

Potential speakers at 4 September event

Academics and consultants

Dr Philip Whiteman: Lecturer, INLOGOV Director of Learning and Teaching, Institute of Local Government Studies, Birmingham University. He is currently doing some research on full council and in particular on the potential impact of changes in government policy. This summer 2010 he is carrying out desk research on historical context of full council pre-1997 and plans to call an Inlogov conference on the subject in Autumn/Winter 2010. He believes full council is an underutilised body and that it could – potentially – be opened up to public participation and become a ‘civic arena for public inclusion’.

Professor Howard Davis: Acting Director, Local Government Centre (LGC), Warwick Business School. He was approached in relation to work he did some time ago on Birmingham’s democracy commission. Although he does not have specialised knowledge of issues related to full council, he saw potential for linkages with his recent work (Overview and Scrutiny functions, leadership, localised management, partnership/joint working the work of the executive). He sees Council Assembly as being somewhat neglected in current academic research which means this would be an opportune time to revisit its role. He is familiar with Southwark in particular through his experience surveying Southwark as part of national evaluation of strategic partnerships and had a number of ideas on how you might go about making an assembly more engaging. His recommended approach would be to go back to basics by asking ‘what do we have and what can we do?’ and to build on the council’s own good practice in other areas. He suggested that John Stewart as an expert in the field (see below).

Emeritus Professor John Stewart: A retired professor of Local Government and Administration formerly at Inlogov at Birmingham. Has carried out research around enlivening Council Assembly meetings *circa* 2004. He is still semi-active and can be contacted directly or through Howard Davis.

Professor Steve Leach: Professor at de Montfort University. His main interests are political leadership, local politics, strategic planning and management and local government structures and reorganisations. He has worked extensively with councillors and the Scrutiny team at Southwark.

Simon Baddeley: Visiting Lecturer at Birmingham University and Associate of the Institute of Local Government Studies. He is very familiar with Southwark through past and ongoing consultancy and training. He is known for being adept at connecting with his audience and getting them to engage with the subject of local government. His main interest is the working relationship between politicians and managers - members and officers. Current and recent projects include co-organising Inlogov’s accredited Post-Graduate Module on Oversight and Scrutiny and leading training and development events for local councils across the UK (including Southwark) on Overview and Scrutiny skills and on ‘managing with political awareness’ and ‘political sensitivity for members and officers’.

Ginny Lee: Research Coordinator at the Young Foundation. She is interested in the ways in which government can be more responsive to the needs of its citizens. Current projects include ‘First Political Memory’ which is an online memory bank which aims to reconnect people’s everyday lives with politics and the UpRising leadership programme (aiming to support and train a new generation of public leaders). NB: if Ginny Lee is not available then one of her colleagues could be approached. Experience amongst officers of working with the Young Foundation has been positive.

Other potential speakers

Rowenna Davis: an SE1 resident who has won a grant for a project to create a website that will encourage more young people to get involved in local politics. She is 25-year old is a freelance journalist who writes about social affairs and politics for publications such *The Guardian* and the *New Statesman*. She is also secretary of the Cathedrals and Chaucer Branch Labour Party and stood as a Labour Party candidate in Cathedrals ward in 2010.

Charlie Cherrill – Ex Southwark Member and Mayor. He is currently Chair of the Pensioners Parliaments & Forum.

Simon Schama, CBE is a British historian and art historian. He is a professor at Columbia University. He is best known for writing and hosting the 15-part BBC documentary series *A History of Britain*.