



Have your say on the future for Community Councils

Democracy Commission Phase 2

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Dear resident/local partner

We are seeking the views of local people as part of a review of Community Councils. The enclosed questionnaire will inform the second phase of the Democracy Commission; an initiative designed to bring the council closer to residents, more accountable to them and connected with their concerns.

The second phase of the Democracy Commission, which started in May 2011, involves a review of the eight community councils that will include:

1. the need to deliver a 25% reduction (£344,000) in the total cost of the Community Councils to take effect from 1st April 2012
2. discussion of the role and function of Community Councils. This will include looking at boundaries, decision-making powers, the number and frequency of meetings, and their success in building stronger communities and engaging local people in decision-making
3. establishing how Community Councils can be improved by identifying good practice and finding out what residents value most

Your input to this process is really appreciated, and all responses received will be treated confidentially.

Please complete the following questions and return to Kevin Dykes, Senior Involvement Officer (Inclusion), Southwark Council, PO Box 64529, London, SE1 5LX, or via officers at your local Community Council by Monday 29 August 2011.

If you would like an electronic version of the questionnaire, please ask officers at your local Community Council, or contact kevin.dykes@southwark.gov.uk or 020 75255601

Thank you

QUESTIONNAIRE

Name	
Address	
Email	
Your Community Council Area	

1. What is the one thing that you value most about your local Community Council?

2. What do you think is the most important function of Community Councils? Please select one option.

Being able to influence local decisions , e.g. planning, traffic management	Debating local issues of concern with Councillors and other residents	Having your say and getting involved in consultations e.g. Southwark Spending Challenge	Don't know

3. How effective is your Community Council in relation to each of these functions?

Influencing local decisions

Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

Discussion and debate on local issues

Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

Consultations

Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	Don't know

4. What one improvement would you make to Community Councils? For example, should certain functions or powers be removed or enhanced?

5. Please rank the following ways of reducing the costs of Community Councils by putting a 6 by the option you think is best, a 5 by your next favourite option...down to 1 by the option you think is the worst.

Less meetings	Larger community council areas	Changes to the decision-making powers	Reducing publicity for meetings	Reducing activities at meetings such as job fairs, films, food	Reducing venue and equipment costs

6. Do you have any other suggestions as to how the costs of Community Councils could be significantly reduced?

7. Do you have any specific examples of how residents' views have influenced decisions through your local Community Council?
