

Cllr Michael Mitchell

Proposed changes and reasons for changes to the draft recommendations of the Democracy Commission as set out on Page 7 of the Agenda Friday 1st October.

Overview

There is general agreement that Council Assembly will be better attended and the people of Southwark will be more engaged with it if it has more decision making powers and is involved in the decision making process at an earlier stage than at present.

I have therefore amended Paragraph 4 to try and reflect that.

I am not convinced of the merits of the Council Assembly Business Panel (CABP) and have therefore deleted and amended the document to be consistent with that view.

On balance I disagree with the proposal to move the Council Assembly away from the Town Hall. I recognise the drawbacks with the present chamber but I do not believe they are sufficient to make us appear homeless and rootless as a body.

Changes

No changes to Paragraphs 1,2 and 3

Para 4 delete 4.1 and 4.2 and insert

4.1 In addition to all the plans and strategies that the Government through the legal framework makes mandatory for the Council Assembly to consider it will debate and make recommendations on all plans and strategies referred by Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC), the Cabinet and the Constitutional Steering Panel.

Para 5.1 delete the last sentence and insert “This figure should be lowered to 1,000.

Para 5.3 delete the last sentence. (References to CABP)

Para 5.4 delete. (Deals with CABP)

No changes to Paragraph 7.

Paragraph 8 delete those sections which refer to the CABP namely 8.3, 8.4f)

No changes to Paragraph 9.

Delete Paragraph 10 entirely as it deals with the creation of the CABP.

Para 11.2 delete “Council Assembly Business Panel” and insert “Constitutional Steering Panel”.

Para 12. Delete Paras 12.3 and 12.4 as they deal with moving Council Assembly from the Town Hall.

No changes to Paragraphs 13 and 14.

Para 15.2. Delete as it refers to the CABP.

No changes to Paragraph 16 and Appendix 1.

I hope this submission is helpful in allowing us to reach a speedy resolution at our meeting on Friday.