

5 December 2002

Kim Humphries  
Chair of Scrutiny  
Southwark Town Hall  
Peckham  
London SE15

Dear Kim,

We trust you will agree that the main emphasis of Best Value is to ensure that the needs of service users and the community, who are at the core of local services and provision, are consulted and that they receive information about performances and expenditures across all services allowing for genuine discussion.

It is, therefore, correct to say that the council are not only expected to decide how to consult, but set out consultation techniques that are appropriate not only for different services, but also for communication with hard-to-reach groups including speakers of other languages.

It is certainly not good practice to ignore a Federation such as SGTO with 151 T&RA's and roughly 450 affiliated members and many Southwark Community Groups as well as London-wide federations and its large number of associated membership. It is inconceivable that they should be ignored when the national framework for Tenant participation Compacts recommend that Federations should be involved in the development and training of tenants on Best Value Reviews a plea I put before the Leader of the Council on behalf of all whom we represent.

SGTO, as the umbrella group for Southwark is also linked to TAROE and has now bridged links with the BME TARAN UK (Global) as well as the London Forum Network and SCEN, SLP, UNISON and the Law Society. It also now has a developing associated agency and individual tenant network

Therefore, we request that you, as Chair of Scrutiny, agree for a hearing of the Scrutiny Panel into the BV Review of the Housing Management Services, thus hopefully enabling a genuine consultation process to be put in place, only to be publicly denigrated by the Leader of the Council.

Regards,

Lorraine Beck  
Chair for SGTO

Cc: SGTO Executive Members;  
Cllrs. Beverley Bassom, Toby Eckersley, Harriet Harman, Nick Stanton, Ian Wingfield,  
Michelle Pearce, Nunhead /Peckham Ward Councillors.

Lorraine Beck  
Chair for SGTO

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Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations

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