

Questionnaire for members of the public distributed at Council Assembly 14 July 2010

Responses

Notes:

Eight councillors have responded since the meeting (as of 27 July) and there were 8 other respondents who attended the meeting. Seven of those were members of the public who were specifically invited to the meeting and who also took part a focus group and 1 ordinary member of the public, plus one officer.

Results:

- TABLE 1: Qualitative responses from councillors
- TABLE 2: Qualitative responses from public (including 1 officer)
- TABLE 3: Quantitative responses from councillors
- TABLE 4: Quantitative responses from public

	Questions for Councillors	Replies / comments
3	The council assembly works well in its current format (comments)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partly because of the Local Government Act 2000 Council Assembly has become less effective and this needs redressing (R)
3.a	What works well? (about council assembly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I find it difficult to answer these questions as it is only my second assembly meeting (N) Not much (R) Shortened duration in evenings when members tired after a days work (C) None (C)
3.b	What do you think should be changed? (about council assembly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I find it difficult to answer these questions as it is only my second assembly meeting (N) More opportunity for public engagement / webcasting / different format of debates (R) Notify about the meeting (council assembly) / advertise more (N) More deputation Council Assembly should have more decision-making powers (R)
3.c	What could be done differently? (times, place to meet, venue, themes for debate, broadcast etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I find it difficult to answer these questions as it is only my second assembly meeting (N) Less security – freedom for people to enter Town Hall freely (C) Council Assembly should have more decision-making powers (R)
4	Your comments/ideas for enabling me and my constituents to make the most of the existing opportunities (awareness, information and help in attending council assembly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More publicity re council assembly (C) Probably more Council Assembly meetings required if the above is to be achieved together with more decision-making (R) Move council Assembly across Borough, holding it in varied locations. Extend the powers and responsibilities of community councils (C)
5	Can you suggest any new ways for public and community to get involved with the Council Assembly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Could they submit queries e.g. through Southwark News (N) More young people involved (C) Youth Mayor for Southwark (C) Possibly two Council Assembly meetings per year to hear deputations (presentations) in a more informal manner Bring back deputations, let residents present petitions (C) Webcasting (C)
6	Have you any other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not yet (N)

	Questions for Councillors	Replies / comments
	suggestions for improving the Council Assembly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayor making should be different from constitutional assembly (C) • Less political grandstanding so that people are sure they will be listened to rationally especially at any informal meetings.
7	Have you got any other comments or suggestions for ways to involve members, residents and the community in the Democracy Commission?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I would like to give evidence to the Commission (R) • Deputations (C) • Petitions (C) • Better refreshments for members with health problems e.g. diabetic etc (C) • Use Southwark Life to call for ideas (R) • Genuine advertisements via local papers (C) • Ask all community councils to gather the views of local people in their local community council areas. (C)

	Questions to public	Replies / comments
2	Your comments/ideas for promoting council assembly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote through simple, cheap, effective Advertisement In schools, on public transport, etc
3	The council works well in its current format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not sure Don't know
3.a	What works well?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A more thought out sitting planning to get an overview of the assembly meeting Website shows meeting calendar and minutes Debate and democracy in action Everything (Officer)
3.b	What do you think should be changed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change seating arrangement Relationship and spaces Paper work Everything More democracy Less emphasis on national party politics I think it follows the mechanisms of any assembly The place, the time, day etc I am not familiar with how it works Nothing (Officer) Attitude and behaviour of the Councillors
3.c	What could be done differently?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everything Make process more transparent. Could broadcast proceedings on the web. Estonian government is a good example. Nothing To accommodate people with children, old and disabled people A list of names of Councillors present given to audience/delegates (Officer) Planning for the future and wellbeing of people, in a civilised and caring way, with respect to all
4	Your comments/ideas for enabling me and other people to make the most of the existing opportunities (awareness, information and help in attending council assembly)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bigger publicity It seems accessible enough, although the sheer amount of paper with agenda items and motions makes it difficult to follow. Not at this time. (Officer) Advertise in libraries and pensioners centres.
6	Can you suggest any new ways for public and community to get involved with the Council Assembly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen printed posters / effective campaigns Make the meeting more friendly Get the residents involved, tell them when the meetings are planned and get their views Give members of public a voice. Q&As

	Questions to public	• Replies / comments
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well the space is so small so I think that publishing online the outcomes would be a good method of targeting more people. • To promote it with leaflets, adverts, etc • Emailed / written questions (Officer) • I'm sure people don't want to come to see such a circus.
7	Have you any other suggestions for improving the Council Assembly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take assembly out of Town Hall into community. • Theme based meetings: education, regeneration, transport, green issues • Less sneering at each other, less speeches and less statistics (although this would amount to improving politics at large...) • No (Officer) • I was only sorry I voted for them. I have no respect nor admiration for people behaving so badly. Less talk and more action. I could not trust any of them!...God help us!!!
8	Have you got any other comments or suggestions for ways to involve members, residents and the community in the Democracy Commission?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online electronic voting. Gets electorates views on any issue. • Councillors make visits to public service centres: surestart, southwark pensioners, TRAs (Officer) • I have been so upset and shocked attending this meeting. The behaviour of the Councillors was an eye opener to me. This last 62 years that lived in England, I had great admiration for the English men, to me, they were gentlemen, and tolerant. But at this meeting these people were sarcastic, mocking everybody, laughing at people who were not there (Harriet Harman, Simon Hughes, etc). They painted everything in black. No hope, no love for the future. They behaved like morons.

COUNCILLORS		Disagree strongly	Disagree	No opinion	Agree	Agree strongly
1	The community and my constituents are aware of the Council Assembly and the work it does.	1	3	0	5	0
2	We should do more to promote Council Assembly.	0	0	3	2	3
3	The Council Assembly works well in its current format.	0	5	2	2	0
3 (b)	I have suggested / plan to suggest that my constituents attend and/or participate in a council assembly meeting (either out of general interest or for a specific purpose).	0	0	2	5	1
4	I believe there is sufficient awareness, information and help available to enable me and my constituents to make the most of the existing opportunities?	1	2	1	2	1

PUBLIC		Disagree strongly	Disagree	No opinion	Agree	Agree strongly
1	I am aware of the Council Assembly and the work it does.	2	1	3	3	1
2	We should do more to promote Council Assembly.	0	0	2	3	4
3	The Council Assembly works well in its current format.	3	2	2	0	2
3 (b)	I have attended / plan to attend or participate in a Council Assembly meeting (either out of general interest or for a specific purpose).	0	0	0	5	2
4	I believe there is sufficient awareness, information and help available to enable me and other people to make the most of the existing opportunities	2	5	1	1	1
5	We should make changes to council assembly to make people more willing and able to get involved.	1	0	0	3	6