

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 14 November 2011	Meeting Name: Democracy Commission
Report title:		Showing Films at Council Assembly	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Democracy Commission considers the report and survey feedback attached as Appendix A.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The meeting of the Democracy Commission on 22 September 2011 asked officers to look into the issue of showing films at council assembly meetings and report back to the next meeting. Officers have invited responses from a range of local authorities in London and beyond. The responses received to date are set out in Appendix A.
3. Currently the council assembly procedure rules in Southwark make no provision for the showing of films at meetings of the council assembly.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. A short survey was circulated to a range of local authorities asking the following questions:
 1. Do you allow the use of films at full council meetings?
 2. If so, do you have any related protocol/guidance on content and author?

The responses received to date are set out in Appendix A.

5. In conclusion, the survey showed a small number of respondents said that occasionally films were shown (5 out of 15 respondents). One respondent stated that films had not been shown for a couple of years. The remaining 10 responses stated that the showing of films was not allowed (4 respondents) or the situation had not arisen (5 respondents) or it would involve the moving of a lot of people (1 respondent). Of the five respondents who stated the situation had not arisen, three respondents replied they probably would allow a film or presentation if it was related to a report or the content was suitable. Overall the majority of respondents had not or would not show a film (10 out of 15 respondents). None of the council's who responded had any guidance or protocol on this issue. Some respondents mentioned concerns at placing an additional burden on the limited time available at meetings.
6. In Southwark there are additional logistical considerations in that the venues used for council assembly do not always have the appropriate facilities to show films. Furthermore, because of the short time available to set up room

arrangements for council assembly it would place an extra constraint on making these preparations if a further task was added into an already congested time slot.

Resource implications

7. There would be additional cost implications involved in the hiring of external equipment for use at venues or a fee for using facilities at a venue if films were to be shown at council assembly meetings.

Community impact statement

8. The council assembly is a meeting open to the public and is preceded by an informal session focusing on the theme of the meeting. The members of the public can submit public questions and make deputation requests to enable them to have their say at meetings. However in a busy meeting these parts of the agenda are balance again opportunities for members to ask questions, debate of members' motions and consideration of any reports.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Constitution	On line	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Survey on Showing films at Council Assembly – Feedback

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	
Report Author	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	2 November 2011	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		4 November 2011