

Item No. 4	Classification: Open	Date: 20 March 2024	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. David Clarke, Marcia Road Residents Group

The deputation request states:

"As the lead representative of the Marcia Road Residents Group, I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the appalling state of fly-tipping and rubbish accumulation in our streets. As a resident of Southwark for over 20 years, I have noticed a significant increase in the amount of litter and illegally dumped waste in our community, which not only tarnishes the aesthetic appeal of our neighbourhood but also poses serious health and environmental hazards.

The unsightly heaps of rubbish strewn across our streets not only create an eyesore but also attract vermin and pests, creating an unhygienic environment for residents and visitors alike. Furthermore, the presence of such waste undermines the efforts of local businesses and property owners to maintain a clean and welcoming atmosphere, ultimately impacting the overall quality of life in our area.

It is evident that the current measures in place to address fly-tipping and littering are inadequate, as evidenced by the persistent accumulation of waste in our streets. Therefore, I urge the council to take immediate action to address this pressing issue."

2. Dave Gay and April Ashley, Secretary and Chair for Southwark Trades Union Council

The deputation request states:

"I am writing on behalf of a group of Southwark residents and trade unionists. We wish to take a deputation to the Council meeting on March 20th to present our view of the positions and policies the Council should adopt in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Specifically, we are calling on the Council to:

- Call for an immediate ceasefire and for the ending of the occupation
- Condemn Israeli acts of genocide
- Divest from companies that are complicit in the oppression of the Palestinian people
- Donate aid for Gaza
- Call on the government to stop arming Israel
- Call for sanctions against Israel
- Oppose any attempt by the Tory government to criminalise protest."

3. Marta Prieto, on behalf of Kirby Estate TRA

The deputation request states:

"On 12 July 2023, Kirby Estate TRA sent a deputation to the Council Assembly regarding the faulty installation of the windows in the estate as

part of the QHIP Major Works in 2020. We petitioned for a Building Control report on the installation, so that the errors will be properly identified and effective remedial works could be undertaken before the next winter. During this Council Assembly, we were guaranteed by both the previous Cabinet Member for Council Homes, Cllr. Darren Merrill, and the Leader of the Council, Cllr. Kieron Williams, that the Kirby Estate would have a visit, between July and August of a Building Control Officer, and that a Building Control report will be produced and shared with our TRA.

Eight months and one more winter later, we remain in the same situation. Building Control did not produce a report, so remedial works have not been undertaken. An inspection carried out by an independent FENSA approved company in August reported problems with the installation, but so far, LBS has only carried out minimal attempts at refilling the window frames in two pilot flats back in October, which have already proved ineffective. The drafts and cold in our flats caused by the excessive use of add-ons have not been fixed. The mould that was washed during the summer has returned.

We would like to appeal for the Councillors' help to grant a Building Control report, as we remain unsatisfied with the lack of action from LBS and believe that FENSA self-certification on the validity of this installation is not sufficient to identify and make our landlord take the necessary action.“

4. Corin Burr, Queens Road Residents

The deputation request states:

“I would like to request a deputation to the General Council Assembly on 20th March. I will be representing the residents and businesses of Queens Road in regards to the proposed revision of the CPZs.“

5. Bankside Village

The deputation request states:

“We and hundreds of other residents across Southwark from Borough and Bankside, to Elephant and Castle, Peckham, Surrey Quays and Dulwich are concerned about Southwark Council's new policy which will make selling council housing easier.

We believe the intention to sell off council housing to plug shortfalls for maintenance and new council homes is short-termism - which will have long term disastrous effects on communities, due to gentrification. The sale of council homes, especially larger properties will not equate to a net increase in council homes which are desperately needed. There are dozens of vulnerable residents who could be housed right now in the properties void and earmarked for sale.

With a change in government likely there should be greater focus on improving the funding formula, reducing the waste and mismanagement of resources so that a net increase in council homes is possible whilst maintaining the current stock. Selling off council homes now is foolish and not financially or socially prudent for the long term. The council has a duty to and must take a long term view not a short term one.”

6. Kirby Estate residents’ group and London Play

The deputation request states:

“The case for prioritising improvements to play spaces on Southwark estates

Rebecca Robins, secretary for Kirby Estate TA with Katie Gudgeon and Geraldine Howard, both residents of Kirby Estate

Rebecca will outline the difficulties that children living on the Kirby Estate have in accessing quality play opportunities due to the poor state/closure of the playground there. She and Katie and Geraldine will offer testimony about the impact on the community and the depth of feeling that exists there about the lack of what is a vital community resource. Their contribution will also feature a personal story from a resident with children on the estate.

Fiona Sutherland, director at London Play

London Play is working with residents in Southwark to support their campaigns for better play provision. Fiona will highlight that three Southwark playgrounds were put forward for the charity’s recent campaign to find ‘London’s saddest playground’ including the Kirby Estate and also note the loss and/or downgrading of several of the borough’s adventure playgrounds. She will also refer to the commitments made in Southwark’s council plan which promise to give the borough’s children the best start in life, including providing a top quality playground in every local area; and the best practice outlined in the London Plan. She will also talk about the vital importance of play for happy, healthy children and for creating opportunities for residents from all backgrounds to come together informally, and developing a stronger sense of community as well as improved perceptions of safety and pride.

The question that we would like to put to the council is:

What is Southwark Council’s plan for play in the borough as a whole and in particular on the Kirby estate, and do they remain committed to the promises outlined in the council plan for the borough’s children?”

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	15 March 2024	
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	15 March 2024	