

Item No. 2.3	Classification: Open	Date: 22 January 2014	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation Requests on the Theme – Active Communities and the Elderly	
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:

Themed

1. Connect
2. Stop Killing Cyclists Campaign
3. Consortium of Older Peoples Services in Southwark.

Other

1. Deputation request from Southwark Vegan and Vegetarian Society
2. Deputation request from Zacchaeus 2000 Trust (Z2K)
3. Deputation request from Safe crossings on Borough High Street campaign
4. The council's constitution and related documents

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 deputation requests 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 request from Connect

The deputation request states:

The purpose of our deputation is to create awareness of aphasia.

What is aphasia?

Aphasia is a communication disability, which often follows a stroke or brain injury. People with aphasia can think clearly but variously find it hard to find words, understand what people are saying, write words, use numbers, money, tell the time, or read. The key thing to remember is everyone is affected differently. Intellect is unaffected, but sometimes people with aphasia find they are treated as though they are stupid, or are patronised by others who do not understand. People with aphasia know what they want to say, but may have a problem with communicating it. It is an invisible disability which makes it all the more difficult for others to comprehend.

To quote one of our members:

“Aphasia doesn’t mean the end ... can be a new beginning ... you have to recognise that you are different to what you were before ... and to cope with that.” (Sharon – a person with aphasia)

How does Connect help?

Connect is a charity for people living with aphasia. It offers groups and a range of opportunities to enable people with aphasia to:

- gain confidence
- raise self-esteem
- meet people who understand
- ‘re-connect with life’.

All our groups and activities are fully supported and run by people with aphasia. Connect’s ethos is to promote peer-led opportunities to enable people to re-connect with life. One of our members said:

“There is a huge gap between leaving hospital and learning to lead a ‘normal’ life again. I couldn’t have done it without Connect.”

2. Deputation request from Stop Killing Cyclists Campaign

The deputation request states:

We would like to submit a deputation request to the next council assembly from the Stop Killing Cyclists Campaign under the theme of active communities and the elderly.

Following yet the death of another elderly Southwark resident in a cycling tragedy, we wish to make the case that investment in a segregated cycle-lane infrastructure could make a significant positive contribution to older residents, in terms of their activity in the community and improved health and how unlike many other cities, they are currently almost absent from Southwark's streets.

We would like to submit a list of demands that would positively address this absence.

The Stop Killing Cyclists deputation wishes to submit the following demands and extend an invitation to attend our special "lethal cycling planning-disasters" cycle-tour of the north and centre of the borough, that we are staging specifically for Southwark's politicians of all three major parties, whom we feel have failed us up to now:

- The council to set a target for journeys made by the over 50s by bicycle.
- Spend a minimum of 10% of transport budget on safer cycling infrastructure.
- Halt the de-facto officer ban on implementing the Southwark core strategy policy requiring all new developments to allocate physical space for cycling.
- Produce a map of the integrated largely segregated cycle-path network promised three years ago by the leader Councillor Peter John and cabinet member for the environment Councillor Barrie Hargrove prior to the council elections, not a metre of which has yet been built, despite the promise that it would be completed within four years.
- Reform Southwark's transport department into a walking, cycling and transport department, staffed by officers trained in "Go Dutch" pedestrian and cycling safe neighbourhood design.

3. Deputation request from Consortium of Older Peoples Services in Southwark

The deputation request states:

Who we are

The Consortium of Older Peoples Services in Southwark (COPSINS) consists of 6 voluntary organisations; Age UK Lewisham and Southwark, Alzheimer's Society, Blackfriars Settlement, Dulwich Helpline & Southwark Churches Care, Southwark Pensioners Centre and Time and Talents who are actively working in partnership to make life better for older people in Southwark.

The strength of the partnership comes through the combined expertise in providing befriending, social engagement and activity and accessible information and advice services. The geographical cover across the borough underpins the partnership work.

Whilst some of the services we deliver are funded by Southwark Council, we also bring in over £500,000 in additional funds from other sources to provide additional services to older people within the borough.

What are we asking for?

We are asking the council to commit to becoming an age friendly borough and to develop a strategy to make this commitment a reality.

What does this involve?

An age friendly strategy would move thinking about older people from the realm of health and social care and into all areas of council policy. It would include strategies that cover:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings
- Transportation
- Housing
- Income and employment
- Culture and learning
- Healthy ageing
- Care and support services
- Civic participation and engagement.

Why commit?

As an inner city borough, Southwark has a young population, with people with the resources to do so, often moving out as they become older looking for a better quality of life. The remaining older population is often financially poorer, more isolated and with higher levels of health needs.

But Southwark, like most inner city areas, could be a great place in which to grow old. To achieve this we need to move thinking about age out of adult social care and health discussions and into all areas of planning particularly planning for the external environment and transport.

Much work is already happening in Southwark. This includes:

- Creating a Centre of Excellence for Older People
- Commitment to older peoples participation through the forum and co-production halving the price of meals on wheels
- Commitment to increasing the supply of extra care housing in the borough
- Bringing back wardens to sheltered housing
- Working to increase the quality of care in residential home sin the borough
- Committing to the Unison ethical care charter
- Funding a range of community services for older people
- Funding the SAIL project
- Investment in community buildings used by older people
- Don't Turn Your Back Safeguarding Campaign.

The above list demonstrates clearly the council's commitment to the well being of older people especially within the social care department.

Unfortunately our experience of working with older people is that where they are not the focus of a strategy their needs are often over looked or placed below those of children, young people and the working age population.

By committing to becoming age friendly borough we can ensure that there is no area of work in which the needs of older people are not addressed and that we create a borough in which people choose to grow old.

Developing an age friendly strategy would also enable us to start thinking about how we can meet the needs of the next generation of older people in the borough. If the older population in Southwark is now often financially and socially excluded the following generation may be even worse off. The 50+ age group are being disproportionately hit by the current welfare cuts with the incumbent health inequalities and are likely to enter their older age in a financially poorer position. We know that poverty and exclusion leads to worse health outcomes. Planning now will boost efforts to mitigate some of the negative effects of current policy.

How do we do this?

Southwark Council has developed good partnerships with older peoples groups in the borough. We are asking the council to look at how it can build on these to create further participation by older people and the voluntary and community sectors in creating a strategy for becoming an age friendly borough. An example of good practice that has been effective elsewhere is Manchester’s Valuing Older Peoples Board, Advisory Panel and Partnerships. We believe that we have an infrastructure in place that, with support from the council and increased involvement of older people (50+), can be strengthened to develop the appropriate strategy.

The capability and willingness of the VCS to work together and with other services has been successfully demonstrated through the implementation of COPSINS and SAIL and provides the confidence that would underpin the development of the strategy.

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	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	17 January 2014	
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
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	17 January 2014	