

Item No. 4.	Classification: Open	Date: 22 November 2023	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation Requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly considers whether or not to hear deputations from the groups listed in paragraph 5 of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (11) states that no more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting. However the meeting can decide to suspend this rule in order to hear more or vary the order.
3. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, council assembly 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 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); *or*
 - to refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/ sub-committee.
4. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. One member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than 5 minutes. The deputation spokesperson or any member of the deputation nominated by him or her shall be invited to ask a question of the leader or relevant cabinet member. After this time councillors may ask questions of the deputation for up to 5 minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public seating area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Deputation requests

5. The following deputation requests have been received:

1. Jacqueline Gilmartin and colleagues

The deputation request states:

"On the subject of Children in Southwark and what we should do to change Southwark for a better future for them."

2. Michael Keating, ACORN Southwark

The deputation request states:

"This deputation would express the experiences of ACORN Southwark, a community & tenant advocacy union, in dealing with the council's housing allocations policy and procedures for tenants with additional housing needs. These experiences highlight areas where we believe that policy and practice might be improved for disabled residents, including:

- Issues with the sufficiency of information about accessibility in some properties when bidding
- Issues with clarity and communication when dealing with the council's allocations and health assessment procedures
- Issues with suitability of provision for particular additional needs, such as needing an accessible bath within an adapted home."

3. Loos for Southwark Group, Age UK London

The deputation request states:

"The deputation will cover the following:

Why improving public toilet provision will help to reduce social isolation in Southwark.

What action Loos for Southwark would like the Council to undertake. This includes:

- A request for the Council to develop, publish and implement a Southwark Public Toilet Strategy based on a needs assessment, meaningful residents' engagement and with an action plan that is monitored and scrutinised. We believe a named officer, should be identified as a lead for the strategy. A Strategy must include public toilets in town centres like Peckham alongside a strong and wide community toilets scheme.
- A meeting with a nominated Cabinet Member to discuss the subject of public toilet provision in Southwark."

4. Emilie Mendy, Bizzie Bodies

The deputation request states:

“We aim to advocate for the expansion of Bizzie Bodies services across the borough to pave the way for a fairer and brighter future. Here is an overview of the key points we plan to cover:

1. Equality in Education:
 - Emphasising the need for equal access to educational opportunities.
 - Demonstrating how STEAM education can bridge socio-economic gaps.
2. Empowering through STEAM:
 - Illustrating how a STEAM-focused approach allows young people to hone their skills.
 - Sharing success stories and tangible benefits from similar initiatives.
3. Outcomes of STEAM Education:
 - Improved critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
 - Enhanced creativity and innovation.
 - Increased competitiveness in the job market.
4. Call to Action:
 - Urging the council to support the expansion of Bizzie Bodies services.
 - Recommending collaboration with local institutions and businesses to strengthen STEAM programs.
5. Ensuring the Best Start in Life:
 - Connecting the proposed STEAM initiative to the broader goal of providing the best start for the youth.
 - Emphasising the positive long-term impact on the community and economy.”

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.6, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	20 November 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	20 November 2023	