

Item No. 2.3	Classification: Open	Date: 10 July 2013	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation Requests on the Theme – Welfare Reform	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That council assembly notes the deputation requests received for consideration by this meeting as listed in paragraph 3 of the report.
2. That council assembly considers whether or not to hear a deputation from the three groups listed in paragraph 8 of the report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Deputations received for this meeting

3. The following deputation requests have been received by the deadline for consideration by this meeting and they are listed in the order received below:
 1. Southwark Group of Tenants (SGTO)
 2. Southwark Legal Advice Network
 3. Cambridge House
 4. Southwark Trades Council
4. The details for the deputations on the themed debate are set out in this report. The details of the other deputation are set out in item 4.

Procedure at the meeting

5. The council assembly procedure rule 2.6 (11) states that no more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting, and deputations shall be considered in the order of receipt. However the meeting can decide to suspend this rule in order to hear more or vary the order.
6. 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.
7. 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

Deputation requests on the themed debate

8. The following deputation requests were the first three requests received on the theme. The deputations are listed in order of receipt.

1. Deputation from SGTO

The deputation request states:

“We wish to hand in a petition which is concerned with the rules of the so called bedroom tax, we are campaigning for the council not to evict tenants who fall into arrears purely due to the extra cost of the under occupancy rules.”

2. Deputation from Southwark Legal Advice Network

This deputation request states:

“We wish

- To inform members of the impact so far on the people we see
- To ask the council how they will respond to tenants who have accrued rent arrears due to welfare reform
- To request that the council’s anti-poverty strategies address the needs of larger families affected by the benefit cap.”

3. Deputation from Cambridge House

The deputation states:

“We wish to address the council assembly to raise awareness of the work we are doing to combat the impact of welfare reform. Cambridge House is having to provide additional services to increasing numbers of existing beneficiaries. Added to this, there are demands for services to address the needs of new beneficiaries, emerging as austerity measures, welfare and legal reforms affect local communities.

One new initiative is the user-led youth empowerment programme which aims to enable the voices of young people to be heard, influence decisions which affect their lives and shape the future of civil society. This project has been developed by young people in response to the increasing number of deaths from street violence and gang culture, and the fear that increasing poverty resulting from welfare reform will exacerbate the situation. Initiated and led by Southwark residents and workers, the project aims to kick-start a coalition of outreach work across London which will be known as ‘One Big Community’ and is a true example of what can be achieved with energy, belief and understanding of young people within London and an example of what can be achieved in the face of welfare reform with adequate support and funding.

Our deputation will give a brief overview of our work in light of the relevant welfare reform debate as well as provide an introduction to some of the inspiring young people with whom we are working with.”

4. Deputation from Southwark Trades Council

The deputation states:

“The subject we wish to speak on is Social Security Reforms, to the debate on a ‘fairer future’.”

Other deputation requests received by the deadline

9. The other deputation requests received by the deadline are set out in item 4.

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	Alexa Coates, Principal Constitutional Officer	
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
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Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director Finance & Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
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