

Item No. 4.1	Classification: Open	Date: 14 July 2010	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Democracy Commission progress report	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Boroughwide	
From:		Cabinet	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That council assembly notes this report on progress with the Democracy Commission.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. On Wednesday 19 May 2010 council assembly agreed that the cabinet be tasked with considering the following and bringing recommendations back to council assembly:
 - That a Democracy Commission be established to consider the avenues of democratic engagement with the council for local residents.
 - That the Democracy Commission be specifically tasked with fully reviewing how council assembly can be changed to increase democratic engagement with local people.
3. The cabinet agreed to establish the Democracy Commission on 15 June 2010 that would consider changes to the council's constitution to make the council's democratic functions more open and more engaging.
4. The commission is task-based and will focus in a first instance on possible reforms to the Council Assembly. It will deliver a report on the first phase of work to Cabinet at its meeting of 19 October 2010 and then to council assembly on 20 October 2010.
5. Its report will consist of recommendations for changes to the council assembly. This first phase will be subject to a review that will include recommendations on the membership, focus, procedures and budget for the subsequent phases of work.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. In this initial phase the commission will be a proportional body with proportionality and composition as follows:

4 Labour councillors: Councillor Mark Glover
Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Helen Morrissey
Councillor Cleo Soanes

2 Liberal Democrat councillors: Councillor Columba Blango
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai

1 Conservative councillor: Councillor Michael Mitchell

7. Councillor Abdul Mohamed has been appointed to Chair the Commission.
8. The commission will agree its terms of reference in line with recommendations made by the cabinet in its report of 15 June 2010. That is, it will take into account the local and national context in which its work is set, the particular opportunities and constraints presented by the council assembly and good practice both in terms of models of enquiry into governance structures and community engagement.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Council Assembly Annual Meeting 19 May 2010 – Agenda.	Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Lesley John 020 7525 7228
Cabinet Meeting 15 June 2010 – Agenda.	Southwark Council, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Everton Roberts 020 7525 7222

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Deborah Collins, Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	
Report Author	Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	
Version	Final	
Dated	28 June 2010	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		30 June 2010