020 7525 7228

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	8 July 2022	
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	8 July 2022	