

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	17 July 2024
Report title:	Deputation Requests
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	N/A
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. Leaseholders in the North Peckham Estate

The deputation request states:

"Leaseholders on the Gloucester Grove and North Peckham Estates have come together to form a group which currently represents over 20 leaseholders. We formed as a result of concerns about spiralling service charges, in particular in relation to the district heating network.

As a result of our investigation into the district heating network we have found evidence that it is using approximately three times more gas to provide heating and hot water than it should do. We are extremely worried about the impact of this over-usage on our service charges, the council's housing budget and the environment.

Our aim is to be treated fairly, to be presented with a reasonable service charges bill and to be provided with a sustainable housing and living path for our community."

2. Jenifer Milner, on behalf of shop owners in SE5

The deputation request states:

"The issue we would like to present to the Assembly concerns Southwark Council's proposed 143% rent increase on these shops' annual rental.

These long-established shops, Post Office/newsagent, Launderette/dry cleaner/pharmacy, hairdresser/supermarket provide essential services to five surrounding Council Estates - Champion Hill, Cleve Hall, Bessemer Grange, Denmark Hill and Sunray Avenue. They have received overwhelming support from this Neighbourhood Community.

If the Council's 143% increase goes ahead, these shop owners will be obliged to close and will lose their livelihoods and their investments. Three shops, Supermarket, Hairdresser and Launderette/Dry-cleaner are under immediate threat; the other two foresee a similar increase when their Lease is due for renewal in the near future."

3. Zoe Abrams and Peckham residents

The community evidence requests states:

"Peckham Town Centre is a vibrant, characterful and now famous area at the heart of Southwark and there are multiple, ambitious plans in train to

renew and regenerate it - including for the train station, Peckham Square and the site of the Aylesham Centre. Taken together these redevelopments will constitute a major and permanent change to the function and character of our town centre, for which we would wish to see a comprehensive and easily understandable 'master plan' produced as a priority and for the benefit of the community. We would also like to invite the council to consider how it can engage effectively going forwards with the full diversity of local residents and the wider population who use the town centre, so that they have a realistic conception of what changes the developments will bring, what it means for them and how they can get involved in place making.”

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	12 July 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	12 July 2024	