

# Southwark democracy commission survey

## 1. About the democracy commission and the council assembly

Southwark Council has set up a democracy commission, with the aim of bringing the council closer to its residents, making it more accountable to them and more connected with their concerns. The commission consists of 7 councillors representing all three political groups: Labour, Liberal Democrats and Conservative.

For its first task the democracy commission will look at Southwark's council assembly. This is a public meeting of all 63 elected councillors sitting on the council, and is chaired by the Mayor of Southwark. It meets regularly to debate local issues and make decisions.

We would very much appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to fill out this questionnaire by 10 September 2010.

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## 2. Getting to know you

We would like to know how you involve yourself in your local area.

1. Have you ever attended Southwark's council assembly?

yes

no

2. How active are you in your local community? Tell us about the different ways you have been involved in local activities and decision making.

I have:

attended a Community Council.

attended a local community group meeting such as a Forum, community group, or tenants and residents association.

sent a letter to a local newspaper or participated in a local online discussion board.

joined a political or campaigning group, including online

kept up with local news and events that interest me.

Other (please specify)

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## 3. Your awareness of the council assembly

1. Tell us what you already knew about the council assembly before completing this survey.

I didn't know it existed.

I had heard of it but don't really know what it does.

I had a basic understanding of its work.

I had a good understanding of its work.

Other (please specify)

2. We should do more to promote council assembly so people know what it is and what it does. (please check the box that best reflects your opinion about the statement that follow)

disagree strongly

disagree

don't know

agree

agree strongly

3. We would like to find out the best way of letting people know about the council assembly and how it works. Which of the following do you think would work? Do you have any other ideas for promoting council assembly?

Articles in council publications (e.g. Southwark Life)

Creation of a new 'brand' for the council assembly

Promotion on council website

Sending updates through social media (e.g. facebook, twitter, etc)

Other (please specify)

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## 4. How you can get involved with council assembly currently

There are 4 main ways that the public can currently get involved with the council assembly.

1. Please check the box or boxes to describe your knowledge and views on each type of involvement.

	I didn't know I could do this	I knew I could do this
Attending the meeting in the public gallery as an observer.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Formally asking a question to one or more of the councillors at the meeting.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presenting a petition to the council assembly on behalf of a group.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Making a deputation to the council assembly (formerly raising an issue of concern on behalf of a group).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. I believe there is sufficient information and help available to enable me and other people to make the most of the above opportunities.

(please check the box that best reflects your opinion about the statement that follows)

disagree strongly

disagree

don't know

agree

agree strongly

3. Can you suggest new ways for individuals and groups to get involved with council assembly?

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## 5. Ideas for improving council assembly meetings

Council assembly meets 7 times a year in the evening in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall. We want to think of ways to make the meetings more interesting and easier to take part in.

1. What could be done differently ? (Please tick any you think might be a good idea)

- Have themed meetings.
- Meet at different times.
- Broadcast the meeting on the web.
- Broadcast the meeting on the radio.
- Meet in different places around the borough.
- Involve residents in the debates at the meeting.
- Involve residents in the debates online.

Comments and other ideas

2. We should make changes to council assembly to help people become more willing and able to get involved.

(please check the box that best reflects your opinion about the statement that follows)

- disagree strongly
- disagree
- don't know
- agree
- agree strongly

3. The council assembly works well in its current format.

(please check the box that best reflects your opinion about the statement that follows)

- disagree strongly
- disagree
- don't know
- agree
- agree strongly

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4. If you have some experience of the council assembly please tell us here what you think works well.

  

5. If you have some experience of the council assembly please tell us here what you think doesn't work well.

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## 6. Attending future council assembly meetings

1. I would consider attending a council assembly meeting in the future.  
(please check the box that best reflects your opinion about the statement that follows)

disagree strongly

disagree

don't know

agree

agree strongly

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## 7. Democracy Commission monitoring information – Optional

London Borough of Southwark holds and manages data in strict accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. No personal information you have given us will be passed on to third parties for commercial purposes.

1. Are you male or female?

male

female

2. Do you consider yourself to have a disability or long term illness?

yes

no

3. What is your age group?

0 - 15

16 - 29

30 - 44

45 - 64

65 +

prefer not to answer

4. What is your ethnic group?

White - British

White - Irish

Other white background

Black - Caribbean

Black - African

Any other black background

Mixed White/Black Caribbean

Mixed White/Black African

Mixed White/Asian

Any other mixed background

Asian - Indian

Asian - Pakistani

Asian - Bangladeshi

Any other Asian background

Chinese

Other ethnic group

Traveller

Prefer not to answer



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5. What is your religion or belief?

Christian

Buddhist

Muslim

other

Hindu

none

Sikh

Prefer not to answer

Rastafarian