

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 5 December 2023	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Deputation requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That cabinet considers whether or not to hear deputation requests from:
 - Local residents about children in Southwark and what can be done to improve their future
 - AGE UK as part of the London Loos campaign
 - Southwark Refugee Communities forum
 - Bizzie Bodies group on SE16 Tech Youth Initiative Expansion and
 - School scoot run in support of controlled parking zones (CPZ) in Dulwich.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. When considering whether to hear deputation requests, cabinet 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 cabinet, 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.
3. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. Only one member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than five minutes. After this time cabinet members may ask questions of the deputation for up to five minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. The deadline for receipt of deputation requests for this cabinet meeting was midnight 29 November 2023. These requests were received before this constitutional deadline.

Deputation requests

Local residents about children in Southwark and what can be done to improve their future

5. Local residents wish to address cabinet about children in Southwark and what can be done to ensure a better future for them in this borough. The theme is children of 'our time', and how the world has changed around them, and what we as parents, councils and so on should and could be doing to ensure that a lasting legacy is left.

AGE UK as part of the London Loos campaign

6. The deputation is made by AGE UK who coordinate the Loos for Southwark group as part of the London Loos campaign. The group are made up of older Southwark residents calling for improvements to public toilets provision in Southwark.
7. The deputation would like to make the following requests as part of their deputation:
 - 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.

Southwark Refugee Communities Forum

8. The deputation has been submitted by Southwark Refugee Communities Forum area group of charities and voluntary sector organisations who work with refugees and asylum seekers. The deputation have stated that changes in Home Office rules has meant that refugees are being evicted with seven days' notice a which is causing huge pressures on their services, and on the council's housing team. The deputation are calling on all cabinet members to urgently assist by:

- Consider providing short term accommodation for those being evicted to give them time to find private rented accommodation. This may allow them to access higher local housing allowance (LHA) rates. It would also facilitate individuals to find a private rental more easily. These individuals are generally entitled to Universal Credit so the council would not have to be liable for their rent.
- Do more early intervention and support those about to be given refugee status before they are evicted. Not just with housing support, but with welfare and employment advice. The deputation have suggested that the council should have a presence in the hotels already.
- Ensure everyone in need is being given a personal housing plan and to share this information with the VCS groups so we can help them. Once these PHPs have been issued, ensure that there is proper follow-up and that these refugees' needs (language, vulnerabilities, etc) are being properly taken into account.
- Follow good practice in other boroughs with dedicated officers and accommodation to support this group of extremely vulnerable people.

Bizzie Bodies group on SE16 Tech Youth Initiative Expansion

9. Request for deputation to cabinet 5 December regarding the SE16 Tech Youth Initiative Expansion from Bizzie Bodies. The initiative aims to address critical gaps in opportunities for young people in SE16, focusing on strategic solutions to fill identified voids in our community.
10. The deputation have set out the proposed expansion covers key areas as follows:
 - Limited tech opportunities: Establishing a dedicated platform to provide comprehensive tech-focused opportunities for young individuals.
 - Skill gap in emerging technologies: Bridging the gap by exposing youth to the latest advancements, including artificial intelligence and immersive technologies.
 - Accessible training spaces: Creating a centralised tech youth space to overcome the current lack of accessible venues for hands-on experiences and skill development.
 - Underrepresented demographics: Expanding our reach to include and engage underrepresented demographic groups, such as families, parents of young children, senior Citizens, and not in education, employment or training (NEETs).
 - Exposure to Diverse Fields: Providing a platform to expose young people to a broad spectrum of tech-related fields, opening up diverse career paths.
 - Community Integration: Recognising the importance of community integration, fostering collaborative learning, and supporting intergenerational projects within the SE16 area.

- Enhanced marketing reach: Improving our marketing strategy with your support to ensure our programs reach a diverse audience effectively, maximising awareness and participation.
- Resource and equipment constraints: Collaborating to overcome challenges related to limited resources, equipment maintenance funding issues, and the need for shared transport logistics.

School scoot run in support of controlled parking zones (CPZ) in Dulwich

11. The deputation have stated that the Dulwich wards within Southwark have a very high number of non-catchment school pupils and these pupils can live any distance from their school, so there is a huge influx of pupil travel into and across Dulwich area daily. It is felt that the abundance of free parking all around schools in Dulwich wards enables a huge number of school run car trips into the area.
12. The deputation urge the council to directly tackle this issue by reducing available parking spaces around schools in Dulwich, whilst prioritising mobility and special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) parking requirements, and implement paid for controlled parking where necessary that covers school run pick up and drop off and increase the enforcement of these restrictions by parking officers during peak school run drop off and pick up hours, including.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet procedure rule 2.12 on deputations:	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Paula.thornton@southwark.gov.uk
Link (copy and paste into browser): http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s80630/Cabinet%20procedure%20rules%20November%202016.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional and Members Services	
Report Author	Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer	
Version	draft	
Dated	30 November 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer 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	30 November 2023	