

DEMOCRACY COMMISSION - 3 AUGUST 2011

ITEM 10: PLAN FOR DEMOCRACY COMMISSION ITEM AT SEPTEMBER ROUND OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Engaging residents in the community council review, September 2011

In order to inform the review of community councils, Democracy Commission members have asked officers to secure agenda slots at the September round of community councils so that members can engage residents face-to-face in a consultation exercise.

In order to facilitate this, officers have done the following:

1. Attended the last meeting of community council Chairs and Vice-Chairs to request an agenda slot at September meetings, and supported individual agenda planning processes
2. Devised the following options to running a session/workshop at the September round of meetings

Options for running the session

Members are asked to consider the following suggested options for running the session. Some community councils have allocated a 10-15 minute slot to the Democracy Commission, whilst others have allocated more time. We have therefore come up with a couple of options to respond to the various timeframes.

Option 1 – plenary discussion (10-15 minutes)

The session would start with a brief introduction by Democracy Commission member/s.

This would be followed by showing one or two powerpoint slides which highlight:

1. The key feedback we want from residents, e.g.
 - a. what works well at community councils
 - b. what doesn't work well at community councils
 - c. suggestions for making savings
2. Some basic data on community council budgets

This would be followed by Q&A/feedback session, led by the Chair, with residents based on the above. Officers will also be on hand to respond to questions as required.

Option 2 – workshop (up to 1 hour)

The session would start with a brief introduction by Democracy Commission member/s.

This would be followed by an explanation of a group exercise we would like to conduct. This will involve residents splitting into groups (e.g. up to 10 people per group) and covering the following tasks:

1. ranking exercise around options for making savings

2. collecting some group comments on:
 - a. what works well at community councils
 - b. what doesn't work well at community councils
 - c. suggestions for making savings

The ranking exercise provides residents with savings options on pieces of card or paper. They will be asked to rank these options in groups, putting the most favoured way of making savings at the top, and then to feedback.

The suggested savings options could be:

Fewer community council meetings a year	Larger community council areas	Change the way planning is done at community councils e.g. sub-committees	Reducing publicity for meetings	Reducing activities at meetings such as job fairs, films	Reducing venue and equipment costs
---	--------------------------------	---	---------------------------------	--	------------------------------------

A possible ranking from a group could look as follows:

1. Fewer community council meetings a year
2. Change the way planning is done at community councils
3. Reducing publicity for meetings
4. Reducing activities at meetings
5. Larger community council areas
6. Reducing venue and equipment costs

Some basic data about community council budgets will be made available to groups.

It is envisaged that ideally two members and two officers will be required to support the group work, moving between groups if necessary. Officers will note down the results of each exercise.

Community Council September 2011 dates

Community Council	Date	Commission Member	Officer
Bermondsey	13 Sept	Cllr Blango/Noblet, Cllr Glover	Ebony Riddell Bamber
Borough & Bankside	13 Sept	Cllr Blango/Noblet, Cllr Glover	Kevin Dykes
Rotherhithe	14 Sept	Cllr Blango/Noblet, Cllr Glover	Ebony Riddell Bamber
Walworth	14 Sept	Cllr Mohamed	Darryl Telles
Dulwich	15 Sept	Cllr Morrissey	tbc
Peckham	21 Sept	Cllr Soanes	Ebony Riddell Bamber
Camberwell	22 Sept	Cllr Mohamed	Kevin Dykes
Nunhead and Peckham Rye ¹	11 Nov	tbc	tbc

¹ This session has been postponed to November at the request of the Chair.