

Item No. 4.	Classification: Open	Date: 4 July 2012	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Other Deputation Requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly considers whether or not to hear a deputation from the groups listed in paragraph 5 of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The full list of deputation requests received and the order in which they were submitted for this meeting is set out in item 2.3. The council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (11) states that no more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting. However the meeting can decide to suspend this rule in order to hear more or vary the order.
3. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, council assembly 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.
4. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. One member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than 5 minutes. The deputation spokesperson or any member of the deputation nominated by him or her shall be invited to ask a question of the leader or relevant cabinet member. After this time councillors may ask questions of the deputation for up to 5 minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public seating area where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Other deputation requests

5. The following deputation requests were received on issues other than the subject of the themed section of the meeting. The deputations are listed in order of receipt.
 1. **Deputation on the council's decision to phase out council-run children's nurseries in Southwark**

The deputation request states:

Our deputation is regarding the decision to phase out council-run children's nurseries in Southwark.

While we appreciate the budgetary constraints the council is under, we believe that the wrong decision has been made. Our opposition to the council's decision can be divided into two main areas, namely that:

- (1) the council's decision-making process in the matter has been inadequate;
- (2) the nurseries in question provide an excellent service to the community that will continue to be needed in the future.

In particular:

- From the various discussions that we have had with the council, it appears to be the case that it has been the council's desire, from the outset, to close the affected nurseries. No adequate prior thought appears to have been given as to what efficiencies could be made in order to avoid the wholesale closures. We request that the council reverse this approach and does all it can to keep these valuable resources open.
- We have been told that the council's decision was preceded by research that concluded that sufficient alternative childcare provision was available in close proximity to the affected nurseries. This does not correspond to the experience of local parents. The affected nurseries are not luxuries, but crucial in providing quality childcare in their respective communities.
- We believe that the provision of childcare in Southwark will remain an important issue, owing to various political and demographic developments. Cutting back on childcare provision now is certain to produce harmful and costly consequences in the immediate future.
- The above is only a rough outline of the main issues and we would very much like to expand on these, and related points, in a deputation.

2. Walworth Society - Manor Place Terrace

The deputation request states:

Southwark Council is currently selling the Manor Place Terrace of shops and homes in West Walworth for redevelopment. The terrace was built between 1875 and 1896. It contains some of last remaining Victorian buildings that were constructed on the site of historic Royal Surrey Gardens and are the last examples of Victorian retail within West Walworth.

It offers a strong link to the history of West Walworth and is a fine example of purpose built shops and homes from the late-Victorian era. They offer a real sense of how the streetscape would have been in the past. They are in perfect keeping with the local area being built with interesting detail and to a human scale.

West Walworth will change enormously in the next 10 years with a large number of development sites locally which will net Southwark Council tens and possibly hundreds of millions of pounds. The local community is supportive of the development which will occur.

We ask that as guardians of our local heritage and its assets, Southwark Council places a value on the terrace and its façade and says no to development which demolishes this historic terrace as is currently being proposed.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.6, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	3 July 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
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	3 July 2012	