

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 7 February 2012	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Deputation Requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the cabinet consider whether to hear a deputation from the Southwark Refugee Communities Forum (SRCF).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, cabinet can decide
 - To receive the deputation at this meeting or a future meeting; or
 - That the deputation not be received; or
 - To refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/sub-committee.
3. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. Only one member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than five minutes. After this time members may ask questions of the deputation for up to five minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Southwark Refugee Communities Forum

4. A deputation request has been submitted by the Southwark Refugee Communities Forum, an umbrella organisation with a membership of 34 refugee community organisations and service providers, to address the cabinet with regard to concerns about future funding.
5. The deputation wish to address the cabinet on the likely to impact upon Southwark Refugee Communities Forum and its members in 2012/13, should the funding that they have requested not be secured. They have identified the following issues that they feel are likely to arise if the funding not secured:
 - 34 refugee community organisations will loose their coordinated voice in the borough and refugees and asylum seekers will be less heard
 - Refugee community organisations will loose their platform to interact with each other and collaborate with the voluntary and statutory sector and will be less capable to engage in local initiatives

- Refugee community organisations will have less access to specialised support, while an expected increased demand
 - Refugee communities will loose access to the hot desking and IT resource facilities, which provide 90% of their members, who do not have premises, with an office space where they can coordinate and manage their activities at no cost
 - SRCF will be less capable to involve people from a refugee background in areas of the council's work, including community council meetings, consultation around community cohesion, community development strategies, economic development, employment and housing, etc.
 - SRCF will be limited in promoting cultural interchange and mutual understanding among different minority ethnic groups as well as between recently arrived and well established refugee communities
 - SRCF will be less able to support refugee community organisations, which will lead to the disintegration of the refugee network in Southwark.
6. Southwark Refugee Communities Forum request that their funding application to the community support programme be given careful consideration.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

7. The deputation request was received in line with the constitutional deadline for the receipt of deputation requests and is therefore eligible for consideration by cabinet as to whether or not to hear at this meeting.

REASONS FOR LATENESS

8. The deadline for the receipt of deputation requests was 1 February 2012, after the main cabinet agenda despatch on 30 January 2012. It has therefore not been possible to send out this report five clear days in advance of the meeting because of the need to ensure that all deputation requests received by the deadline were included in this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Correspondence from the deputation	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Everton Roberts 020 7525 7221 / Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Paula Thornton, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	2 February 2012	
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
Deputy Chief Executive	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	2 February 2012	